

CROSS DISABILITY TASK FORCE

*2025 Recommendations
to Improve Accessibility*



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INTRODUCTION

The **CROSS DISABILITY TASK FORCE (CDTF)** was created with a vision to elevate the full experience of a person with a disability living, working, and recreating in Boise beyond legal compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This vision is grounded in a mission that guides the task force's work every day. They strive to make Boise more inclusive for people with disabilities by understanding their needs, removing obstacles, and creating innovative solutions. By working closely with city leaders, local organizations, and the community, the task force ensures that public spaces, programs, and services go beyond legal requirements to foster accessibility, independence, and equal opportunities for all. Since its formation, the CDTF has played a vital role in shaping accessibility policy and practice across Boise. This update shares the progress made and the path forward as we continue to build a city for everyone.

ABOUT THE TASK FORCE

The CDTF is made up of nine community members with diverse disabilities and professional expertise. These individuals bring lived experience and leadership from across the disability community, offering critical insight into how Boise can become more inclusive and accessible. Together, this group represents a wide range of disabilities and perspectives, ensuring that the task force's recommendations reflect the real-world experiences of Boise residents with disabilities.

CURRENT MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Dana Gover

ADA Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, Idaho Access Project

Jeremy Maxand

Executive Director, LINC and Idaho Access Project

Steven Snow

Executive Director, Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CDHH)

Ian Bott

Community advocate

Jen Grush-Dale

Community Engagement Coordinator, LINC

Dianna Willis

Advocate with LINC and Idaho Access Project

Angela Lindig

Executive Director, Idaho Parents Unlimited

Erik Kingston

Idaho Access Project

Carol Baron

Idaho Access Project



PROGRESS SINCE 2021

In its early work, the CDTF identified several key areas where Boise could improve accessibility. These included the need for affordable and accessible transportation, more inclusive neighborhood association events, and better design standards in zoning and public spaces. The task force also emphasized the importance of creating a permanent advisory body—a Disability Commission—to ensure that accessibility remains a priority across city departments.

Since then, the city has made meaningful strides. The task force has contributed to the Modern Zoning Code revisions, helped shape more accessible park and trail designs, and partnered on public awareness campaigns like White Cane Day. They also developed accessibility training videos for city staff and created a guide to help make special events more inclusive.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Early this year the CDTF reviewed its progress and proposed six updated goals and recommendations.

1. PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

As part of the broader accessibility initiatives in Boise, the CDTF emphasized the importance of ensuring that special events are accessible to people with disabilities. The Task Force would like to focus the removal of physical barriers for individuals with disabilities at special events and the inclusion of cultural events that reach everyone in the community.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- By 2025, ensure representation of the Community Accessibility Program Manager on the Special Events Committee to promote accessibility.
- Conduct and report on accessibility audits for at least two recurring events and two new events annually, with findings submitted to the Special Events Committee annually.

2. CROSS DISABILITY TASK FORCE CODIFICATION

Building on the work of the Accessible Parking Committee (APC), Mayor McLean formed the CDTF to address a wider range of accessibility issues throughout the city. In 2021, the Task Force recommended that it be formalized into a permanent body, such as a commission or committee, to provide sustained oversight and support for accessibility efforts. An official advisory body was not formed; however, members continue to emphasize the need to codify to ensure continuity and legitimacy.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- By 2026, work with City of Boise attorneys to explore codifying the CDTF including the structure, scope, and responsibilities of the body.

3. PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY

As part of the ongoing efforts to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility, the City of Boise launched a social media campaign in the summer of 2022 to educate the community on proper pathway etiquette. This campaign aimed to raise awareness of shared pathways and encourage respectful use by all users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and e-scooter riders. Task Force members suggested expanding the education campaign and emphasized the need for city staff to develop more comprehensive education materials that address these issues and to engage with the community to further promote pedestrian safety.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Starting in 2025, the Community Accessibility Program Manager will participate in the quarterly Shared Micromobility Stakeholder Committee Meetings and the monthly coordination meetings with vendors to collaborate on accessibility improvements identified by the Task Force.
- Request that the City of Boise Micromobility Program Manager submit an annual report starting in 2025, and each year after, to include the number of micromobility (e-scooters, e-bikes, and all other devices) rides, filed complaints, average response time to remedy complaints, number of fines issued, number of users removed from platform, and specific strategies the program has initiated to comply with ADA requirements. All data should be exclusive to the city of Boise.
- By 2026, compile a list of the top five common accessibility barriers specifically impacting mobility for people with disabilities on Boise's pedestrian pathways (Greenbelt, sidewalks, and downtown) and disseminate solutions through the city's website, city departments, Downtown Boise Association, Neighborhood Associations, and social media platforms.

4. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT

The CDTF has underscored the importance of making Neighborhood Association meetings, events, and gatherings fully accessible to all community members. Recommendations included streamlining resources to ensure effective communication and providing funding for accessibility needs such as American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation and website updates. The city began offering grants to Neighborhood Associations to support these initiatives, making it easier for associations to incorporate accessibility features into their activities. The Task Force recognized that there were still gaps in clarity and access to resources particularly regarding inclusive practices. Members emphasized the importance of using plain language and offering ASL at meetings to ensure full participation. They also suggested that the city create a point of contact to answer questions after review of the Neighborhood Association toolkit and encourage associations to formally acknowledge their commitment to ADA compliance.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- By 2026, develop specific disability etiquette and ADA standards for the Neighborhood Association toolkit and designate a specific point of contact to address toolkit questions and concerns.
- By 2027, host one accessibility-focused workshop as part of Energize our Neighborhood Program to educate Neighborhood Associations on inclusive practices.

5. ACCESSIBLE PARKING IMPROVEMENTS

Since 2017, the group has discussed parking challenges as part of its ongoing work to address accessibility in Boise. Residents and visitors have raised issues about the availability of accessible spaces in downtown Boise. In addition, the CDTF also recognized the growing need to address the design and implementation of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, ensuring that these are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Starting in 2025, Boise city staff will conduct an annual inventory of on-street ADA parking stalls in the downtown corridor.
- By 2027, the city will complete an independent evaluation of downtown on-street parking stalls. This assessment will review existing accessible stalls, provide recommendations for a phased plan to achieve full compliance, and identify improvement areas to support city staff in developing guidelines for accessible on-street parking in the downtown corridor.
- Implement accessible design recommendations for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations in city parking facilities, with at least one pilot project identified by 2026.

6. IMPROVE ACCESSIBLE ON-DEMAND TRANSPORTATION

The issue of accessible transportation in Boise has been a key topic of the CDTF for several years. In 2019, the task force identified a significant lack of affordable and accessible taxi and rideshare services in the city, which posed challenges for individuals with disabilities. In 2023, Valley Regional Transit (VRT) launched Beyond Access, a program that provides no-cost, curb-to-curb transportation for older adults and people with disabilities in Ada and Canyon counties. Despite this advancement, the need for wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAVs) in rideshare services remain a critical gap. The Task Force encouraged the city to work in partnership with rideshare partners to address this and work to get WAVs introduced into rideshare fleets as part of an overall strategy to improve accessible transportation options.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Initiate discussions with rideshare providers in 2025 to establish a partnership and discuss a phased implementation plan.
- By 2027, deploy at least one WAV in Boise’s rideshare fleet.

TIMELINE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

SHORT TERM (2025-2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PROMOTE ACCESSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL EVENTS Initiate accessibility audits, ensure representation in the Special Events Committee.• ACCESSIBILITY COMMISSION FORMATION Develop a roadmap for codifying the Cross Disability Task Force into a permanent body.
MID-TERM (2026-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY COMPLIANCE AND SAFETY Identify and address common accessibility barriers, participate in micromobility coordination meetings.• NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION ENGAGEMENT Develop disability etiquette and ADA standards for the Neighborhood Association Toolkit, host accessibility-focused workshop.
LONG TERM (2027 + BEYOND)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACCESSIBLE PARKING IMPROVEMENTS Conduct an independent evaluation of downtown ADA parking and develop long-term compliance recommendations.• IMPROVE ACCESSIBLE ON-DEMAND TRANSPORTATION Deploy a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle in a rideshare fleet.

A CITY FOR EVERYONE

As Boise grows, so does the opportunity to design a city for everyone. The CDTF’s updated recommendations reflect a future where accessibility is embedded in our special events, pathways, neighborhoods, parking and transportation. By working together—city leaders, community members, and advocates—we can ensure that Boise remains a place where all people, regardless of ability, can thrive.