

To: Members of the County Disability Advisory Commission – Physical Access Subcommittee

Subject: Pedestrian Wayfinding Pilot Proposal

Recommendation: Review and Comment

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Summary:

SacDOT is conducting outreach in order to develop a possible pilot idea for a pedestrian wayfinding mobile application. Their smartphone app routes people to their destination customized to the individual user’s mobility needs. The app gives information such as slope, presence of sidewalk, and location of curb ramps, which can be especially helpful to seniors and people with disabilities. It is also screen reader-friendly.

The data from the mobile app could be used to study and advance accessibility and mode shift for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as improve access to social services and other community destinations for all pedestrians. The area of deployment of the app is envisioned to be the County’s environmental justice communities: West Arden Arcade, North Highlands, South Sacramento, and Vineyard, but could also include a non-EJ area with a concentration of people known to have mobility impairments such as senior living facilities. The project would include outreach to residents, disability advocacy groups, and senior citizens groups.

Possible technology vendors include, but may not be limited to, PathVu. <https://pathvu.com/solutions/byrole/pedestrians.php>

Funding Source(s): SACOG Modeshift Program, Caltrans Sustainable Communities Program

Background Information:

In April 2022, SacDOT received comment on the Sacramento County Active Transportation Plan from the Disability Advisory Commission (DAC) Chair Gene Lozano, and liaison to DAC Cheryl Bennett on pedestrian wayfinding signage, amongst other topics. The comments pointed out that people walking have access to wayfinding meant for cars or proposed wayfinding signage for bicycles, but not signage aimed at people walking, especially for those with disabilities. Information on whether a route is accessible is often not available at all. Without this information, a disabled person may not walk or roll to a destination, or may not make the trip at all. With the need for pedestrian wayfinding identified, SacDOT researched possible projects that would aim at meeting that need.