



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

July 9, 2026

A meeting of the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee was held on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 5:43 pm, in the Joe Wai Room, Ground Floor, City Hall, and via electronic means.

PRESENT: Peter Brown, Chair
Tasia Alexis
John Atoyebi
Vikram Bubber
Salina Dewar
Mikeal Frazer
Madeleine Grant
Tommy Leung

ABSENT: Casey Skinner
Avery Shannon
Sarah van Baarsen (Leave of Absence)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lucy Maloney, Council Liaison
Councillor Sean Orr, Council Liaison
Paul Storer, Director of Transportation; Staff Liaison
Laura Mackenrot, Former Co-Chair, Persons with
Disabilities Advisory Committee

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE: Cheryll Chingcuangco, Meeting Coordinator

WELCOME

The Chair acknowledged we are on the unceded homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Peoples. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to working with them in partnership as we continue to build this great city together.

Leave of Absence Requests

MOVED by Salina Dewar
SECONDED by Tommy Leung

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve a leave of absence for Sarah van Baarsen for this meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Tasia Alexis
SECONDED by Tommy Leung

THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee approve the minutes from the meeting of Thursday, May 14, 2026, as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Help Shape TransLink's Accessibility Plan

Staff from TransLink provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

2. Inclusive Playground Design

Staff from Park Board provided a presentation and responded to questions and comments.

* * * * *

VARY AGENDA

MOVED by Salina Dewar
SECONDED by Madaline Grant

THAT the Committee vary the order of the agenda to discuss Item 6 before Items 3, 4 and 5.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
BY THE REQUIRED MAJORITY

For clarity the minutes are recorded in chronological order.

* * * * *

6. New Business

Motion – Robot Pilot Project

MOVED by Salina Dewar
SECONDED by Madeline Grant

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has adopted an Accessibility Strategy that commits to ensuring persons with disabilities can carry out daily activities through the application of universal design principles within its pillar: Transportation Services, Policies, and Programs;

2. The City's transportation framework, including the *Transportation 2040 Plan*, focuses on prioritizing safe, accessible, and inclusive mobility for people of all ages and abilities, with particular attention to persons with disabilities. This includes enabling people of all ages and abilities to get where they need to go in comfort;
3. On May 6, 2026 Council passed a motion, which directs City staff to work with a private company, Serve Robotics, to develop a 6-month pilot program testing delivery robots in Kitsilano and Downtown Vancouver, which will impact public access to sidewalks in Vancouver: Standing Committee of Policy and Strategic Priorities Minutes May 6, 2026, pp 34-35:
<https://council.vancouver.ca/20260506/documents/pspc20260506min.pdf> ;
4. Sidewalks are a critical component of accessible transportation infrastructure, yet Vancouver's sidewalk network faces significant challenges, including approximately 450 km of missing sidewalks and an estimated \$600 million repair backlog;
5. Vancouver's sidewalks already accommodate a wide range of users, including pedestrians, mobility aid users, people with vision loss, seniors, children, service animals, and, increasingly, micromobility devices such as bicycles;
6. The introduction of delivery robots on sidewalks has the potential to:
 - a. create physical barriers and hazards, particularly for people using mobility aids, those with vision loss, and individuals accompanied by service animals;
 - b. interfere with safe navigation and right-of-way, especially if devices stop, reroute unpredictably, or are unable to appropriately yield, including possibly blocking curb cut use by people with sight loss and other disabilities;
 - c. introduce new and untested interactions that will affect cognition, safety, and comfort in public space;
 - d. occupy significant sidewalk space, exacerbating existing accessibility challenges; and
 - e. make crossing the street more unpredictable for pedestrians who are crossing at the same time as the robots, and potentially be unsafe for older people and people with sight loss, sensory disabilities, cognitive disabilities and physical disabilities;
7. There remain unresolved questions related to liability, privacy, enforcement, and accountability, particularly when devices are operated by private or foreign companies;
8. Other jurisdictions, including the City of Toronto, have restricted or banned similar micro-utility devices from sidewalks and bike lanes due to accessibility and safety concerns; See for example an article in Policy Options Politique, January 30, 2025: <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/2025/01/sidewalk-robot-delivery-safety/#:~:text=Tiny%20Mile%20is%20a%20Toronto,bike%20lanes%20in%20December%202021> .

9. There has been limited publicly available information regarding the real-world impacts of sidewalk delivery robots on vulnerable populations;
10. Meaningful consultation with affected communities—including persons with disabilities, seniors, families, and Indigenous communities—is essential to upholding the City’s accessibility and equity commitments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee recommends that:

- A. Council direct staff to pause or postpone any implementation or expansion of sidewalk delivery robot pilot projects until a comprehensive accessibility and safety assessment has been completed;
- B. Council direct staff to undertake thorough consultation with advisory bodies and community groups, including but not limited to:
 - i. Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee (PDAC);
 - ii. Older Adults and Elders Advisory Committee;
 - iii. Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee;
 - iv. Urban Indigenous Peoples Advisory Committee; and
 - v. Vancouver Food Policy Council

Including consultation about the criteria used to measure public safety and comfort during the pilot project;

- C. Council direct staff to report back with:
 - i. a detailed accessibility impact assessment, including impacts on mobility aid users, people with vision loss, people with hearing loss, those who use guide dogs and service animals, people with intellectual disabilities, and those who are neurodiverse;
 - ii. an analysis of sidewalk capacity and infrastructure readiness, considering existing gaps and repair backlog;
 - iii. clear recommendations regarding liability, regulation, enforcement, protection of privacy, a complaints and resolution process and right-of-way protocols; and
 - iv. a review of policies and outcomes from other jurisdictions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Working Session Updates

Postponed to September 17, 2026, regular meeting.

4. Liaison Updates

All Liaisons present provided updates.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Subcommittee Chairs provided updates and informed the Committee of upcoming subcommittee meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Michael Fraser
SECONDED by Madeline Grant

THAT this meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting:

DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2026
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Cascadia Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
/ Teams Meeting

The Committee adjourned at 7:42 pm.

* * * * *