

Wichita – Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

September 24, 2008 - Meeting Minutes Independent Living Resource Center – 3033 West 2nd St. North

- I. **Welcome and Introductions:** By David Calvert
a. **Meeting began at 9:30 a.m.**

Attendance for the W-SCAAB:

Present:

Jason Gegan	Lori Lawrence
Steve Hinds	Steve Stambaugh
Craig Perbeck	Jerry Davidson
Sanford J. Alexander III	David Calvert
John Sullivan	Grady Landrum
Valerhy Powers	

Absent:

Marty Rothwell	Jennifer Foster-Farquhar
Dr. David Waldie	De Eaton
Nick Taylor	Carole Keedy
Susan Robinson	Ed Koon
Ron Pasmore	Tiffany Nickel
Julie Hedrick	

City/County Staff Present:

Jeanne Goodvin	City of Wichita ADA Coordinator
Jay Hinkel	Deputy City Attorney
Charles Karugu	ADA Associate Engineer, City of Wichita
Lindsey Mahoney	Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator

Guests:

Gail Davidson
Barbara Alexander
Brian Coon – Asst. Traffic Engineer, City of Wichita

- b. Welcome to new member Jason Gegan representing Wichita Association of the Deaf. Jason is replacing Chris Caldarella, since Chris can no longer attend due to his school schedule. David Calvert stated that Chris will continue serving as Chair of the Emergency Communications Committee.
- c. Welcome to guest: Brian Coon (Asst. Traffic Engineer for City of Wichita)
- d. There are 24 voting members of the WSCAAB. 13 voting members are in attendance, therefore quorum is met. (*Note: A quorum of 1/3 is required per the revised operating procedures*)

II. Approval of Minutes: It was discussed that at the last meeting, a comment was made that when curb cuts are not at 90 degrees, they are also dangerous to those that are not visually impaired. This is because it goes against human nature to proceed in the direction they are traveling. A motion was made to pass the minutes with the noted addition. The motion passed and the minutes were approved as amended above.

III. Emergency Communications Committee Update: Lindsey Mahoney described the discussion/results of last month's Emergency Communications Committee meeting with representatives from the Sedgwick County public safety organizations. Meeting minutes were distributed. Key items included:

- a. The subcommittee's recommendation based on the meeting is to promote education/information to disability groups.
 - i. Emergency management emphasized the importance of a "layered system" for emergency warnings. The concept is that the public should rely on the various layers available for them to obtain information, and not on just a single method.
 - ii. Publicizing the SENIORS program.
 - iii. Possibly, our board might be able to offer some assistance in the development of the new Sedgwick County Animal Rescue Group. Perhaps we could work with this group to provide guidance on service animals. Or, we could invite this group to present to the WSCAAB so that we can learn more.
 - iv. Promoting local news stations that offer phone or text messaging of emergency alerts. Rick Shellenbarger with Emergency Management provided an email with information about a few of the media stations offering this service.
- b. S.E.N.I.O.R.S. program: Lindsey provided brochures with sign-up forms for the S.E.N.I.O.R.S. program, which is a voluntary database that seniors

and people with disabilities can join. This database allows individuals to provide law enforcement and emergency services with information about their medical conditions, disability information, presence of a service animal, etc. that could be critical information in case of an emergency. Lori Lawrence and Jason Gegan stated that the name of the program could use revamping, as it does not make it clear that people with disabilities can use this program. The board suggested that it might be appropriate for this board to prepare a WSCAAB press release about this program (*Active Aging* and *The Wichita Eagle* were suggested for getting the word out). Lindsey will work with the Sheriff's Department to assist with this press release.

IV. APS Signals Update and Curb Cuts Update

- a. Brian Coon, Asst. Traffic Engineer for City of Wichita, described that curb cuts are now being done straight (at 90 degrees instead of diagonals). This will be the policy from now on.
- b. Brian requested a list of priorities from this board for locations for APS signals. Sanford Alexander described that a January 2006 meeting took place to discuss APS signals, where the committee developed a listing of priorities.
- c. Brian stated that four intersections are being signalized this year. He can have a list of these locations sent to the WSCAAB.
- d. Jerry Davidson stated that the intersection at Broadway and 13th was just completed, but diagonal curb cuts were installed there.
- e. Brian said that the floor plans he approved on Monday were noted to change from diagonal curb cuts to 90 degree curb cuts.
- f. David Calvert asked if wiring can be installed at the time of construction, even if APS signals are not being installed. Brian indicated that currently they are installing empty conduit at each intersection so that APS signals could be added at a later date.
- g. Sanford asked what type of APS signal is being planned as the standard. The committee had recommended Polera because this system allowed traffic lights to turn red for emergency vehicles.
- h. Steve Stambaugh expressed the importance of ensuring that the APS signals at Main Street (between the courthouses) are working correctly, because a pilot program cannot be implemented to make recommendations until the signals are functioning correctly.
- i. David Calvert stated that it seems like the City may not be following the board's recommendations for APS signals. He suggested board members email Brian (and cc Jeanne) with their comments:

