

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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✓ MARY ENG		
✓ Benjamin Pickering		



**OFFICE of EQUITY
and HUMAN RIGHTS
CITY OF PORTLAND**

Realizing Equity Enhancing the City of Portland.

Commissioner in Charge:
Charlie Hales, Mayor

Bureau Director:
Dante J. James, Esq.

November 6, 2014

**Portland Commission
On Disability**

Executive Committee

Joe VanderVeer
Chair

Lavaun Heaster
Vice Chair

Jan Campbell
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Travis Wall

Susanne Stahl

Kristi Jamison

Steven Brown

Greetings Mayor and Commissioners,

My name is Joe VanderVeer and I am the chair of the Commission on Disability.

Our commission eagerly supports this transition plan. We commend Council for allocating the resources necessary to bring this assessment phase of the plan to completion. This is no small accomplishment and it should be recognized as a significant step toward making our city more inclusive of all people with disabilities.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the staff involved in getting us to the point we are at today with the transition plan. In particular, we would like to recognize the work of Shoshanah Oppenheim and David Galat for getting the actual integration of the transition plan into the bureaus planning processes started on a solid footing. We also acknowledge the dedicated work of the Bureau staff, such as Randy Webster in the parks Bureau and others too numerous to name, for their exemplary efforts thus far in laying out a timeline for the actual barrier removal work. MIG, the firm hired to do the actual transition plan, should also be commended for the excellent job they've done in assessing the extraordinary volume of facilities that make up our city.

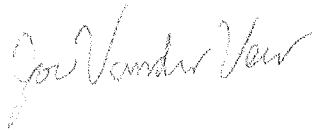
As Council is already aware, the Commission on Disability has been actively involved throughout this initial assessment phase of the transition plan. We are committed to continuing that involvement as the plan moves into the implementation phase and the actual barrier removal work progresses. We strongly encourage Council and the bureaus to ensure that the necessary funds are budgeted and appropriated to complete the barrier removal work in as short a timeline as feasibly possible. A substantial amount of resources and effort have gone into producing this comprehensive assessment so far, but that

investment will only have real value going forward if the barriers identified are actually removed.

We would like to take this opportunity to also encourage Council to go beyond this physical assessment phase of the transition plan and authorize the next, equally important phase of this self-assessment – the programmatic accessibility analysis. Additionally, we would recommend that Council also consider authorizing a “public right-of-way” evaluation to be done as part of the overall comprehensive transition plan work.

In closing, we want to thank Council for your ongoing attention to the needs of people with disabilities and for taking steps, such as this transition plan work, that are truly essential to achieving meaningful inclusion of Portlanders with disabilities in the civic and social life of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe VanderVeer".

Joe VanderVeer
Chair, Portland Commission on Disability