



Accessibility Advisory Committee

600 Fifth Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

May 2, 2022

Dear Chair Smedberg, and Members of the Board,

It is my pleasure to present you with the AAC report for the month of April 2022. The primary issues we reviewed were: 1) Floating Bus Stops – Update and 2) Waymap – Way Finding Application – Update.

Issues of the Month

Floating Bus Stops – Update:

The Committee discussed the floating bus stops, as it has been discussed with the various jurisdictions. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) discussed setting the standards and requested feedback from the AAC. Mr. Sheehan recommended having mockup floating bus stop(s) for testing purposes. In Montgomery County, there are five different prototypes. Additionally, effective communication is critical, indicating to a blind person that the bus stop has been moved and where it has moved. He further stated there has to be accessible signal device that would do the following: (1) if you hold the button, it will provide verbal instructions stating it is a floating bus stop, the bus stop has been relocated and where it has relocated, and (2) when it is safe to cross, there would be a light that goes on like a traffic light, it will indicate to bicyclists and scooter riders that they have to stop for pedestrians, providing safety for people who cannot see. The arrow(s) pointing to the stop(s) should be installed as well.

The AAC appreciates the efforts of ADAP and Bus Planning for sharing the safety concerns of the disability community with the jurisdictions, as it relates to the floating bus stops.

Waymap Way-Finding Application - Update:

Tom Pey, Chief Executive Officer, Waymap, provided an update and stated they are working with WMATA to integrate the bus and rail transportation system across the District of Columbia, subject to successful trials being completed at Silver Spring and Braddock Road Metro Stations. Since March, Waymap has done a lidar scan of both the stations, as well as 360 degrees of video images of these stations. With the information that has been collected, Waymap now has accurate maps. Mr. Pey introduced his colleague Zankar Sevak, who is currently in DC and working with the maps, to make sure that when they start the work with the AAC and stake holders, there are no glitches.

Zankar Sevak, Director of Engineering, Waymap, stated he is coordinating the upcoming pilot projects. The pilot project will commence on April 25th, ending on May 6th. They anticipate two participants with visual impairment per day and WMATA staff as well. Up-to 40 users will enable this pilot project. The current pilot project is for blind users, whereas other users will also benefit from it. Due to the extra hardware needed, it will not support any customers using wheelchairs for this pilot. The device is going to be mobile phone,

with most of the navigation done with audible instructions, and Waymap staff will accompany the participant. Mr. Sevak explained that the instructions can be customized for participants needs.

The AAC looks forward to participating in the pilot and hopes for it to be successful.

Sincerely,

Philip Posner
Chair