



Metro Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2024

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

211 N. Broadway; Zoom

Attendees

(In-person): Steve Foelsch, Robert Hinkle, Edward Coleman Beals, Ryan Austin, Kristi Vetri, Roy Lantry, April Mason Donovan, Dr. Ishak Hossain, Amy Parker, Tracy Bauer. Interpreters: Karen and Brett

(Zoom): Martha Darris, Michael Lauf, Tarika “Starry” Walton, Dawn Walter, Bobbie Brantley, Raymond Bishop

(Absent): Lamar Neal

Welcome and Introductions

Each committee member introduced themselves

Media Relations

Review of media/photo release, picture of group

Review of Task Force and committee development – Tracy and April

Committee has been in existence for decades but became less effective over time. Metro heard community feedback to restructure committee. Task Force of community members and Metro employees formed to develop new committee, mission, and objectives. Very clear about addressing all modes of transit and improving accessibility.

Proposed By-Laws review

1. Name: group may choose to come up with acronym, logo, etc
2. Goals and objectives: removed “upon request” after “Act as a mechanism to provide input on projects.”
3. Member Expectations: question about educating other community members about projects—envision committee members attending different community meetings regarding Metro projects or providing insight about own disability and transit.

Motion to approve. Second. Discussion: should we add Roberts Rules of Order to section of by-laws under meetings?

Outcome: Motion carries unanimously to approve by-laws and Roberts Rules of Order added.

Future Meeting Times and Dates

1. Next Board of Commissioners meeting at end of February
2. Next Metro Transit Accessibility Advisory meeting every other month opposite of BOC meetings
3. Friday and evenings proposed---afternoons generally preferred by group. Members can plan ahead if know far enough in advance.

Motion: schedule for third Friday of every other month from 1 pm-3pm. January 17th would be first meeting. Second.

Outcome: unanimously approved.

Future meeting topics – Brainstorming related to high priority topics reflective of concerns as well as education/learning opportunities

1. Vouchers for Uber/Lyft
2. Secure Platform re: cards to enter gate, some PWD are not able to use cards independently. New card system with security system
3. Overview of what accommodations Metro currently provides
4. What does ADA Services do? What do the applications for services include?

5. Security on transit. How do they assist passengers with disabilities?
Managing priority seating, accessible parking
6. Sensitivity training and education on how to interact with people with disabilities (including service animals)
7. Transit stops – which have benches/shelters, how much to add, which ones are ADA compliant and cost to make compliant. What is current plan for bus stops? What are the laws about allowing busses to merge back onto road in STL/ MO? STL County? St. Clair County?
8. Metro's communication with STL City street department/St. Louis County/St. Clair County related to making stops and area around stops compliant

Committee Responsibility

Appeals committee member for eligibility and no shows appeal meetings.

Amy asking for volunteers and will send out additional information to committee.

Actions for next meeting

1. Amy and Tracy will send out email re: what does committee want to know about each other, preference for term limits and two high priority topics to address
2. Tracy to mail/email meeting materials and meeting notes to all committee members
3. Committee members on Zoom to review BSD Media Release form and send signed copy back to Tracy or follow-up with any questions/concerns
4. Committee Members to complete information for contact sheet/bio to be distributed to committee only. Send this information back to Tracy

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 17, 2025 from 1pm – 3 pm