Edinburgh Accessibility Commission – Minutes

Wednesday 9 September 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM – Microsoft Teams Meeting

Attendees

1. Accessibility Commission members

Zara Todd (Chair); Olivia Sklenar (Lothian Buses); Ken Talbot (Spokes); Elizabeth Campbell (HCL Transport); Robin Wickes (Edinburgh Access Panel); Euan Hamilton (Equality and Rights Network); Kevin Wood (Edinburgh Black Cabs); John Lauder (Network Rail); Maureen Morrison (Spinal Injuries Scotland); Alan Dudley (RNIB Scotland); Amanda Whitfield (Sight Scotland); Amy Bailey (The Scottish Assembly); David Hunter (Living Streets Edinburgh Group); Elizabeth Campbell (HCL Transport); Joanna Zawadzka (Sight Scotland);

2. Guest attendees

3. Secretariat

Rurigdh McMeddes (City of Edinburgh Council (CEC)); Michael Mackenzie (CEC); Rosa van Gestel (CEC); Simon Boxall (CEC).

4. Apologies

Councillor Stephen Jenkinson (Vice-Chair) (CEC); Councillor Iain Whyte (CEC); Councillor Kevin Lang (CEC); Councillor Kayleigh Kinross-O'Neill (CEC); Councillor Neil Gardiner (CEC); Councillor Neil Cuthbert (CEC); Nicoletta Primo (Sight Scotland); Kirstie Henderson (RNIB); Michael Tornow (Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland); Matthew Freckelton (Uber); Omar Haq (Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living); Chiquita Elvin (Walk Wheel Cycle Trust); Antonia Lee-Bapty (Euans Guide); Colette Walker (Sight Scotland);

Summary of meeting and actions arising

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Zara Todd welcomed everyone to the meeting and each member introduced themselves.

Members shared any individual access needs relevant to the meeting.

The meeting agenda was introduced and the goal of this meeting to discuss the draft recommendations.

2. **Discussion – Draft Accessibility Commission Recommendations to City of Edinburgh Council**

Michael Mackenzie introduced a presentation with recommended actions categorised as amber, for an action which can be achieved but further work is required, and green to represent work that is already underway.

Some actions were also highlighted yellow to signify that further insight from the Commission would be particularly helpful.

Yellow highlighted actions:

1) Improve signage at Traffic Management sites
    a) Ensuring the accessibility of pathways to alternatives.
    b) Clear simple language on signage.
    c) The signage can't be an obstruction.
2) Promote best approach for disabled people to report problems with road works on street (e.g. 0131 200 2000).
    a) Option for additional text or email alternatives (such as WhatsApp)

3) Review Reportit from a user journey perspective, considering disabled users.
    a) Having a large-print version and screen reader compatability.
    b) Missing categories that may not be listed.
4) The Council to provide a You Said, We Did, We Didn't Do report in a consistent format following all public consultation exercises.
    a) Remind groups that the Council must balance the interests of the various groups.
    b) Option to follow up with individuals who may not be connected to organisations.

3. Presentation – Draft Floating Bus Stop Recommendations from the Commission

Zara clarified that the recommendations do not recommend floating bus stops should be installed but instead provide recommendations for when a decision has been taken to install a floating bus stop, despite the Commission's preference they are not installed.

Michael presented the process the sub-group used to develop recommendations, including site-visits, referring to layouts from other cities, and examining how different user personas would interact with floating bus stops. The findings/recommendations were also presented to the Commission.

A member of the Commission questioned why floating bus stops may be continued to be installed.

Rurigdh responded that these layouts are provided for in national and local guidance, with the purpose of ensuring the widest spectrum of people can use cycling as a mode

of transport without having to mix with vehicular traffic at bus stops.

It was agreed that two additional considerations would be added to the recommendations: increasing awareness among members of the public in Edinburgh how floating bus stops should be used, and improving lighting at floating bus stops.

Michael responded to a question regarding adding alerts to the cycle track approaching floating bus stops, noting the group had considered this and has recommended designs that alert cyclists to pedestrians potentially crossing without adding to street clutter in a way that may increase risk of conflict between users.

A point was also raised regarding Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) and reviewing infrastructure after installation. Michael stated there are IIAs undertaken on Council infrastructure projects, and evaluating infrastructure after it has been installed is included in the Commission's overall recommendations.

Discussion was then held regarding the wording to clarify that the sub-group, and the Commission, 'generally opposes' floating bus stops rather than 'does not generally support' them.

Concluding the discussion, Zara stated further work needs to be done to more accurately define the contexts where floating bus stops should and should not be installed, but that this work should be undertaken outside of the Commission's work plan and with a wider stakeholder group.

4. Any Other Business

No other business.

5. Meeting Close

The next meeting will be held on 25th of November 2026, which will be the final meeting of the Commission and held in person.

Zara Todd thanked everyone for their time. The meeting closed.