



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 28, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Access Advisory Committee – Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive an update on the recent activities and achievements of the City related Access Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION:

In 1988, the City recognized the importance of accessibility in design and construction and started an ad hoc advisory committee to assist the Architectural Board of Review and the Historic Landmarks Commission with accessibility related items. In 2001, this ad hoc committee became a standing committee known as the Staff Advisory Access Committee under Council Resolution 01-034. In 2008, under Resolution 08-095, it was officially renamed the Access Advisory Committee (AAC). The purpose of the AAC is to assist and advise staff on public accessibility issues such as:

- Ensuring equal access for people with disabilities to the City's programs, activities and services;
- Prioritizing capital projects designed to remove physical barriers and improve access at City facilities;
- Prioritizing projects to remove physical barriers and improve access within the City's public rights-of-way;
- Complying with accessibility related building codes;
- Ensuring effective communication with people with disabilities;
- Identifying opportunities to educate the public about disability and disability access issues within the community.

Per the AAC's governing Resolution 08-095, the City's American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator will report annually to Council regarding the activities and achievements of the AAC. This update provides a brief history of the AAC, outlines the AAC's role, discusses future goals and objectives, and highlights recent achievements.

In the past year, the AAC's achievements include:

- Developed a framework for Blue Curb Parking Initiative;
- Assisted with the development of the accessibility standards for the Parklet guidelines;
- Provided input on the City's tactile warning standards; and
- Created new email address dedicated to accessibility concerns:
ADA@santabarbaraca.gov.

Completed Capital Improvements include:

- 161 new and retrofitted access ramps
- 6,600 SF of new sidewalk
 - La Cumbre Sidewalk Infill Phase 2 creating a complete corridor between State and Foothill.
 - Old Coast Highway Sidewalk Infill, creating a complete corridor between Salinas and Harbor View.
- Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center

Future goals for the City and the AAC include:

- Develop a process for AAC input on key capital projects prior to execution
- Raise awareness of ADA deficiencies inside commercial buildings open to public
- Implementation of Blue Curb Parking Initiative
- Creation of accessible parking zone map on City's webpage
- Adoption of an accessible Valet Parking Ordinance
- Provide advice on ways to better enforce parking for persons with disabilities
- Develop outreach and education tools for local businesses
- Staff updates on new sidewalk infill, curb cuts, and sidewalk repairs

Since the inception of the ADA in 1990, the City has worked to ensure equal opportunities to those with disabilities. The AAC is a valuable community stakeholder that assists City staff with identifying needs and suggesting solutions to improve access to programs, services, and facilities within the City.

PREPARED BY: Brian D'Amour, City Engineer/sk

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office



ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT From the ADA Coordinator

City Council
July 28, 2020

Presentation Outline

- History of Disability Rights in CA and US
 - American's with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- City ADA Transition Plan
- California Building Code Standards
- Role of the Access Advisory Committee (AAC)
 - AAC Activities and Achievements
 - Future AAC Goals and Objectives

Disability Rights and the Law

- 1959 Two Landmark California Laws:
 - Unruh Civil Rights Act
 - Fair Employment Practices Act
- 1968
 - Architectural Barriers Act (Federal)
 - California Disabled Persons Act



Disability Rights and the Law

- 1973
 - Rehabilitation Act
- 1977
 - California Government Code Section 11135
- 1980
 - California Fair Employment and Housing Act



Disability Rights and the Law

- 1990
 - American's with Disabilities Act
- 1998
 - Rehabilitation Act Amendment (Section 508)

Title II ADA Administrative Requirements

- Self-evaluation
- Provide public notice about the ADA
- Designate an ADA Coordinator
- Establish a grievance procedure
- Develop a transition plan

ADA Transition Plan

- Original Plan: 1991/1992
- ADA Transition Plan Update: 2007/2008
 - Priority A, B, and C Barrier Removals
 - No database for tracking progress

California Building Code Standards

- Chapter 11B: Accessibility to Public Buildings, Public Accommodations, Commercial Buildings, and Public Housing
 - Establishes accessibility standards for:
 - *New construction*
 - *Alterations*
 - CASp review may assist with which standards apply to a property.

Access Advisory Committee

- ◆ Formed in 1988, ad-hoc committee to assist the Architectural Board of Review (ABR)
- ◆ Formalized as a standing committee in 2001
 - ◆ The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990
- ◆ Made up of seven City appointed members
 - ◆ Current (2020) Chair: Jim Marston
- ◆ Meets at least quarterly
- ◆ Council Liaison: Councilmember Meagan Harmon
- ◆ Staff Liaison: City Engineer – Brian D'Amour, P.E.



Image: ADA Logo

Role of the Access Advisory Committee

Assist and advise City staff with:

- Ensuring equal access for people with disabilities to the City's programs, activities and services;
- Prioritizing capital projects designed to remove physical barriers and improve access at City facilities;
- Prioritizing projects to remove physical barriers and improve access within the City's public rights-of-way;
- Complying with accessibility related building codes;
- Ensuring effective communication with people with disabilities;
- Identifying opportunities to educate the public about disability and disability access issues within the community.

Recent Activities & Achievements

- Programmatic
 - Developed framework for Blue Curb Parking Initiative
 - Assisted with the development of the accessibility standards for the Parklet guidelines
 - Provided input on the City's tactile warning standards
 - Created new email address dedicated to accessibility concerns: ADA@SantaBarbaraCA.gov
- City Capital Improvements
 - 161 new and retrofitted access ramps
 - 6,600 SF of new sidewalk
 - Cabrillo Pavilion



Recent Activities & Achievements cont'd

- City Capital Improvements
 - Marina 3 gangway (complete)
 - Waterfront accommodation dock gangway (in progress)
 - City Hall Elevator (in design)
 - City Hall 2nd Floor Restrooms (in design)
 - Library Elevator (in design)
 - Library Plaza (in design)

Future Goals and Objectives

- Develop a process for AAC input on key capital projects prior to execution
- Raise awareness of ADA deficiencies inside commercial buildings open to public
- Implementation of Blue Curb Parking Initiative
- Creation of [accessible parking zone map](#) on City's webpage
- Adoption of an accessible Valet Parking Ordinance
- Provide advice on ways to better enforce parking for persons with disabilities
- Develop outreach and education tools for local businesses
- Staff updates on new sidewalk infill, curb cuts, and sidewalk repairs

QUESTIONS?

After this Council meeting, emails may be sent to:

ADA@SantaBarbaraCA.gov