



COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 3:30 P.M.

Draft Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m. Those present and absent were:

Present:

Kate Elliott
Sue Kroeger
Wesley Derbyshire
Jonathan Lee Confer
Zach Coble, Chairperson
Lily Bogan

Representing

City Manager
City Manager
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 6

Absent:

Derrick Espadas
Ray Jordan

Representing:

Mayor's Office
Ward 5

Staff and Others Present:

Jennifer Toothaker
Rob Lane
Gloria Salmeron
Lydia Barker
Jennifer Bonham
Chris Desborough
Andrea Barredo
Rene Figueroa
Stepanie Alvarez

Transportation & Mobility
Transportation & Mobility
Transportation & Mobility
Transportation & Mobility
City Attorney's Office
Ward 2 Council Staff
City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office
City Clerk's Office

2. Call to the Public.

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

3. Consideration and Possible Approval for the October 2025 Draft Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Derbyshire, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 to approve October 2025 minutes.

4. Presentation and Discussion on Creating Accessible Paths During Road Construction

Deputy Director Jennifer Toothaker opened the presentation by introducing her role and background with the City of Tucson, noting her 25 years of experience in planning and transportation. She provided an overview of the City's permit structure and the guidance associated with each type, including how Right of Way permits are reviewed and issued. Jennifer emphasized the importance of communication whenever construction affects pedestrian access or bus stops. She explained that notification should reach people early enough to plan alternate routes and that improving the placement of signage, advance warnings and outreach to nearby residents remains an ongoing challenge. She invited commissioners to share ideas on ways the department can reduce unexpected barriers and improve early coordination during project planning.

Transportation and Mobility Project Manager Rob Lane continued the discussion by focusing on the need for safe and accessible pedestrian routes during construction. He explained that temporary conditions such as uneven surfaces, restricted walkways and unclear detours can create significant barriers for individuals with mobility devices or limited endurance. Rob stressed that emergency repairs or short-term work still require clear communication and that users need to know where and how to safely navigate around closures.

Commissioners discussed providing notice a block or two before a closure so people can plan ahead, especially individuals using wheelchairs or power devices who may face long reroutes. Jennifer agreed and noted that the department is committed to improving early notification, signage placement and overall communication so that pedestrian access remains predictable and ADA compliant throughout all stages of construction.

5. RTA Next Discussion

Chairperson Coble provided a brief overview of RTA Next, explaining that it would maintain the existing transportation sales tax for another twenty years to continue funding road, transit, and pedestrian projects. He noted that the City and other municipalities have agreed to place it on the countywide ballot. Chairperson Coble also shared that the Complete Streets Coordinating Council is considering a letter of cautious support, as some members are concerned that pedestrian and ADA needs may not be prioritized as strongly as roadway improvements.

He added that RTA Next could increase funding for paratransit and ADA upgrades, though specific details were not provided when requested. Commissioner Bogan expressed support if the measure would help advance programs like Rider Choice. Chairperson Coble agreed it could give municipalities the option to expand such programs, though decisions would differ across providers. He encouraged commissioners to email any additional feedback before the Complete Streets meeting in early December, noting that this sales tax remains the primary available funding mechanism for regional transportation and accessibility projects.

6. Appreciation for Departing Commissioners

Chairperson Coble recognized Commissioners Derbyshire and Bogan at what would be their final CODI meeting. He thanked Commissioner Derbyshire for his thoughtful questions, commitment to accountability, and consistent engagement in seeking clear answers from City departments. He also acknowledged Commissioner Bogan for her long-standing service, steady

presence, and strong advocacy on transportation and accessibility issues.

Both commissioners were given the opportunity to share parting remarks. Commissioner Bogan expressed gratitude to CODI, the City Clerk's Office, Chairperson Coble, and fellow commissioners, saying she appreciated the opportunity to serve and encouraged members to help fill the upcoming vacancies. Commissioner Derbyshire also thanked the Commission and shared his appreciation for the collaboration and work during his time on CODI. Chairperson Coble closed the item by expressing sincere appreciation for both commissioners' service to the disability community and the City.

7. Announcements

Chairperson Coble announced that Disability Pride Day Tucson will take place on Saturday, December 6 at the Donna Liggins Recreation Center. The event will feature performances, live artmaking, adaptive sports, a sensory-friendly environment, advocacy activities, and food for purchase. Commissioners and community partners are assisting with various aspects of the event.

Commissioner Bogan announced that Southern Arizona Adaptive Sports is participating in El Tour de Tucson and is currently raising funds to support their programs. Donations will be matched by two generous donors, and the organization's goal is to raise \$25,000.

With no further announcements, Chairperson Coble adjourned the meeting.

8. Adjournment: 5:01 PM