



MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 11, 2024
TO: Committee on Persons with Disabilities
FROM: Carlotta Cowan, Committee Liaison
SUBJECT: General Updates from City of Denton Staff

This memo provides information and updates from City staff relating to updates, issues, and inquiries of interest to the Committee. The following is a listing and brief staff response to the matters brought forward.

- **Follow Up Information from Jan. 18, 2024, Libraries Presentation** – In the meeting, the Committee requested additional information regarding accessibility at South Branch Library and availability of additional hotspots. Planning for the new South Branch Library is expected to begin Q1 of 2027. As part of the design phase, staff will seek input from the COPWD in addition to hosting public input meetings. Additional funding has been requested for 30 more hotspots. If approved, staff expects to have more hotspots circulating in January of 2025 depending on supply.
- **Texas State Library and Archives Commission Special Projects Grant** – COPWD provided a letter of support to the Library department as part of their application for a Texas State Library and Archives Commission Special Projects Grant. The grant included plans for new furniture with accessibility features at North Branch Library and reading software with accessibility features for all libraries. Applications are currently being reviewed and recipients of the grant should be announced by the end of June 2024.
- **Follow up Information from Jan. 18, 2024, Solid Waste Presentation** – In the meeting, staff discussed the Solid Waste Service Assistance Program and mentioned adding a “permanent” box that can be checked by the resident’s doctor to bypass the form being filled out every 18 months. There is now a permanent box on the application, and requirements can be reevaluated every 24 months instead of 18 months for customers who have conditions that have been deemed permanent. If the “permanent” box is not checked, the resident will need to resubmit their application every 18 months. Staff’s mission is to provide this service to every qualified applicant and participant, however safeguards must remain in place to ensure that only those qualified receive the service.
- **Sidewalk Segment on University Drive** – Over the course of several meetings of the Committee on Persons with Disabilities, the Committee has discussed the existence of a sidewalk gap on University Drive (between Albertsons Supermarket and Heritage Trail).

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This sidewalk gap has been added to the City's Sidewalk Plan and, as part of the plan, it will be prioritized with other sidewalk needs. Sidewalk construction will be completed when funding is available and any higher-priority projects throughout the City are completed. The existence of adjacent sidewalk infrastructure and proximity to a high-volume roadway will help this project be prioritized higher in the Sidewalk Plan.

- **Report on Grievances and Requests for Accommodations** – The City of Denton developed its ADA webpage (www.cityofdenton.com/ada) as a resource for persons with disabilities to request accommodations and file grievances through an established process. From Dec. 31, 2023 through Mar. 30, 2024, the following requests and grievances were submitted:

- Requests for Accommodation: 0
- Grievances Filed: 0

Staff requests that members of the Committee continue to assist in making sure the disability community are aware of this resource.

- **Next Committee Meeting** – Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 3 p.m.