Metro

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 1:00 PM

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AGENDA

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1	Member and Staff Introductions Housekeeping Items	1:00 – 1:10 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
2	**ACTION:** Approval of June 11, 2026 Minutes	1:10 – 1:20 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
3	**INFORMATION:** Elevator Maintenance Procedures Q&A	1:20 – 2:00 pm Metro Staff
4	**COMMITTEE UPDATES**	2:00 – 2:30 pm
5	**PUBLIC COMMENT**	2:30 – 2:45 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair (2 minutes per speaker)
6	**ADJOURNMENT**	2:45 - 3:00 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair

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Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2026
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Members in Attendance:
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Greg Kuhl (First Vice-Chair)
Fernando Roldan (Second Vice-Chair)
Jared Rimer
Ellen Blackman
Deaka McClain
Greg Kuhl
Raul Tafoya
Blanca Angulo
Daniel Garcia
Arlene Descargar
Olga Parra
Karen Esquival-Mayes

Excused:

Antonio Mendez
Max Romero
Fran Sereseres

Absent:
Kevin Dixon
Mark Panitz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathleen Barajas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:08 p.m. Following opening remarks, Metro staff welcomed members attending in person and virtually, asked virtual participants to mute when not speaking, and reminded all participants to engage with kindness and respect. Staff noted that World Cup activity was affecting travel to the meeting location.

Roll call was conducted. Staff confirmed that eleven members were present and that a quorum had been established. Staff also announced that the requested elevator maintenance presentation could not be provided at this meeting and had been rescheduled for the August AAC meeting. Members were invited to submit elevator questions in advance so the maintenance team could research and prepare responses.

2. ACTION: Approval of May 14, 2026 meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the May 14, 2026 meeting

minutes. Staff identified a correction to the officers listed in the draft: Gregory Kuhl, rather than Cynde Soto, should be identified as First Vice Chair. Arlene Descargar moved to approve the minutes with that correction, and Cynde Soto seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted. All members voting supported the motion, and the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

3. **<u>INFORMATION: Code of Conduct for Advisory Bodies</u>**

Armando Roman led an informational review of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Metro Board for Metro advisory bodies. He explained that the Board had already adopted the Code and that the AAC was being asked to review and implement it. No adoption vote was taken at this meeting. Members discussed how the Code should be considered alongside the AAC bylaws, particularly where provisions overlap or conflict. Staff noted that the Code controls if it conflicts with an advisory body's bylaws.

The Committee reviewed the Code section by section. The opening provisions state that advisory bodies provide advice to Metro and the Board, but that members' statements do not represent official Metro policy. The Code applies to voting and nonvoting advisory body members, representatives of member organizations, the advisory bodies identified in the

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Members asked whether the Code also applies to members of the public and other guests. The discussion distinguished between people formally covered by the Code and guests who should still be expected to follow meeting rules requiring respectful conduct. Greg Kuhl recommended including the Code with each agenda and making hard copies available at the meeting entrance. Staff agreed to keep copies available and to incorporate an appropriate reference into future meeting materials or opening remarks. Members also suggested that the bylaws or agenda include a concise conduct reminder for guests.

The professionalism provisions require members to follow the law, Metro policies, the Code, and good judgment; avoid conduct that discredits Metro or the advisory body; avoid altercations or hostility; and refrain from obstructing advisory body operations. Members discussed the importance of preserving their rights as disability advocates, including the ability to participate in protests or other civic activity in their personal capacity. The group generally distinguished conduct undertaken while representing the AAC or participating in AAC activities from members' personal advocacy outside those roles.

The Committee reviewed the nondiscrimination and abusive-conduct provisions, which prohibit derogatory, offensive, sexual, harassing, and repeated egregious verbal attacks against protected groups, advisory

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The suspension and removal provisions allow a

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The final provisions prohibit unauthorized disclosure of confidential Metro information and misuse of Metro resources, intellectual property, staff time, or member benefits. They also state that the Code supersedes conflicting bylaws and identify the Ethics Office as the source of interpretation and advice. Staff identified Julie Nguyen as the Ethics representative who presented the Code at the prior meeting.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jared Rimer provided an abbreviated accessibility report covering Metro committee and Board activity from April through June 2026. He stated that the full report was available on his website in print and Braille formats.

The report identified recurring concerns with audio announcements and rider information, including announcements that could not be heard throughout the Union Station upper-level platform and similar concerns at Historic Broadway Station. Elevator and escalator reliability remained a major topic, including outages at newly opened D Line extension stations, the need for additional testing, and planned modernization funding.

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6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened public comment. No public comments were offered.

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Metro

AGENDA

Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

1	Member and Staff Introductions Housekeeping Items	1:00 – 1:10 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
2	**ACTION:** Approval of June 11, 2026 Minutes	1:10 – 1:20 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
3	**INFORMATION:** Elevator Maintenance Procedures Q&A	1:20 – 2:00 pm Metro Staff
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Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2026
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Accessibility Advisory Committee

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Deaka McClain
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Armando Roman led an informational review of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Metro Board for Metro advisory bodies. He explained that the Board had already adopted the Code and that the AAC was being asked to review and implement it. No adoption vote was taken at this meeting. Members discussed how the Code should be considered alongside the AAC bylaws, particularly where provisions overlap or conflict. Staff noted that the Code controls if it conflicts with an advisory body's bylaws.

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Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 1:00 PM

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Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)

1	Member and Staff Introductions Housekeeping Items	1:00 – 1:10 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
2	**ACTION:** Approval of June 11, 2026 Minutes	1:10 – 1:20 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair
3	**INFORMATION:** Elevator Maintenance Procedures Q&A	1:20 – 2:00 pm Metro Staff
4	**COMMITTEE UPDATES**	2:00 – 2:30 pm
5	**PUBLIC COMMENT**	2:30 – 2:45 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair (2 minutes per speaker)
6	**ADJOURNMENT**	2:45 - 3:00 pm Kathleen Barajas, Chair

TO REQUEST ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDAS IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS, PLEASE CALL 213.922.4067. LIVE CAPTION IS PROVIDED AT EVERY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2026
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Accessibility Advisory Committee

Members in Attendance:
Kathleen Barajas (Chair)
Greg Kuhl (First Vice-Chair)
Fernando Roldan (Second Vice-Chair)
Jared Rimer
Ellen Blackman
Deaka McClain
Greg Kuhl
Raul Tafoya
Blanca Angulo
Daniel Garcia
Arlene Descargar
Olga Parra
Karen Esquival-Mayes

Excused:

Antonio Mendez
Max Romero
Fran Sereseres

Absent:
Kevin Dixon
Mark Panitz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathleen Barajas called the meeting to order at approximately 1:08 p.m. Following opening remarks, Metro staff welcomed members attending in person and virtually, asked virtual participants to mute when not speaking, and reminded all participants to engage with kindness and respect. Staff noted that World Cup activity was affecting travel to the meeting location.

Roll call was conducted. Staff confirmed that eleven members were present and that a quorum had been established. Staff also announced that the requested elevator maintenance presentation could not be provided at this meeting and had been rescheduled for the August AAC meeting. Members were invited to submit elevator questions in advance so the maintenance team could research and prepare responses.

2. ACTION: Approval of May 14, 2026 meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the May 14, 2026 meeting

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minutes. Staff identified a correction to the officers listed in the draft: Gregory Kuhl, rather than Cynde Soto, should be identified as First Vice Chair. Arlene Descargar moved to approve the minutes with that correction, and Cynde Soto seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted. All members voting supported the motion, and the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

3. **INFORMATION: Code of Conduct for Advisory Bodies**

Armando Roman led an informational review of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Metro Board for Metro advisory bodies. He explained that the Board had already adopted the Code and that the AAC was being asked to review and implement it. No adoption vote was taken at this meeting. Members discussed how the Code should be considered alongside the AAC bylaws, particularly where provisions overlap or conflict. Staff noted that the Code controls if it conflicts with an advisory body's bylaws.

The Committee reviewed the Code section by section. The opening provisions state that advisory bodies provide advice to Metro and the Board, but that members' statements do not represent official Metro policy. The Code applies to voting and nonvoting advisory body members, representatives of member organizations, the advisory bodies identified in the

document, and future advisory bodies created by law or Metro action.

Members asked whether the Code also applies to members of the public and other guests. The discussion distinguished between people formally covered by the Code and guests who should still be expected to follow meeting rules requiring respectful conduct. Greg Kuhl recommended including the Code with each agenda and making hard copies available at the meeting entrance. Staff agreed to keep copies available and to incorporate an appropriate reference into future meeting materials or opening remarks. Members also suggested that the bylaws or agenda include a concise conduct reminder for guests.
The professionalism provisions require members to follow the law, Metro policies, the Code, and good judgment; avoid conduct that discredits Metro or the advisory body; avoid altercations or hostility; and refrain from obstructing advisory body operations. Members discussed the importance of preserving their rights as disability advocates, including the ability to participate in protests or other civic activity in their personal capacity. The group generally distinguished conduct undertaken while representing the AAC or participating in AAC activities from members' personal advocacy outside those roles.
The Committee reviewed the nondiscrimination and abusive-conduct provisions, which prohibit derogatory, offensive, sexual, harassing, and repeated egregious verbal attacks against protected groups, advisory

body members, Metro staff, Board members, meeting participants, or members of the public. Discussion emphasized respectful but firm advocacy. Members agreed that the Code should not prevent them from identifying failures by Metro staff or operators, provided concerns are raised without abusive conduct.

Members also discussed situations in which a disability or mental health condition may affect a person's speech or behavior. The Committee emphasized the need to avoid assumptions about a person's intelligence or competence based on speech differences, while also protecting other participants from discriminatory or abusive conduct. Fernando Roldan recommended mental health training for the Committee. Staff agreed to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and disability partners about a possible presentation in August or September. Members further suggested explaining Code expectations during the membership interview or orientation process and addressing individual situations on a case-by-case basis.

The conflict of interest provisions require members to refrain from acting on matters in which outside relationships or personal interests may impair their objectivity. Staff noted that members may participate in outside organizations, but should recuse themselves from an AAC action if a direct conflict arises.

The suspension and removal provisions allow a

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member accused of violating the Code to be suspended while Metro, advisory body leadership, the applicable nominating authority, and the Ethics Office review the conduct. No member may be suspended or removed without cause. Members discussed that the AAC is largely self-selecting and does not have the same external nominating authority used by some other Metro advisory bodies. Ellen Blackman noted that the AAC previously had a membership committee that reviewed prospective members and attendance concerns. The Committee discussed whether a membership committee should be reestablished to clarify admission, attendance, and removal procedures in the bylaws.

The final provisions prohibit unauthorized disclosure of confidential Metro information and misuse of Metro resources, intellectual property, staff time, or member benefits. They also state that the Code supersedes conflicting bylaws and identify the Ethics Office as the source of interpretation and advice. Staff identified Julie Nguyen as the Ethics representative who presented the Code at the prior meeting.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jared Rimer provided an abbreviated accessibility report covering Metro committee and Board activity from April through June 2026. He stated that the full report was available on his website in print and Braille formats.

The report identified recurring concerns with audio announcements and rider information, including announcements that could not be heard throughout the Union Station upper-level platform and similar concerns at Historic Broadway Station. Elevator and escalator reliability remained a major topic, including outages at newly opened D Line extension stations, the need for additional testing, and planned modernization funding.

Additional themes included wayfinding and navigation technology for major events; support for neurodiverse riders and cognitive accessibility; concerns about the height and usability of newer fare gates; bus operator interactions with blind riders; Braille and accessible information; hydration stations; shuttle services; Access Services participation; and the need to keep accessibility central to World Cup and future major event planning. The report concluded that continued attention to announcements, vertical transportation, navigation, neurodiversity, fare gates, and event planning is necessary to improve independent travel and rider safety.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Greg Kuhl recommended that Metro provide public-facing documents and notices in more languages, particularly in preparation for the World Cup, Olympics, and Paralympics. He described a state practice in which notices include multilingual

instructions explaining how to request a document in another language. Staff reported that Metro employees and World Cup volunteers have access to Language Line interpretation and that the service can connect callers with a human interpreter in approximately 30 seconds. Staff also described the distribution of 'I Speak' pins to multilingual employees and volunteers and acknowledged the need for continued employee awareness and use of available tools. A member clarified terminology concerning Filipino and Tagalog.

Arlene Descargar proposed a roundtable or summit involving community-based organizations and people with disabilities so the AAC can develop stronger collective recommendations to Metro leadership. She also suggested considering additional meetings between regular AAC meetings, quarterly meet-and-confer sessions with departments responsible for issues raised by members, and a future presentation from the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower organization. The proposals were referred for consideration during the steering committee discussion and future agenda development.

Staff reiterated that the elevator maintenance team is expected to attend the August meeting. Members may provide questions and examples in advance so the team can research elevator reliability, repair response, outage notifications, and related concerns before the presentation.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair opened public comment. No public comments were offered.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kathleen Barajas adjourned the meeting. Staff announced that the next regular AAC meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2026. The steering committee was scheduled to meet immediately following a short break to develop the August agenda.