

Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/18/2025

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: 2 N LaSalle St, Chicago, IL 60602

Attendees:

In Person

1. Jaret Bozigan
2. Thomas Ciesielski
3. Mandy Hetzel
4. Rachel Arfa
5. Christina McGleam
6. Bryen Yunashko
7. Dorene Bogus
9. Anne Zhang
10. Daniel Shin
11. Irma Gomez-Fierro
12. Craig Turner
13. Dave Miller
14. Carly Paluszek
15. Craig Jakobsen
16. Aishwarya Kodnikar
17. Mike Shaw
18. David Gleason
19. Samantha Taplin
20. Jennifer McElroy
21. Autumn Joy Diaz

Virtual

1. Peter Berg
2. Andy Slater
3. Jamie Jackson
4. Maureen Heneghan
5. Matt Payne

Public members – Need meeting attendance data

1. Opening Remarks

- CDOT Acting Commissioner and MOPD Commissioner welcomed attendees and reiterated the City's commitment to accessibility.
- Reminder to introduce yourself before speaking and allow time for interpreters.

2. Meeting Format & Communication

- Bryen & Rachel Arfa: Introduced hand-raising protocol:
 - Closed fist: Interrupt for clarification.
 - Open fist: Request to speak in turn.
- No additional suggestions for meeting format were raised.

3. APS Program Overview

Modern APS units are being implemented city wide- Chicago does not require pressing the button to generate walk signals; wireless technology being explored to reduce installation time. APS is installed per federal guidelines.

Remedial Plan:

- Starting May 2025: accelerated installation of APS.
- Goal: 71% of signalized intersections by 2035 (~1,900 signals).
- Remaining intersections in subsequent 5 years.
- Minimum: 70 intersections Year 1; 245 per year later.

Prioritization factors: new signals, public requests, dangerous conditions, proximity to public facilities, educational campuses. Detailed prioritization plan to be shared with committee.

Funding: Local funds currently used; seeking additional grants. APS installations also occur during signal modernization projects.

4. Key Discussion Points

APS Design & Functionality

Volume:

- Some APS units not loud enough- CDOT's response was that APS are designed to self-adjust based on ambient noise.
- Complaints about loudness in some neighborhoods; outreach needed to explain functionality.

Orientation:

- Suggestion for APS to announce street names for better navigation.
 - CDOT will review feasibility and cost implications.
- Distance from Curb:
- Current placement often far from curb cut; CDOT reviewing options for closer placement.

Tactile Features:

- Discussion on tactile crosswalks vs. curb cuts; MUTCD does not currently include tactile crosswalks in guidelines

- Suggestion to explore tactile bars (used in Japan, South Korea, Australia).

Vibration Intensity: Question if adjustable; no current requests/complaints logged.

Hearing-Blind Accessibility:

- APS sound acts as a beacon for orientation; vibration alone is insufficient.

Committee Purpose & Broader Accessibility

Mike Shaw: Asked if CDOT or MOPD has a broader Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee.
Dave M: Chicago Mobility Collaborative exists; started from Bicycle Advisory Committee.
Rachel A.: MOPD has an advisory committee with representation from different disabilities.
Irma G.: CTA has ADA advisory committee meetings. CDOT and CTA can coordinate further
Bryen Y.: APS alone is not enough; need holistic approach to accessibility.

Public Feedback & Outreach

Website: www.chicagoaps.org launched for:

- APS locations, request logging, feedback submission, contact info.

311 System:

- New request types for APS installation and maintenance.
- Maintenance requests handled within 5 business days; major damage may take longer.
- New installations: 12–24 months.

Social Media Campaign:

- CDOT to check with social media team for APS rollout messaging.
- CDOT to collaborate with MOPD and CTA for citywide outreach.

Community Education: Outreach to neighborhoods to explain APS sounds and functionality; CDOT reaching out to all 50 wards.

Additional Accessibility Concerns

- Cane detection during sidewalk construction.
- Service animal training and APS sound standards.
- Tactile bus signs and wayfinding integration with APS.
- Enforcement: Suggestion to involve CPD for pedestrian law compliance.
- Explore all-pedestrian phases (EPP) at complex intersections (e.g., Wicker Park Six Corners).
- Consider residential areas with low pedestrian traffic for APS prioritization.

5. Action Items

CDOT:

- Report back on tactile crosswalk feasibility and APS design improvements.
- Share detailed prioritization plan with committee.
- Coordinate with social media team for APS informational campaign.
- Review feasibility of APS announcing street names.
- Attend CTA ADA committee meeting for collaboration.
- Establish reporting mechanism for APS issues.

Committee:

- Provide feedback on tactile features and APS enhancements.

CTA/CDOT: Explore joint campaign for bus wayfinding and APS.

Next Meeting:

- Feb 24, May 19, Aug 18, Nov 17 (Tuesdays, 2–4 PM).

6. Closing

- Commissioners thanked participants for input and emphasized ongoing collaboration.
- Bryen Y. requested clear design guidelines inclusive of all visual and hearing impairments for next meeting.