- Brian A. Coon, PhD, JD, PE
Asst. Traffic Engineer
City Engineer's Office
7th Floor, 455 N. Main St.
bcoon@wichita.gov
Phone: 268-4448
Fax: 219-6448

- V. Sedgwick County Courthouse Parking Presentation:** Lindsey Mahoney described the employee parking program that has been implemented for County employees with disabilities.
- Downtown parking can be a challenge for everyone. To increase the availability of accessible parking for the public, and to meet the needs of employees with disabilities (such as ensuring that they have a space that works for them when they need to leave and come back from meetings, etc.), the County has implemented a new program.
 - Approximately 30 employees with disabilities have made use of this program. This has significantly reduced the demand for the existing accessible parking spaces, creating more spaces available for public use.
 - When employee parking is made available in County owned or leased parking facilities, each employee with a valid disability placard or tag will be assigned a reserved parking space, upon request of the employee.
 - Reserved spaces will be marked "Reserved," labeled with the employee's County parking permit number, and spaces will be accessible to the extent required by a particular employee. The ADA Coordinator meets individually with each employee to determine their unique needs.
 - The following designated accessible parking spaces are dedicated for use by the general public only. Therefore, no employee parking will be allowed in the accessible parking provided in these locations:
 - Main Street, in front of the Main Courthouse
 - Surface lot east of the Munger building

VI. Crossing Time at Crosswalks

- Valerhy Powers sent David Calvert an email about pedestrian crossing times at crosswalks from the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns. This email indicated that 4 ft./sec. is the standard crossing time, but 2.8 – 3.5 ft./sec. may be better for seniors and people with disabilities. San Francisco uses 2.8 ft./sec.
- Access Board has no standards on this issue, but the Rights of Way Guidelines are proposing 3.5 ft./sec.

- c. Brian Coon indicated that the last three intersections that were installed used 3.5 ft./sec. He expects that this will become the standard, except at some specific problem intersections.
- d. He cautioned that at these “problem” intersections, low end values may be counterproductive, because they can cause aggressive driving behavior. There needs to be a good balance to avoid this problem.
- e. Craig Perbeck suggested that at problem intersections, it might be possible to “Vegas them” by providing a pedestrian overpass or underpass.

VII. WSCAAB Subcommittees

- a. David Calvert suggested that effective use of our Subcommittees may allow WSCAAB meeting times to be reduced.
- b. Committees would report by submitting meeting minutes. A summary of decisions/recommendations by the committee will be included at the end of the meeting minutes.
- c. It was suggested that meeting times could be reduced to one hour or every other month. Committees will meet as needed and may communicate via email/phone conferences/etc. All board members would be expected to sit on a committee.
- d. David provided a handout (previously emailed to WSCAAB) with the list of committees.
- e. The possibility of adding an “Oversight” committee was discussed (to ensure transition plan items are implemented). It was discussed that the board as a whole provides oversight, but the main responsibility for oversight of the transition plan lies with City and County staff (Jeanne and Lindsey). An oversight committee may not be the best use of WSCAAB time/resources, due to the amount of work involved with transition plan items. Jeanne and Lindsey will provide regular reports on transition plan implementation to keep the WSCAAB informed on progress.
- f. Subcommittee communication (meeting announcements/correspondence /etc.) should cc David C., Lindsey, and Jeanne.
- g. The WSCAAB approved a motion (and 2nd) to meet every other month as a whole board starting in November. **The next regular meeting will be November 19th, 10:30 – 11:30am at Envision (610 N. Main).** Committees may meet as needed in the interim.
- h. Committee reports should be sent to Lindsey and Jeanne two weeks before the WSCAAB meeting. Meeting minutes will be issued one week advance of the WSCAAB meeting.

VIII. Cowtown and Other City Projects: Jeanne expressed her desire to report on the many positive achievements on the City's transition plan work.

- a. Due to limited time, there is often not enough meeting time to present these items.
- b. It was suggested that a written report on issues or project updates can be issued before each WSCAAB meeting (bullet-point format reports). This will allow all members to be kept informed of progress on projects.
- c. Cowtown: Jeff Farney prepared a final transition plan for this facility. Charles would be happy to email this document to the board.
- d. Jay reported that the City is looking into creating a SharePoint website for the WSCAAB to access. This will allow WSCAAB members to better distribute large files.
- e. South McLean modifications to a maintenance building: The City decided to add an elevator to this facility, even though it is not open to the public.
- f. Mid-American All Indian Center: Lots of improvements have taken place, including a lift, restroom improvements, and elevator to the 2nd floor.
- g. Aviation Museum: David Calvert said that wheelchair users can't get access to the 2nd floor. Charles indicated that an elevator is planned, with a video tour available in the interim.
- h. Jeanne's list of ADA projects and a report on the City's Accessible Parking Program (number of tickets paid) will be provided to the WSCAAB.

IX. Public Comment: No additional comment.

X. Adjourn

The next meeting will be:
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
10:30-11:30 a.m.
Envision, 610 N. Main Street

Meeting minutes prepared by:
Lindsey Mahoney, Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator