

# APS Community Advisory Committee Meeting

## *Meeting Minutes*

Date: May 19, 2026  
Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
Location: 2 N LaSalle St, Chicago, IL 60602

### **Committee Attendees:**

- **Romina Castillo** – CDOT / Moderator – In-Person
- **Grant Davis** – CDOT / Funding Point Person – In-Person
- **David Gleason** – CDOT – In-Person
- **Daniel Shin** – CDOT – In-Person
- **Dave Miller** – CDOT / APS Implementation Point Person – In-Person
- **Anne Zhang** – CDOT – In-Person
- **Doreen Bogus** – MOPD – In-Person
- **Christina McGleam** – MOPD – In-Person
- **Jessica Maronto** – CDOT / MOPD – In-Person
- **Bryen Yunashko** – DeafBlind Advocate – In-Person
- **Michael Shaw** – Jensen Hughes, Independent Monitor – In-Person
- **William Cheaks** – CDOT Commissioner – In-Person
- **Mandi Hetzel** – Second Sense / COMS – Virtual
- **Irma Gomez-Fierro** – CTA – Virtual
- **Jaemi Jackson** – CMAP – Virtual
- **Jaret Bozigian** – The Chicago Lighthouse – Virtual
- **Maureen Henneghan** – American Council for the Blind of Metropolitan Chicago – Virtual
- **Andy Slater** – Committee Member – Virtual
- **John Gleichman** – Committee Member – Virtual
- **Carla Mykytiuk** – Jacobs, Moderator – In-Person

Members of the public, ASL and tactile interpreters, and other support staff were present at the meeting.

## **1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened with housekeeping reminders regarding participation, accessibility protocols, and meeting rules. Attendees were reminded to identify themselves before speaking and to use hand signals or digital tools to participate.

### **a. Overview of Agenda**

Key agenda topics included:

1. Accessibility check
2. Introductions
3. Old business
4. Committee feedback
5. New business
6. Public comment

## **2. Introductions**

Participants introduced themselves, including representatives from:

- Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)
- Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)
- CTA and CMAP
- Jacobs Engineering
- Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind
- Community members, including blind and DeafBlind stakeholders

## **3. Old Business**

### **a. Public outreach / Trainings / Education**

#### **i. Public Outreach & APS Awareness Video**

CDOT shared a recent APS video that was posted on several social media sites. They reported that the APS awareness video has reached over 15,000 views. Feedback has been largely positive, though some confusion remains regarding push-button functionality.

The committee noted that the video lacked visual description and accessibility for DeafBlind users.

It was suggested that the video be linked to the APS website.

A community member offered assistance with accessibility improvements.

## **ii. Future Video Planning**

CDOT shared upcoming video topics:

- June: Request process
- July: User experience
- August: Complex intersections

Volunteers were identified to support upcoming efforts.

## **b. APS Functionality Updates**

### **i. Core Features**

CDOT outlined that APS includes:

- Locator tones
- Audible messages
- Vibration feedback
- Extended press messages for some locations including:
  - Intersection identification
  - Alerts about medians or unusual configurations

### **ii. Accessibility Challenges & User Experience – Complex Intersections**

A committee member noted that six-way intersections are confusing and unsafe without clearer guidance.

CDOT indicated that APS installation is only a first step, with improved guidance still needed.

A representative emphasized that focus must be placed on the entire intersection, not just APS devices:

- Current APS systems do not adequately support DeafBlind users
- Vibration feedback alone is insufficient
- Lack of timing information (e.g., countdowns) creates safety risks

CDOT suggested exploring safe pathways and tactile routes.

## **c. Tactile Crosswalks & Infrastructure**

- CDOT reported that no current U.S. standards exist for tactile guidance through crosswalks.

- An external partner suggested that raised and stamped crosswalks could be adapted for tactile navigation.
  - CDOT clarified that stamped crosswalks are currently decorative rather than functional guidance tools.
- Committee members suggested alternatives such as saw-cut grooves or other physical guides.
- It was noted that tactile groove systems used internationally may provide effective models.
- Concerns were raised about maintenance challenges, including snow and debris.

#### **d. Braille use on APS signs**

CDOT is continuing to explore options and preferences for installing Braille on signage with CTA. It is not required by federal guidance.

#### **e. APS Volume & Consistency**

CDOT continues to evaluate:

- Appropriate sound levels for usability
- Balancing accessibility with neighborhood noise concerns
- Consistency across different APS device manufacturers

### **4. Committee Feedback**

#### **a. Prioritization**

No additional comments were provided from the committee on intersection prioritization.

#### **b. General Design Feedback**

Current progress:

- Rapid expansion underway
- Approximately 66+ installations completed in the first year, with more in progress

#### **c. Specific locations / APS issues**

CDOT reaffirmed commitments under federal court order:

- 71% of signalized intersections equipped within 10 years
- 100% within 15 years

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Technology Integration**

Committee proposed:

1. Develop interim technological solutions
2. Include technology companies in planning

A community member supported involving autonomous vehicle and mapping companies.

CDOT agreed to explore bringing additional technology partners and CDOT divisions into future discussions.

## **6. Public Comment**

Floor was opened to Public Comment either on Zoom, in the chat, by email, or by letter.

No public comments were provided

## **7. Next Meeting**

- Date: Tuesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>
- Calendar invites and agenda to be distributed by CDOT

## **8. APS Demonstration**

CDOT demonstrated a sample APS unit:

- Locator tone
- “Wait” button response
- Walk tone and vibration
- Extended informational messages

A Committee member requested countdown-style timing for crossings. CDOT noted that this is not currently permitted under federal standards.

## **9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned with appreciation for continued collaboration and stakeholder input.

## **10. Action Items**

Chicago APS Community Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – 5/19/2026

- Integrate audio description into APS videos – CDOT
- Develop additional instructional video series – CDOT
- Explore tactile crosswalk options and research – CDOT
- Engage technology partners (Google, ITS teams, AV companies) – CDOT
- Improve APS user education materials – CDOT
- Collect additional user feedback on installations – Committee Members