



Access Committee

In-Person Meeting
Sunday, April 23, 2023

2:00 – 3:30 pm CT

Hilton Minneapolis
Grand Ballroom E

MEETING AGENDA

1. Opening Remarks by Access Committee Chair Christian Kent
2. Self-Introductions
3. Subcommittee Report:
 - Accessible Transit & Paratransit Operations Subcommittee
 - DOJ updates
 - Woods v. Centro ADA appeal (Utica, NY)
 - Operations topics
4. Old Business:
 - Accessibility as a Component of DEI Initiatives
 - Enhanced Accessibility at APTA Meetings and Conferences (handout)
 - Knowledge Bank Survey – *(response requested)*
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7308531/APTA-Access-Committee-Knowledge-Bank-Interest-Form>
 - Transit Board Members Handbook – updating accessibility content

5. Presentation

a. National Aging and Disability Transportation Center

Marianne Stock, Division Chief, Rural and Targeted Programs, FTA

6. New Business

a. Proposed Updates to Access Committee Bylaws (handout)

b. Accessibility-Related Sessions at the Mobility Conference (handout)

7. Open Forum

8. Adjourn

Upcoming Access Committee Meetings:

- **APTA Rail Conference – Pittsburgh, PA – June 11, 2023**
- **APTA TRANSform / EXPO – Orlando, FL – October 9, 2023**

Enhanced Accessibility at APTA Meetings and Conferences

- All stages will have ramps, regardless of a known need. In rooms that cannot accommodate a ramp, we will not use a stage.
- Increasing the number of mics in meeting rooms to encourage greater use of them. We've also talked with Freeman about looking at other microphone options, though I believe as of now, wireless table mics still seem to be our best option. We will continue to investigate.
- In addition to having wheelchair spaces designated in all session rooms, we have ordered chair "sleeves" to indicate saved seating close to the doors for those with mobility difficulties, but who are not in wheelchairs. I believe we will have these in time for Legislative.
- Closed captioning will be used, but perhaps not as consistently as I originally intended as we've had some mixed results in the use. We will continue to explore options and will have to rely a bit on trial and error in some cases. I do expect that we will have closed captioning ability in all our general sessions at major meetings, but that is pending.
- Working with venues on their access, including things like elevator bells, but I'm not sure I have anything to report on this. In doing a site visits to hotels, a priority for that meeting is accessibility.
- Wellness/quiet rooms when space allows.
- Add "wayfinding" staff at Mobility, Rail, and TRANSform in addition to directional signage.



AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
ACCESS COMMITTEE BYLAWS
AS OF APRIL 23, 2023

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

APTA Access Committee

The Committee shall be known as the American Public Transportation Association (hereinafter called “APTA”) Access Committee (~~formerly the APTA Access Committee and the Disabled Services Subcommittee~~) hereinafter called the “Committee.”

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Committee is to:

1. ~~1.~~—Provide a forum to discuss the full range of ~~paratransit and accessible transportation service issues and accessibility topics and policies involving all modes of transportation, its facilities, and supporting technologies~~
2. ~~2.~~—Promote the delivery of universally accessible transportation paratransit and other mobility services and technologies, and integrate paratransit services into existing transportation services
3. ~~3.~~—Recognize the emergence of accessible public transportation as a significantly expanded mode among existing transit services
4. ~~4.~~—Successfully implement the transportation provisions of the Americans with Disabilities act (adaADA) of 1990 and other related federal legislation or regulation
5. ~~5.~~—Communicate the findings of the committee within apta-APTA and to others, as appropriate.

Objectives

The objectives of the Committee shall be defined in an Action Plan to be adopted each year to guide the Committee’s activities for that year. The Action Plan shall encompass a range of activities, including but not limited to the following:

1. ~~1.~~—Review and respond to legislative, policy, and/or regulatory issues pertaining to implementation of the ADA ~~and general paratransit issues and other accessibility related governing documents, to include the development of standards – Chair of Access Committee sits on Standards Development and Oversight Council, and works collaboratively with the Transit Board Members ADA Subcommittee and the Intergovernmental Issues Legislative Subcommittee, including other related federal legislation~~
2. ~~2.~~—Promote the effective delivery of fully accessible and integrated transportation across all modes of service -for persons with disabilities
3. ~~promote effective delivery of non-traditional demand response transportation services~~
3. ~~43.~~—Address accessibility issues emerging from the activities of APTA’s modal committees, including Bus and ~~Paratransit~~ CEOs; Bus Operations; Bus Rapid Transit; Bus Safety; Mid-Size Operations; ~~mobility~~ Management; Commuter Rail; ~~Rapid Transit;~~ High-Speed & -Intercity Passenger Rail; Small Operations; and others public transportation that may be created in the future services
- ~~54.~~ Facilitate information sharing on topics of interest to the membership
4. (e.g., special technical or policy-related issues)
5. ~~65.~~—Communicate issues, findings and recommendations to the membership (through the Executive and/or Legislative Committees) and to other interested partners including affected agencies and organizations
6. ~~76.~~—Make recommendations to improve the status of providing accessible public transportation equity for people with disabilities in the transit industry both as employees and customers – Chair of Access Committee sits on Diversity and Inclusion Council
7. ~~87.~~—Monitor and report to members on the status of pending litigation involving the implementation of the ADA and other accessibility-related federal legislation or regulations that affect ~~paratransit and other accessible transportation services any mode of transportation, its facilities, and supporting technologies – work collaboratively with Research & Technology Committee to pursue development and effective use of accessible technology~~

