

Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Envision/Zoom

10:00-11:30 a.m.

Voting Members Present

Craig Perbeck*	Rick Rader	Tiffany Nickel*
Thomas Page*	Jayne Otis	Dee Nighswonger*
Lisa Vayda*	Gary Janzen	Andrew Crane
Ron Tracy	Brian Powers	David Calvert*
Stacy Fuller	Harley Anderson*	Jill Kerschen*
Sean Beebe*	Jay Hinkel*	Susan Ternes*
Kyelene Flaming		

*Joined via ZOOM

Voting Members Not Present

Michelle Pryor	David Pracht	Raven Alexander
Ed Koon	Michael Fowler	Steven Walters
Dorsha Kirksey	Christopher Rea	

City/County Staff Present

Chelsea Anderson	Y'Teva Robinson	Mike Tann
Ally Angle	Mike Armour	
Christian Lamielle	Corinthian Kelly	

-
- I. **Welcome, Announcements & Introductions - Access Advisory Board Chair Brian Powers:**
 - a. Roll call of the meeting attendees modified due to initial technical difficulties
 - II. **Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. Powers entertained a motion to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes
 - i. Ron Tracy moved to approve the minutes. Stacy Fuller seconded the motion. Votes typed into chat and verbal. The motion passed
 - III. **Committee Updates:**
 - a. Transit
 - b. Building
 - IV. **New Business:**
 - a. **Discussion by Community Service Officers - Community Support Specialists Y'Teva Robinson and Ally Angle**
 - i. Community support specialists provide early intervention and prevention with the goal of keeping children in the home and keeping DCF out the home, and limiting the number of police contacts that happen

- ii. Can assist getting families through to the next paycheck, have helped families get clothes, helped moms move, helped get kids into counseling, helped parents get new jobs
- iii. Anything that we can do to help build the community up around the family.
- iv. Angle states Community Support Specialists do go out and are on call 24/7 so available to officers at any point in time
- v. Robinson states that the unit is already up to 70 cases and contacts for the month of April and the average anywhere from 120 to 150 touches/contacts per month – and range from a mailed letter after a car accident to more continuous contact
- vi. Angle states the county does have a Community Support Specialist but there is only one and she covers all of Sedgwick County
- vii. Goal is for people to be aware of the services Community Support Specialists can provide

b. Discussion of City's Use of Street/Sidewalk Permit Policy – Gary Janzen, City Engineer/ADA Coordinator, City of Wichita/Traffic Engineer, Mike Armour

- i. Gary Janzen, City Engineer/ADA Coordinator talks about giving an overview of permitting of use of the right of way in particular about areas downtown and about what happens when sidewalks need to be closed for construction.
- ii. Introduces Mike Armour ,Traffic Engineer who has oversight for the City of Wichita of all the permitting that happens within the public right of way - over 8000 permits per year that we process for all utility work that happens all the construction happens, this is outside of public projects.
- iii. Mike Armour City of Wichita Traffic Engineer presents on the Process for Sidewalk Closures
- iv. Use-of-Street Permit required for any activity utilizing right-of-way
- v. 200-250 permits issued each year (e.g. construction, cranes, roll-off dumpsters, etc.)
- vi. Process:
 - Area of impact described on application
 - If usage impacts vehicular or pedestrian traffic, applicant must show how they will handle vehicular or pedestrian traffic and submit a Traffic Control Plan/Pedestrian Access Plan
 - All signage must conform to Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
 - Reviewed and approved by Traffic Engineer
- vii. Process:
 - Approximately 10% (20-25/yr) of permits affect the sidewalk area
 - Most permits are between 1 day to 1 month in duration
 - About 30% (~10/yr) are medium term of 1-3 months
 - About 15% (~3/yr) are long term of 4+ months in duration
- viii. Process:
Example Permit

- Permit revised in 2021 to bring more attention to impacts to the sidewalk area.
- Example Permit and Closure Plan N Webb Rd
- N Webb Rd Example
- 2nd in Old Town
- Process for Sidewalk Closures
- Power asks about public notice regarding closures
- Armour responds public notices have not been issued in the past
- Armour states the city could try to get longer duration closures shown on city website/instruction bulletin that notes roadways impacted
- Perbeck asks what is your recourse for a contractor that does not follow through with signage and making sure that they are meeting the city's expectation for ADA requirements
- Armour responds if a contractor install signage that is not correct or is not installed in a good manner, first course of action would be to bring into their attention and follow up regarding correction
- Armour states if there was a situation where contractor blatantly disregarded instructions to get signage corrected, city would remove the contract signage and they would not be allowed to get another permit until corrective action taken
- Crane asks if there is a way for signage to be in braille
- Janzen says they will look into it
- Question asked do we have a definition of how what constitutes short term versus long term and do the people when they apply for their permits did they tell you how long the project is expected to run.
- No, not required - mindful to ensure permits are not overly burdensome.

