



Metro Transit Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2025

1:00 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Zoom

*Due to extenuating circumstances, the meeting was held via zoom only. In addition, the meeting ended early due to severe weather in the immediate area.

Attendees

Committee Members: Edward Coleman Beals, Raymond Bishop, Martha Darris, Robert Hinkle, Ishak Hossain, Roy Lantry, Michael Lauf, Lamar Neal, Kristi Vetri, Dawn Walter, Tarika “Starry” Walton

Committee Members Absent: Ryan Austin, Bobbie Brantley, April Mason Donovan, Steve Foelsch

Metro Staff: Amy Parker, Jason Powell

Guests: Charles Bryson, Kristina, Annie Donnell, Angela Jones

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Bishop called the meeting to order and reminded attendees of the mission of the committee: To cultivate accessibility, usability, and inclusion through effective relationships between people of all abilities and Metro. Chair Bishop moved agenda item 5b to next on agenda per Mr. Powell’s request.

Guest – Jason Powell, System Safety and Security Infrastructure Coordinator at Bi-State Development

Mr. Powell's work at Bi-State Development includes risk and security assessments, with certification in CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design). Mr. Powell spoke to concerns about the environment surrounding the Transit Access Center (TAC), near 8th and Pine, in response to the Committee's concerns. The TAC has cameras and effective lighting and controlled access to the office. The Secure Platform Project is another way that we are working to increase safety and security at our MetroLink stations and on our system. Our Agency has made every effort to positively impact security to the extent that we can. He noted that the presence of dumpsters from the apartments does make parking more of a challenge, that the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department has put up cameras along Pine, and that there is more security now at the old ATT building across the street.

During his presentation these topics/questions came up:

1. A suggestion was made about whether the committee could communicate to the City of St. Louis about safety in the downtown area and/or potentially including the Office on the Disabled or the Citizen's Service Bureau to the Committee Meetings. Action item, Amy Parker responsible for follow-up.
2. Whether current passes such as for Seniors or ADA Paratransit Riders would be used to activate gates when Secure Platform Project is completed. As we transition to the new fare collection system, the cards may need to be updated, but there will be a way that people will be able to access the system as they are now.
3. Concerns about changed access points at Civic Center which require longer walks through busier areas to get to the MetroLink platform and the ability for Amtrak or Greyhound riders to get through the gates to get to the MetroBus transfer center without purchasing a MetroLink ticket. There was concern that such changes may make our system appear unfriendly, and at minimum should be communicated to riders. Action item, concerns to be shared with GM of Security; informed that Public Safety can allow Gateway Transportation Center patrons to pass through the gates to get to MetroBus.

4. Is it accurate that the gates at Delmar got frozen in January, and is there a plan in place to keep that from happening? Action Item, Amy Parker responsible to follow-up with answer.
5. A committee member heard that public safety removed the wrong person for smoking and that the public safety personnel did not listen to bystanders. Want to know how this can build trust in public safety? Action item, Amy Parker responsible for following up with answer.

Public Comments

1. Kristina reports that some Call-A-Ride drivers do not like the mapping system on Spare. Kristina would like the opportunity to provide input when new vehicles are being considered. Noted.

Minutes Approval

Lantry, Motion. Walter, Second. Approved by voice vote.

Content of ADA Coordinator Report – Amy Parker

The following were suggested as topics by Committee members

- Project status. i.e. Secure Platform, Fare Collection
- Budget information, including funds related to accessibility
- Complaints and Commendations, trends
- Boardings by mode by people with disabilities

Website Update

www.MetroStLouis.org/ADACommittee is now updated with Committee Member biographies. Next Step: Photos

Subcommittee status and next steps – Raymond Bishop

- Training Subcommittee. Chair Darris appointed by Bishop. Members include Brantley, Coleman-Beals, Foelsch, and Lauf.
- Appeals Subcommittee. No chair needed. Members include Bishop, Coleman-Beals, Darris, Foelsch, Mason-Donovan, Vetri.
- Accessibility Subcommittee. Chair Vetri appointed by Bishop. Members include Hinkle, Hossain, Lantry, Walter, and Walton. There was discussion related to the Central West End and observed concerns about adequate space for customers in wheelchairs to pass each other, especially along the z-crossing.
- Next Steps:
- Amy Parker to send Committee Directory to members, including designations on Subcommittees.
- Chairs Darris and Vetri to hold subcommittee meetings, letting Amy Parker or Tracy Bauer know of administrative assistance needs.
- Minutes of subcommittee meetings should be forwarded to STLMetroTAAC@MetroStLouis.org.

Report to Bi-State Development Board of Commissioners

Will be prepared by Chair Bishop and submitted by Amy Parker for inclusion in next board meeting materials.

Announcements

- Chuck Stewart, Chief Operating Officer for Metro Transit will be retiring on June 30th. Ronald Forrest has been named as his successor.
- Metro is conducting a Wayfinding Pilot Program where we will offer 2 different Apps to the public to test to increase ease in finding bus stops and getting information about arrivals, etc. One is called GoodMaps and the other is called NaviLens. The Pilot project will take place at the Civic Center Transit Center and along selected stops on the #10 Gravois Lindell.

- Committee member Coleman-Beals reports that he's seen a 50% difference in the situation down near 8th and Pine near the Transit Access Center. However, he observes (and reports to public safety) people crossing over the tracks and going in the tunnels near 8th and Pine. He also has ridden along the system to see how the gates work and he is very much for the project.

Next Meeting: Friday, July 18, 2025 1pm – 3 pm