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Committee shall be open to APTA members who have an interest in accessible public transportation, ~~including paratransit services.~~

Persons desiring membership shall submit a notice in writing, with the person's name, title, organization address, telephone and fax numbers and email address to the APTA Staff Advisor for the Committee.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

Officers

The Committee shall have the following officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. All employees of APTA member transit systems and other member organizations in good standing shall be eligible for these positions.

Duties of Officers

The duties of the Officers of the Committee shall be as follows:

- A. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Committee and shall be responsible for calling all meetings of the Committee. He/she shall appoint all Subcommittee, Ad-hoc Subcommittee, and Task Force members. The Access Committee Chair serves as a designated member of APTA's Board of Directors. He or she has a designated position on APTA's Diversity Council (and may appoint a member of the committee to serve on APTA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee in his or her stead.) The Chair also appoints a member to the Diversity and Inclusion Council who represents the communities of people with disabilities. The Chair shall be responsible for taking action necessary to ensure the Committee achieves its objectives and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertaining to such office.
- B. The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair. He/she will support the Chair by acting as a liaison between all Subcommittees, Ad-hoc Subcommittees, and Task Force members.
- C. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping adequate minutes of all committee meetings and work with APTA staff on the committee's collaboration web page. The Secretary shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary shall serve concurrent, three-year terms. After the term of the Chair expires, the Vice Chair shall become Chair. Former Chairs shall wait at

least three years before being eligible for Chair or Vice Chair positions. There is no provision for the succession to Vice Chair from the position of Secretary.

Vacancies

In the event the Office of the Chair becomes vacant prior to the end of the term, the Vice Chair shall ascend to that office for the remainder of the ~~term, and~~term and be eligible to serve the full three-year term of that position. In such case, the ascending Chair will appoint a new Vice Chair and Secretary for the remainder for the term. The Chair will give the first opportunity to become Vice Chair to the Secretary.

In the event the Office of either the Vice Chair or Secretary becomes vacant prior to the end of the term, the Chair shall appoint a new Vice Chair or Secretary for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE IV – ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of Officers

~~The election of the Secretary shall be held in March, 2014. After 2014, the election~~
Election of Officers for Vice Chair and Secretary shall occur at the Committee's Meeting during APTA's Annual Meeting in the appropriate year. Officers shall be elected by a majority of Committee members present and voting. Newly elected officers shall assume office at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

Candidates interested in running for office must announce their intentions at least thirty days prior to the Business/Election Meeting by submitting a letter of intent to the Chair and APTA committee staff advisor. At the Business/Election Meeting, no nominations will be taken from the floor unless that individual has submitted his or her letter of intent thirty days prior to the meeting.

Voting Procedure for Election of Officers.

Candidates for the office will be allowed to make a presentation of up to three minutes in length before the group.

- After the candidates have spoken, questions will be taken from the floor.
- After the questions are over, APTA staff will distribute ballots to each Access Committee member. Only APTA members who were on the Access Committee membership roster prior to the Annual Meeting may cast a vote.
- APTA staff will collect the ballots and tally the results.
- A majority of the ballots cast shall constitute a winning candidate. If no majority, the top two candidates shall be in a "run-off," with the candidate receiving the most votes winning the election.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS AND VOTING

Meetings

To minimize travel expense, whenever possible, meetings shall be scheduled so as to coincide with the major APTA Conferences. The Committee shall meet at least twice each year at APTA's Annual Meeting and at APTA's ~~Bus & Paratransit~~ Mobility Conference.

Notice of meetings shall be prepared by the Chair and sent out (by mail, ~~fax~~ fax, or email) to the Committee members by the APTA Staff Advisor to the Committee no less than 15 days prior to the meeting. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, as amended.

Voting

Only members of the Committee shall be eligible to vote on issues or matters before the Committee. No proxy votes shall be permitted. All votes shall be by simple majority of members present and voting. In the event of ties, the Chair shall vote and break the tie. Except as otherwise specified herein, all votes shall be by simple majority of voting members present and voting.

ARTICLE VI – SUBCOMMITTEES

The Chair shall appoint Subcommittees, Task Forces, or other similar groups for specific purposes from time to time. These groups will be temporary in nature and exist only until their specific charge is completed and they reported the results of their efforts back to the full Committee.

ARTICLE VII - RECORDS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Maintenance of Committee Records

The APTA Staff Advisor, along with other APTA staff as appropriate, shall maintain the Committee membership roster and all other Committee records, including meeting minutes.

Communications

All Committee notices, announcements, and other communications shall be processed and distributed by the APTA Staff Advisor, in accordance with APTA policy and in consultation with the Committee Chair.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Submission and Consideration of Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any Committee member and must be submitted in writing to the Chair for consideration and voting at the next business meeting of the Committee that occurs at least 30 days after the submission of the proposed amendment. The Chair shall request that the APTA Staff Advisor distribute copies of any proposed amendments at least 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Adoption of Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of Committee members present and voting.

