

# APS Community Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2025  
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Location: 2 N LaSalle St, Chicago, IL 60602

### Committee Attendees:

Name	Affiliation/Role	Location
Rachel Arfa	MOPD, Commissioner	In-Person
Peter Berg	UIC	Virtual
Doreen Bogus	MOPD	In-Person
Jaret Bozigan	The Chicago Lighthouse	In-Person
Thomas Ciesielski	MOPD	In-Person
David Gleason	CDOT	In-Person
Irma Gomez-Fierro	CTA	In-Person
Maureen Heneghan	American Council of the Blind of Metropolitan Chicago	Virtual
Mandi Hetzel	Second Sense/COMS	In-Person
Jaemi Jackson	CMAP	Virtual
Christina McGleam	MOPD	In-Person
Dave Miller	CDOT, APS Implementation Point Person	In-Person
Mike Shaw	Independent Monitor	In-Person
Daniel Shin	CDOT	In-Person
Andy Slater	Community member	Virtual
Craig Turner	CDOT, Acting Commissioner	In-Person
Bryen Yunashko	DeafBlind advocate	In-Person
Anne Zhang	CDOT	In-Person

ASL and tactile interpreters and other support staff were present at the meeting.

## 1. Introductions & Opening Remarks

CDOT Acting Commissioner Craig Turner and MOPD Commissioner Rachel Arfa welcomed attendees and reiterated the City's commitment to accessibility.

## 2. Meeting Format & Communication

Discussion of communication protocols for this meeting.

Bryen Yunashko & Rachel Arfa: Introduced hand-raising protocol:

- Closed fist: Interrupt for clarification.
- Open fist: Request to speak in turn.

Reminder to introduce yourself before speaking and allow time for interpreters.

### 3. APS Program Overview

CDOT provided an overview of the APS implementation program, the purpose and functionality of accessible pedestrian signals, and the APS Remedial Plan.

- Modern APS units are being implemented citywide.
- Most Chicago signals are pre-timed and do not require pressing the button to actuate walk signals.
- Wireless technology is 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 with pedestrian signals by 2035 (~1,900 signals).
- Remaining signalized intersections with pedestrian signals by 2040.
- Minimum: 70 intersections Year 1 increasing to 245 per year.

**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**

- APS Settings
  - Some APS units are not loud enough- CDOT commented that APS units are designed to self-adjust based on ambient noise. CDOT is also looking at refining settings on APS devices.
  - Complaints about loudness in some neighborhoods; outreach needed to explain functionality and inform neighbors of what is being installed and why.
  - APS sound acts as a beacon for orientation; vibration alone is insufficient.

- Question raised whether vibration intensity is adjustable. Confirmed it is not.
- 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 prioritizing closer placement.
- DeafBlind Accessibility:
  - APS button has vibrotactile component per federal guidelines
  - Suggestion that tactile elements such as tactile crosswalks are integral to APS implementation.
  - Noted that federal standards currently provide no guidance for using tactile crosswalks.
  - Suggestion to explore tactile bars (used in Japan, South Korea, Australia).
  - Consider prioritizing APS in residential areas with low pedestrian traffic, where assistance may not be available due to infrequent pedestrian traffic.

### **Committee Purpose & Broader Accessibility**

- Mike Shaw: Asked if CDOT or MOPD has a broader Pedestrian Access Advisory Committee.
  - Dave Miller: Chicago Mobility Collaborative exists; started from Bicycle Advisory Committee.
  - Rachel Arfa: MOPD has an advisory committee with representation from different disabilities.
  - Irma Gomez-Fierro : CTA has ADA advisory committee meetings. CDOT and CTA can coordinate further
- Bryen Yunashko: APS alone is not enough; need holistic approach to accessibility.
- Suggestion for developing best practice for accessible design beyond APS.

### **Public Feedback & Outreach**

CDOT discussed efforts to engage the public.

Website: [www.chicagoaps.org](http://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.
- Newly requested installations: typically 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 traffic signal phase at complex intersections (e.g., intersection Damen-North-Milwaukee).

## **5. Action Items**

### **CDOT:**

- Report on available tactile crosswalk treatments and APS design improvements.
- Share detailed prioritization methodology 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.

### **Committee:**

- Provide feedback on prioritization methodology.

### **CTA/CDOT:**

- Explore joint campaign for bus wayfinding and APS.

### **Next Meetings:**

- February 24, May 19, August 18, November 17 (all Tuesdays, 2–4 PM).
- Dates and times pending Committee confirmation.

## **6. Closing**

- Commissioner Rachel Arfa and Dave Miller thanked participants for input and emphasized ongoing collaboration.
- Bryen Yunashko noted clear design guidelines inclusive of all visual and hearing impairments are essential.