



CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

Disabilities Commission

November 14, 2025

Report to City Council
re: Proposed Pedestrian Safety Ordinance

The Disabilities Commission appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed pedestrian safety ordinance. As part of our role in monitoring community accessibility and considering the concerns of people with disabilities, we offer the following input to Council.

The Commission is concerned about the provisions that prohibit pedestrians from being in the roadway or from crossing outside of a crosswalk. In some situations, individuals who use wheelchairs or have other mobility impairments may have no choice but to enter the roadway due to missing sidewalks or obstacles such as broken pavement, snow, or construction. While crosswalks are generally the safest places to cross, some people with disabilities may find it safer or more feasible to cross at another point—for example, when curb ramps are inaccessible, when intersection designs such as roundabouts are difficult to navigate, or when they have a clearer line of sight elsewhere.

If the ordinance is adopted, the Commission recommends that the City provide a period of public education before enforcement begins. This could include posting signage in affected areas so residents understand the new requirements before citations are issued.