

## Wichita/Sedgwick County Access Advisory Board

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Advanced Learning Library/Zoom

10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.

### Agenda

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#### Members Present

IN-PERSON	ZOOM
Mia Ocean	Lisa Vayda
Bethany Malley	Christi Clark
John Crane	Harley Anderson
Andrew Crane	Cindi Unruh
Virginia Zapote	Tamara Blackwell
Jane Otis	Robin Rose
Emily Jensen	Shea Hanson
Tom Page	Madeline Janzen
Jim Underwood	Karen Flateau
Jared Holcomb	Charlie Wilks
Crissy Magee	Lloyd Hanna
	Alison Roets

#### City/County Staff Present

Travis Babcock	Nate Johnson	Stephanie Knebel
	Adrienn Clark	Mike Armour

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- I. **Welcome, Announcements & Introductions – Mia Ocean**
    - a. Mia Ocean – welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.
  - II. **Roll Call of the Meeting Attendees – A quorum was present.**
  - III. **Meeting Minutes**
    - a. Tom Page requested that his discussion of hang tags be added to the minutes.
    - b. Motion to approve July 2025 minutes with stated amendment made by Alison Roets; seconded by Jared Holcomb. **Passed unanimously by voice vote.**
  - IV. **Public Comment**

No Public Comment was given.
  - V. **Monthly Updates/Presentations**

**a. Project Presentations – Mike Armour and MKEC**

- i. Mike Armour discussed proposed improvements around English and Topeka. This is currently where the new WSU and KU med center are being constructed. They are utilizing almost the entire block, and the northwest portion of English and Topeka is for the Community Crisis Center. The consultant MKEC is working on both projects. They have proposed good improvements in the right way.
  1. Mike Armour continued explaining that there will be bulb outs placed at this intersection. He also wanted to check on the status of the subcommittee that will work with the City of Wichita Public Works and Utilities.
  2. Mike Armour emphasized they don't have to do these improvements, but it aligns with the goals of increasing accessibility in the City of Wichita.
  3. Andrew Crane asked if it is going to be more user friendly to get across the street.
    - a. Mike Armour said that is the point of the discussion since there is increased safety from the bulb outs, but the sides would be open if you aren't walking along the path.
  4. John Crane said that it seems like the sidewalk access doesn't go into the plate.
- ii. Some discussion took place around the subcommittee and Wichita Public Works and Utilities were informed of the newly elected members.
  1. Mike Armour discussed planning a future date for the separate item of doing a walk around town with the board.
  2. Tom Page asked if APS would be put on all 4 corners of the intersection
    - a. Mike Armour answered they will not because they are not touching the signals with this improvement. He

emphasized again that what they are doing is voluntary and not required.

- iii. Mia Ocean said for the sake of time that they are going to end the discussion there, but if members had further questions or concerns they could reach out to one of the subcommittee members.

**b. ADA Staff Update – Virginia Zapote**

- i. There was no update at this time.

**c. Transit Update – John Crane**

- i. John Crane said he attended his first meeting, and it was good. He said they are working on a lot of important projects such as bus routes.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Impacting Private Agencies for Change – Emily Jensen**

- i. Emily Jensen asked a question about a client she has who has been to two places that are “technically ADA accessible”, but there is no button to get in the door, and she uses a mobility device. She asked if there is any way to impact these private companies for change.
  - 1. Virginia Zapote answered that they get a lot of requests like this. She continued that they can’t force them to do anything, but we could write them a letter from the board.
  - 2. Terese Goren said that when companies increase accessibility it impacts everyone such as people with full hands, strollers, etc.
  - 3. Tom Page said that periodically they give input on policy at the local and state level. This is where the board could push local governments to add button mandates in local code.
  - 4. John Crane said that finding a list of local grant providers for accessibility improvements can help finance these changes.
  - 5. Mia Ocean asked if Emily Jensen wanted a letter from the board.

- a. Emily Jensen said a letter could be a good way forward and that the two places had the means to put in an accessible door.

- 6. Mia Ocean said a template letter for the proposed toolkit could be useful for future cases like this.

