



February 19, 2026

To: The Honorable Mayor Regina Romero and Members of the Tucson City Council

Subject: Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) 2025 Annual Report

Dear Mayor Romero and Council Members,

In its 2024 report, the CODI anticipated looking into the following areas of interest in 2025:

- public transit services, especially Sun Van services and any proposed changes.
- The Parks and Recreation programs and services that include disabled residents and how accessibility is considered when making changes to park infrastructure.
- Tracking how the City can ensure the accessibility of buildings serving the public.
- How different city departments impact the housing and accessibility needs of people across the disability experience.

In 2025, the CODI has met monthly, received briefings and held discussions, including on the following topics, and taken the below actions, submitting several memorandums to the Mayor and Council.

- January
 - Heard from Director of Parks and Recreation on access to facilities and programs for people with disabilities
 - Provided feedback on Plan Tucson 2025
- February

- Received a presentation of training for police officers in their interactions with people with disabilities.
- Discussion on accessibility and safety standards of walkways, both inside buildings and outdoors such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossings and carparks.
- March
 - Received a presentation by Mikel Ogelsby, General Manager of Sun Van, Sun Tran and Sun Link.
 - Received an update on the ADOT annual ADA compliance review.
 - Submitted CODI Memo 2025-03-13 Parks and Recreation
- April
 - Received a presentation on the Sun Van Comprehensive Operational Analysis
- May
 - Received an update on the inclusive playground at Palo Verde Park.
 - Further presentation and discussion on ADA and related tracking and data across city departments.
- June
 - Presentation by and discussion with Jennifer Bonham, Interim Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs.
- July
 - Presentation by Karen Gereke from the City's IT department on compliance with ADA Title II compliance for websites.
 - Discussion with representative of Parks and Recreation about the list of ADA deficiencies in Tucson's parks and related facilities.
 - Submitted CODI Memo 2025-07-30 Parks and Recreation ADA Audit
- August
 - Received a presentation on the role of the community safety, health and wellness program.
- September
 - Received a presentation on the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.
 - Discussion on accessibility across all city departments as standard practice rather than after-thought.

- Discussion on Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) where construction on or adjacent to roads is occurring.
- October
 - Received an update on the Sun Van Comprehensive Operational Analysis.
 - Continued discussion from September on maintaining accessibility for pedestrians during road and adjacent construction.
- November
 - Received a presentation on maintaining accessible pedestrian pathways during road construction.
 - Discussion on RTA Next and how it could impact disabled residents of Tucson.
- December
 - Received a presentation from Planning and Development Department.
 - Submitted CODI Memo 2025-10-30 DTM Construction Access

The CODI's purpose is not just to learn about city policies, practices, and services. It also aims to engage in advising the Mayor and Council about both the gaps in city departments as well as the improvements and care shown. The CODI reported on a large array of issues from on a lack of coordinated strategy to track Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) needs within the Parks and Recreation Department and inaccessible elements during road construction.

The CODI has also appreciated how many civil servants have helped explain the complexities of their work and provided ideas for creating accountability within the city for people with disabilities. From increasing paratransit on-time percentages, indicating that a Parks and Recreation master plan is a good opportunity for to provide input and noting that contractual expectations for accessible paths during road constructions can be enforced, the CODI acknowledges that many civil servants within the city deeply care about the consequences of their work to the disability community.

The CODI looks forward to advising the Mayor and Council further on issues such as:

1. Protecting the rights of people with disabilities in their interactions with law enforcement
2. Enhancing the experiences of people with disabilities in public transit
3. Increasing the accessibility of new residential developments

These are just a few proposed areas of focus for the CODI in 2026.

Each commissioner on the CODI brings unique professional and personal experiences that shape the commission's understanding of disability policy and services in the City of Tucson. As a body, the CODI recognizes its critical role in representing disabled residents of Tucson.

In conclusion, the CODI appreciates its role in advising the Mayor and Council on issues important to people with disabilities in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Coble
Chairperson

Jonathan Lee Confer
Vice Chairperson