



Columbus Advisory Committee on Disability Issues

CACDI Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2024

Meeting Information

Location: Hybrid, 96 South Grant Ave., Columbus, OH 43215 (Meeting Room 2B)

Date & Time: May 23, 2024, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Acting Chair Emma Strange

Attendees: Emma Strange, Elliot Lewis, Jennie Hanna, Bob Roehm, Nathan Grizenko, Belinda Spinosi, Kenneth Ganter, Corrina Hyde, and Colin Riffe, Rose Larson, Patricia Kovacs, Janae Miller, Angela Bower, Paul Walker

Agenda Items

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - A. Vice Chair Emma Strange called a meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
 - A. Minutes distributed via paper copy and electronically. Will submit for official approval at June 2024 Meeting.
- III. ADA Coordinator Update
 - A. No report provided.

IV. Old Business

A. None

V. New Business

A. LinkUS Presentation

1. Speakers: Corrina Hyde, MSW, and Elliot Lewis, PE (Central Ohio Transit Authority and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, respectively)
2. Kenny Ganter (COTA), Colin Riffe (LinkUS) also in attendance.
3. MORPC serves as “program manager” for this mobility initiative that is called LinkUS.
4. Background on the benefits of BRT and a display of renderings to illustrate what the BRT would look like within Columbus. BRT or Bus Rapid Transit would travel along corridors that span several miles and pass through various municipalities.
5. Overview of the 500+ miles of bike paths and walkways to facilitate pedestrian travel to access transportation services. Many of these projects are funded through the increased sales tax (about \$60M per year on average). This funding would be primarily for the construction of sidewalks; maintenance would be the responsibility of either the city or the owner of that property.
6. Christine asked, “When you see these lanes created, how will you make sure the drivers don't drive on the green area [dedicated bike lane markings]?” She expressed concerns about bicyclist safety as drivers will not always yield to bikers or pedestrians.
7. Janae Miller said, “Hi, I heard that there are signs for people to read. Will there be braille for those who are blind who may ride the bus? This presentation is nice; would like to hear the impact that this will have on those with disabilities?”

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8. Presenter emphasized reliance on local leaders and government for enforcement of laws and regulations to manage driver behavior and adherence to safety.
 9. Belinda raised concern regarding a “gap” in which organizations will not assume leadership and ownership of the challenges that currently exist regarding transit accessibility and pedestrian accessibility and safety.
 10. Patricia advocated for bus stops to be located at signalized intersections. She argued that more thought is needed to ensure traffic control is taken into consideration.
 11. Presenters discussed the concept of transit-oriented development, highlighting intentional investments in accessible housing and close proximity to jobs, business, and community resources. An example of this is to explore opportunities to create and expand transit to cover areas such as the New Albany Area (i.e. the new Intel plant).
 12. Patricia said, “I also hope that the COTA buses can have routes to all the warehouses - New Albany, Etna, Groveport. These are employment opportunities for people who may not drive.”
 13. Rose said, “Worthington, too.”
 14. Christine made remarks about the need to develop accessible housing and the concerns about how this will be completed given the huge financial obligations these kinds of changes bring.
 15. Belinda brought up concerns about the LinkUS initiative not being mindful of ADA compliance and supporting the perspective and needs of individuals with disabilities.
 16. More information about LinkUS can be found here:
<https://linkuscolumbus.com/>

VI. Announcements

A. None

VII. Adjournment

A. Adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

B. Next Meeting: June 27, 2024 @ 2 p.m.

Submitted By:

Nathan Grizenko, Secretary