c. Discussion of ADA Complaints – Kyelene Flaming

Kyelene Flaming, Sedgwick County FMLA/ADA specialist

- Works with Gary Janzen to addresses ADA related complaints depending on jurisdiction for the county
- Found on the Sedgwick County.gov webpage you will find the process and procedures for filing a complaint
- There is a grievance procedures in place, can refer anyone to office that would have a complaint related to an ADA accommodation in Sedgwick County as far as city of Wichita, Gary would be the contact person for that, so sometimes those lines get a
- Office has had some inquiries about fairness and hiring practices, will find a lot of information directly related to this topic on human resources webpage.
- Goal is to make sure that there are accommodations in line with ADA compliance
- Page states he has noticed that the Sedgwick county webpage is not very accessible to screen reader users that's blind people primarily but also some people with other print disabilities, and asks if there are plans in the works to revamp?
- Flaming is aware and does not know exactly what our processes and procedures are to make that more accessible, but will definitely will look into issue

d. Discussion of Future Agenda Items

- Michael Tann, Director of Transit, City of Wichita
- Discussion around Town East and strategy to best approach issue with Town East.
- States the mall is private property, first and foremost, so that limits the ability of the transit agency and that can create issues and problems depending on the cooperative nature of the property.
- States that historically that malls are usually very old legacy facilities built in the 70s and 80s
- They were built in the suburbs in areas where transit was not concentrated really just in the city core
- As downtowns decayed malls open up very little accommodation was made to the original design of those malls for public transit access it was cars and people
- The correction is very expensive and most developers are not interested.
- Initial knee jerk response was to have buses go in to the parking lot.
- over a period of time because mall parking lots are not constructed to handling multiple ton Equipment over and over and over again, every single day
- As a result buses were pushed to the edge and one of the problems is lack of access from that street edge to the front door.
- But again, that cost will be incurred - transit cannot make improvements on private property, because it is private, it has to be on public area over for us to be able to make that a transitory.
- Perbeck asks if Town East is going to get tax deferred or tax dollars to do their redesign improving their facade in their structure. I don't think the city should be granting tax abatements or tax any type of tax credits towards a mall that excludes persons with disabilities.
- Tann states transit department did not pull buses from families, they were told by us developer, the owner, whoever was, there is no jurisdiction that forces the private property to say they have that have that type of bus service
- Crane asks if Town East Management can be invited to Advisory Board meeting to hear grievances
- Gary Janzen states that he wants to talk to City Legal counsel to help advise on how to proceed moving forward to help the AAB use the best mindful approach to see what are their responsibilities as a private facility to accommodate
- Page asks what incentives can the city provide to encourage Town East to provide at least an access path across the parking lot and what level of renovation, or will you know I mean is this thing perpetually grandfathered is that part of the issue.
- Vayda suggest using the Center for Economic Development at Wichita State or the Policy Institute at Wichita State to find out the impact on providing you know better transportation to businesses or having them engage in better transportation, especially for those with disabilities, on what type of economic impact, it would make for them and do some sort of an economic study.
- Perbeck asks , if I can go and speak on behalf of myself in front of the city before or the county before they give any type of tax cuts to an entity that doesn't want a city bus on their driveway.
- Janzen will get more information
- Fleming states that on the Sedgwick County website scheduling a ride is available and can be utilized as an option for disabled individuals who are wanting direct access to the front door

V. Old Business:

- Jayne Otis brings up closed captioning on TV for the deaf community
- States somethings are not closed captioned on Channels 12, 10, & 3
- Sometimes we need an interpreter picture in picture the interpreter on the screen, there are lot of times when closed captioning is not a very effective
- States the deaf community would like to see an interpreter in the square for tornado warnings, weather warnings, etc. other kinds of warnings
- Request this be on the next agenda

VI. Public Comment:

- a. AJ Boleski, General Manager, with InTrust Bank Arena introduces himself to the Advisory Board and Shannon Duncan, Guest Experience Manager with InTrust Bank Arena who will be attending Advisory Board meetings in the future
 - Crane asks about relief areas for blind individuals would guide dogs
 - Boleski states there are grass areas around the building that can be utilized and **we allow reentry to accommodate this need**

VII. Adjournment:

- a. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.