



## CITY OF COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

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### Disabilities Commission

February 5, 2026

Re: 2025 Annual Report to City Council

At their January 2026 meeting, the Disabilities Commission members reflected on the previous year's actions, efforts, and advisements. This report intends to inform the City Council of the activities of the Disabilities Commission during 2025 and introduce some potential areas of advisement and action for 2026.

In 2025, the Disabilities Commission:

- Welcomed several new members, giving the Commission an even greater representation of our community. For the first time in several years all general and earmarked seats on the Commission are filled. A full commission with Zoom option available keeps participation high.
- Members attended the Olsson community input session(s) to give feedback on proposals impacting public transit.
- Worked with City ADA Coordinator and DC staff liaison Adam Kruse to revise and update the City of Columbia ADA grievance form to make it fully digitally accessible and permit uploading of photos as needed.
- The Commission established a unique, voluntary accessibility recognition program for local businesses, known as the DawnZ Award, aimed at improving the community by encouraging businesses to meet achievable accessibility standards. The Commission submitted a report to Council with the standards of the program and will focus on implementation in the coming year.
- Members participated in the Business Loop 70 Road Safety Audit and provided input from the perspective of pedestrians with disabilities.
- Members participated in a walk audit conducted by consultants as part of the City's ongoing Complete Streets Policy Update project
- Commission members staffed an information table during the city's Earth Day celebration to make citizens aware of the work of this advisory commission.
- Responded to Council's request for a report regarding the proposed Pedestrian Safety Ordinance; read by a commission member and provided in written form to Council for

review to relate concerns on how the ordinance may adversely affect transportation options for peoples with disabilities.

- Awarded the third annual Senator Chuck Graham Memorial Disability and Advocacy award to one individual (Jeff Johnson) and one group (Daniel Boone Regional Library Staff) followed by reception for award recipients.
- Commission members (Alexis Simmerman, Cathy Dolles) and City ADA Coordinator (Adam Kruse) attended the 2025 ADA Symposium in Atlanta GA and the Commission provided a report to Council on their experience and training from the Symposium.
- Disseminated a letter to an area business regarding a community accessibility concern

Looking ahead to 2026:

- To making the first (and many more) “DawnZ” awards to local businesses
- To sending three Commission Members to the 2026 ADA Symposium Phoenix AZ
- Addt'l City Staff to 2026 ADA Symosium in Phoenix: D'Andre and from public works
- To Awarding the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Senator Chuck Graham Award
- To Earth Day including collaboration with Koda Inman-Ahlstrom, Director, DASA-Columbia and location coordination with PTAC
- DC representative on Public Transit Advisory Commission (PTAC)
- DC representative on Bike-Pedestrian Commission

The Disabilities Commission is thankful for the input from and collaboration with the City Council in 2025. We look forward to continued work to increase, improve, and maintain accessible spaces and services for all citizens in Columbia, MO.

Thank you,

John Bowders  
Disabilities Commission Chair

Ann Marie Gortmaker  
Vice Chair

Jonathan Asher  
Secretary