ARTICLE IX – CONFLICTS WITH APTA BYLAWS OR FEDERAL OR D.C. LAW

In the case of a conflict between these Bylaws and the APTA Bylaws or Federal or District of Columbia law, the APTA Bylaws and/or the Federal or District of Columbia law shall prevail.

Accessibility Related Sessions at the 2023 Mobility Conference

Monday, April 24
10:15 – 11:30 am
Orchestra A-B (2nd Level), Hilton Minneapolis

Assuring Equity Amid Shifting Mobility and Payment Trends

Post-pandemic changes in service and payment systems bring with them the need to assure equitable outcomes. The session will cover the importance of community involvement and equity analyses as such changes are considered, among the any shift to cashless payments, peak and off-peak service changes, and fare modernization. Panelists will share their experiences and insights on the thought-process required during these dynamic times.

Moderator: **Manjiri Akalkotkar**, Vice President of Program Delivery, VIA Metropolitan Transit, San Antonio, TX

Panel:

Brandon Policicchio, Chief Customer & Business Development Officer, Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Dayton, OH

Juliet Herndon, Director, Title VI and EJ, New Jersey Transit Corporation, Newark, NJ

Monday, April 24
2:15 – 3:30 pm
Location: Grand Ballroom E (3rd Level), Hilton Minneapolis

Coordinated Service Across Community Mobility Programs / Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility

Funding and sponsorship of community transportation programs can come in many ways. How can this variety of mobility programs be effectively managed? How can partnership be utilized to improve access? How can local revenues be enhanced? How can we assure that riders are the ultimate beneficiaries? Panelists will discuss these and other current questions.

Moderator

Flora M. Castillo, President, Pivot Strategies LLC, Ventnor, NJ

Panel Perspectives

Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility: Available Tools and What's Next

Marianne Stock, Division Chief, Rural and Targeted Programs, Federal Transit Administration, Washington, DC

Transportation Barriers: Partnering to Improve Access

Tom Gottfried, Executive Director - Minnesota Council on Transportation Access and Program Director for Mobility Management, Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul, MN

Michelle Lichtig, Project Manager, Office of Transit and Active Transportation, Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul, MN

Medicaid-Funded Waivers: A Tool for Greater Mobility Enhanced Revenues

Sheila Holbrook-White, Program Manager, Waiver Transportation / Contracted Transit Services, Metropolitan Transportation Services, Metropolitan Council, St. Paul, MN

John Harper, Manager, Contracted Transit Services, Metropolitan Council, St. Paul, MN

Tuesday, April 25

10:00 – 11:15 am

Orchestra A-B (2nd Level), Hilton Minneapolis

Pathways for All – Accessible Wayfinding

One of the most challenging aspects of transit use by people with disabilities is the process of navigating to and from transit stops and stations. There is a lack of reliable pedestrian pathway information available to help agencies better guide traditional paratransit riders to nearby public transit options. In response, there are new technologies and initiatives that aim to help passengers with mobility challenges to take fixed route. For example, the University of Washington, in collaboration with King County Metro, developed a free and open-source automated mapping system to extract sidewalk network data using mobile physical devices. This session will introduce some of these emerging technologies and offer an overview of the potential benefits and challenges associated with the implementation of an accessible wayfinding solution.

Moderator: **Ron Brooks**, Founder and CEO, Accessible Avenue, and Senior Director of Policy and Stakeholder Engagement, USURV, Vice President of Program Delivery, VIA Metropolitan Transit, San Antonio, TX

Panel:

Stephanie Doughty, Vice President, Professional Services, MV Transportation, Inc.

Matthew Weidner, Senior Strategic Planner and Systems Analyst, King County Metro

Ricky Zhang, Graduate Student in Computer and Electrical Engineering, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Washington

Nirit Glazer, Chief Executive Officer, LookingBus

Marty Watts, Vice President of Sales, Aira

Wednesday, April 26
10:15 – 11:30 am
Orchestra A-B (2nd Level), Hilton Minneapolis

Transit on Demand – One Size Does Not Fit All

In response to changing travel habits and to expand access to underserved areas, many transit agencies across the nation are implementing on-demand microtransit services. Various agencies have different approaches to microtransit tailored to meet the unique transportation challenges of their communities. Panelists will share how they reevaluated their service delivery model to pivot away from a “one size fits all” approach of the past. Attend this session to learn about how transit agencies have implemented microtransit in rural, suburban, and urban environments with a focus on serving vulnerable populations.

Moderator: **Christian Kent**, Principal, Transit Management Consulting

Panel:

Casey Gifford, Innovative Mobility Senior Planner, King County Metro
Shyam Kannan, LEED, AP, Transit and Transportation Planning Lead Mid Atlantic,
John Sisson, Chief Executive Officer, Delaware Transit Corporation
Dmitriy Vanchugov, Head of Transit Partnerships, Global, Uber
Christopher Pangilinan Vice President, Paratransit, MTA New York City Transit