

CTA ADA Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 8, 2024
[\(YouTube Video Hyperlink\)](#)

Members Present

Committee Chair: Laura Saltzman (in person)
Committee Vice Chair: Cyndi Fosco (in person)
Committee Members: Mary Abramson (virtual)
Doreen Bogus (in person)
Sara Luna (in person)
Barbara Padilla (in person)
Johnny Gonzalez (virtual)
Sandra Fernandez (excused absence)
Dr. Delphine Labbe (in person)

New Committee Members:

Lincoln Edwards (virtual)
Giselle Nunez (virtual)
Jada Thompson (virtual/late)

Facilitator: Irma Gomez-Fierro, Manager, ADA Compliance Programs

CTA Staff Molly Poppe, Chief Planning, and Innovation Officer
Elsa Gutierrez, Vice President, Scheduling and Service Planning

Notes:

- The April 8, 2024, ADA Advisory Committee meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting. The public was able to listen to and/or view this meeting via YouTube and be present at CTA Headquarters.

Roll Call

- Roll call was taken by Cyndi Fosco and a quorum was established.
- Meeting members answered when their name was called and stated their affiliations, if any.

Announcements

- Laura announced Access Living open house on May 2nd.

Approval of Minutes

- Delphine made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2024, meeting. Barbara seconded the motion.

Public Comments

- No Public Comments

All Stations Accessibility Program Update

- Steve Mascheri, Vice President of Capital Construction, presented update along with Mark Walsh (Perkins & Will), Julian Silva (CDOT), Michael Lev (TranSystems) and Kelli Pledger (TranSystems).
- The ASAP program aims to make all CTA train stations fully accessible over the next 20 years. Currently, 42 inaccessible stations are included in the ASAP program.
- Four (4) stations on the Red Line are currently under construction as part of the RPM program - Argyle, Berwyn, Bryn Mawr, and Lawrence.
- Once Phase 1 construction is complete, CTA will have 117 accessible stations, approximately 81% of the 145 stations systemwide.
- Stations Under construction: Forest Park (Blue) Racine and Lake (Green) Austin Station
 - Forest Park (Blue) Racine has 4 benches and 3 windbreakers
- Stations on the Horizon: California/Milwaukee & Montrose Blue Line
- Updates were provided on current and upcoming station renovation projects as part of ASAP. Renderings of the upgraded stations were shown.
 - State/Lake Loop Rendering
 - Damen Green Line Rendering

Committee Questions:

Dr. Delphine Labbe (from the University of Illinois at Chicago) inquired about how CTA plans to monitor and receive feedback on seating usage and needs at the renovated stations once they open.

Michael Lev mentioned they currently monitor new infrastructure closely after opening but could look into more structured ways to gather user feedback.

Chairperson Laura Saltzman expressed concern about the complexity of multiple elevator transfers for people with disabled, particularly in relation to the State/Lake station design.

Michael Lev explained that for the elevated station, there's built-in redundancy. If one elevator is out of service, there are alternative paths to using two or three elevators. For the subway station, they're adding another new accessible entrance to provide redundancy.

Cynthia Fosco (Vice Chair) emphasized the importance of ensuring that intersections and sidewalks around the stations are accessible and asked about coordination with CDOT on this matter.

Michael Lev mentioned that for the State/Lake project, they are replacing or rehabbing sidewalks about a block outside the intersection, installing new ADA ramps, and adding refuge islands to make street crossings easier. He emphasized that accessibility improvements extend beyond just the station itself.

Better Streets for Buses

- Presented by Molly Poppe (CTA), Jason Wald (CTA) and Brad Huff (CDOT)
- This is a joint CTA/CDOT framework plan to improve bus speed, reliability and access through street infrastructure and bus stop enhancements.
- The plan identifies 17 priority bus corridors and a toolbox of treatments like dedicated bus lanes, queue jumps, stop consolidation, accessible pedestrian infrastructure, etc.
- Public outreach was conducted to get rider input on the bus experience and access concerns. More outreach to the accessibility community is planned.

Committee Questions:

Dr. Delphine Labbe asked why buses in Chicago a sign or policy don't have indicating that they have priority on the streets, similar to what is done for school buses.

Molly Poppe responded that the Better Streets for Buses plan aims to address this concern by implementing physical bus priority infrastructure like dedicated lanes, queue jumps, and signal priority. The goal is that by physically allocating street space for buses, it sends a clear message to drivers that buses have priority. She also mentioned that bus priority is part of a larger citywide effort to prioritize sustainable transportation modes, including walking, biking and riding transit.

Accessibility at the Democratic National Convention (DNC)

- Presented by Robin Jones, Accessibility Advisor for the DNC
- The DNC will be held in Chicago on Aug 19-22, 2024 with 60,000 attendees expected, including 5,800 delegates.
- The two key locations for convention activities are McCormick Place in the morning and United Center in the afternoon/evening.
- All convention venues, hotels and transportation will be accessible. Accessibility issues are being addressed proactively.
- Encourage delegates and conventions goers to use the Blue or Orange Lines to/from airport and Clark/Lake with a bus shuttle connecting them to the hotels. Accessible shuttle buses (CTA and private carriers) and a dedicated fleet of

accessible vehicle will be available to transport delegates to McCormick Place and United Center.

- Wayfinding on transit and information about elevators outages will be important to have for people new to Chicago and transit to be able to navigate the transit system.
- Approximately, 15,000 volunteers are being recruited to assist with accessibility and wayfinding. Opportunities for people with disabilities to volunteer and be vendors were discussed.

Committee Questions:

No questions from the committee.

Facilitator's Report

- New fareboxes were installed on 100 buses at Chicago Garage in early 2024, successfully recording nearly 200,000 cash transactions so far. The pilot continues through April, with the goal to complete farebox modernization system-wide by the end of 2024.
- In March, service was restored on 29 bus routes and increased on some Saturday routes. A new rail schedule with gradual service increases took effect April 7th as more operators are hired and trained.
- Saturday, March 16, 2024, for St. Patrick's Day, saw the highest single-day Saturday ridership (894,000) since the pandemic began. Ridership is expected to continue growing in spring and summer.
- 20 ADA Disability Awareness Training sessions were held for frontline CTA employees in Q1 2024.
- An educational accessibility bus tour was conducted for 1st graders.
- GTFS data was updated to identify ADA-compliant rail stations for improved accessible trip planning.

Old Business

Doreen expressed a change in October meeting minutes to reflect her excused absence.

New Business

Doreen Bogus requested an update on the Tactile Bus Stop sign meeting that provided an overview of the program.

In response, Laura Saltzman (the Chairperson) confirmed that this topic was already planned to be included in the July meeting agenda.

Adjournment

Chairperson Saltzman declared the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.