**b. Mid and Long-Distance Travel – Charlie Wilks**

- i. Charlie Wilks asked if anyone was aware of affordable solutions for mid-and-distance travel.
- ii. Emily Jensen said that Sedgwick County is in the process of working on regional transportation, but they could contact her to work more on specific needs.
  - 1. Charlie Wilks explained that trying to get transportation for visiting Emporia is hundreds of dollars and there needs to be a solution to this issue.
    - a. Tom Page asked if a presentation could be given regarding this ongoing project.
      - i. Emily Jensen responded that she can and will do a presentation on this project.
- iii. Lisa Vayda asked about a potential presentation from someone from the Wichita Airport Authority.
  - 1. Virginia Zapote said she is working on getting someone to come do that presentation for the board.
- iv. John Crane explained that the cost of the vans is very high which causes a lot of the cost for rentals.
  - 1. Karen Flateau added that it is a difficult issue since the vans can get up to \$40,000 for a van they would trust. She suggested possibly pooling money to afford a van.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Downtown Parking – Stephanie Knebel**

- i. Nate Johnson reviewed the legal information regarding parking pay stations. He discussed the US Access Board and their guidance on parking pay stations and the requirements for operable parts and path of circulation. He said they talked with their vendors and ensured the kiosks align with accessibility requirements. He said the suggestions from Tom Page were useful and said the US Access Board is the best guidance on this issue.
- ii. Stephanie Knebel asked for additional input on ideas to make the system more accessible for everyone.
  - 1. Nate Johnson added that they are looking for a way to add braille to guide people to the online methods of payment.
  - 2. Crissy Magee said that they were clearing the branches around some of the pay stations but emphasized the need to clear pathway to pay stations.
    - a. Stephanie Knebel said she agrees and has been working with the Parks and Recreation department to ensure they are going to be addressed.
  - 3. Terese Goren said that she was asked to review the websites for accessibility and she said there were issues with keyboarding, inability to go into Calander by date without clicking on it, dropdown menu in the header doesn't visually drop it down when using screen reader or tabbing through it, and mobile apps have issues accessing reservations page due to skipping over it. They said they could send the list to the city staff.
    - a. Nate Johnson said that would be very useful.
    - b. Stephanie Knebel said that a part of the problem is the number of changes that are being made and everything that is being inputted.

- iii. John Crane talked about using the kiosk and the issue of needing to know your tag number before going up to the kiosk and needing to notify everyone.
  - 1. Stephanie Knebel said that tag numbers are needed for parking enforcement since they use auto-readers. She also explained that it is a process to educate everyone on how pay for parking works.
- iv. Tom Page asked if city staff had received the information he sent about accessible kiosks. He said that the vendor needs to be aware of Title II. He also said a generic tag number could be useful for people that use paid drivers.
- v. Tom page continued that a friend was looking at the Wichita Facebook page and a disabled veteran was saying he deserves free parking, the city responded that he does get free parking, and finally someone clarified that it is only for street parking.
- vi. Crissy Magee said that sometimes the lot doesn't line up correctly on the app.
  - 1. Stephanie Knebel said that it is an issue they are working on, but you will be fine since they have the plate number.

**b. WSCAAB Membership – Mia Ocean**

- i. Mia Ocean discussed the informal subcommittee that met to evaluate current membership of the WSCAAB.
  - 1. Virginia Zapote, Travis Babcock, and Crissy Magee discussed the work they had done to fill existing vacancies.
  - 2. Tom Page discussed adding someone from MABCD as a useful voice in the discussions taking place.
    - a. Motion to seek filling the vacant organization spot in membership with a representative from MABCD made by Tom Page; seconded by Jared Holcomb. **Passed unanimously by voice vote.**

**c. WSCAAB Bylaws – Mia Ocean**

- i. Lisa Vayda discussed Wichita Art and Design Review Board designation, but there is no longer an Art and Design Review Board they just have a Design Council. The WSCAAB does not have a seat according to their bylaws, and the city is working on reconciling those issues.

**d. Letters of Support for Advocacy Campaign – Tom Page and Lisa Vayda**

- i. Lisa Vayda discussed the draft letter and asked for input from the board. They also discussed drafting a tool kit with templates and assisting documents. Tom Page, Andrew Crane, and Karen Flateau said they would volunteer to help draft a letter and toolkit.

**e. Letter to US Access Board – Tom Page**

- i. Tom Page said the draft is out and asked for input on the US Access Board Letter.

**f. Deployment of APS Technology Downtown – Tom Page**

- i. Tom Page discussed a spreadsheet he is sending to Mike Armour to ensure compliance with the 2-way construction going on downtown. He then discussed the walk around and other people we could possibly invite.

- 1. Andrew Crane said people not on the board may have interest for the walk around.

**VIII. Adjournment**