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Transcript

September 3, 2025, 6:32PM

□ **Anna Hom-Wong** started transcription

R1 Room 140 0:08

D2 I really, with the office of Supervisor Mitchell and I'm joined by my colleague. Everyone, Manny Sanchez, senior deputy transportation and infrastructure. In WF, transportation is and oh, Carolyn Angeles. But I'm just. Hi Rachel Fox Supervisor Horvath's office.

EE Ellison, Emily 0:36

Emily Ellison SD3.

R1 Room 140 0:43

SD4.

S.

With Supervisor Han's office.

Tiffany Tran, with SC5 on to the parking heads, agricultural commissioner waits and measures.

KF Kurt E. Floren 0:56

Good morning, Kurt, Florin, ad commissioner, director awaits. And messages here.

R1 Room 140 1:02

And while carrying control.

WD Whitney Duong 1:03

Good morning. Whitney Dong sitting in for director Marsha Maeda.

R1 Room 140 1:08

Harbors.

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GJ Gary Jones 1:11

Gary Jones beaches and harbours. Good morning.

R1 Room 140 1:15

Cinereck. Norma Garcia. Good morning. Present live.

SP Skye Patrick 1:24

Skypatchrick, thank you.

R1 Room 140 1:27

Public work art Vandervice assistant director.

General planning.

Montessori, Decket CEO.

Please call the agenda.

Today's agenda, we do not have any items pulled under #2 informational items. We do have one board motion from SD2 designing innovative bus shelters for extreme heat and community resilience.

We also have one presentation from the Department of Parks and Recreation on Universal Design guidelines for parks.

And we also have one closed session following the conclusion of this meeting.

Again, get started with.

That board motion from SD 2.

Hi everyone.

I'll talk about our emotion today and so.

Motion one directive.

And it authorized the Director of Public Works, or designee, to sign a no cost cooperation agreement with Hui design initiative. As far as some community organization.

Lawrence Firestone Junior and Los Angeles County, supervisorial District 2 for the extreme heat and community Resiliency resilience program.

Awarded Project in Florence Firestone Welter effect and I'll share a little bit about why this directive and this motion and so through the Governor's Office of Land use and Climate innovations and through their program, extreme heat and community

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resilience. The Concours design initiative was awarded a grant.

For their Florence Firestone shelter project.

And what this project will do is to design.

New innovative bus shelters.

Sites where standard bus shelter is infeasible to install know that bus shelters general one of the key barriers to installing a bus shelter is site conditions and footprint.

So what?

They'll be exploring PDI will be exploring.

Do their grant is to look at common typologies in Florida's fire stones related to Bush?

Stops and finding new ways of. How do we design A Bush shelter that can fit?

Into these bus stops and so far to be successful in this grant bill partnering and working mostly with Republic works to ensure that their designs that they're proposing is an adherence to the standards, but also getting DPW's feedback on the designs given DPW's also experience install.

Bushells in the county.

And so as part of the grant, it requires all of the participating partners.

Including DPW and even our office ourselves to sign a no cost cooperation agreement.

Which effectively says that the partners will support PDI planning.

And so this motion authorizes DPW to sign that no cost cooperation agreement.

Is it for me? If there's any questions, happy to.

Money was has already been awarded. Yes. OK.

Well, what park is right next to Florence Firestone is there.

Do they have any appetite to expand a little bit?

Is there an opportunity to seek additional grants from the state?

There is a round two of the grant I think is up now I cannot.

Not sure about the details.

So the of the second round.

But clearly this project qualified and so there might.

There might be appetite.

OK.

Maybe we can talk after.

Yeah, I can add to that too, if like, yeah, go ahead. Yeah. So, yes, Steve Berger, public

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works.

So the good news about this grant and we've been aching to collaborate with these folks for a while.

The good news about this grant?

Its design concept work, so it would apply everywhere. So if we get together, we come up with a design that's you know.

Affordable quickly, able to be implemented, do a quick build for example.

It could work well in Ark. It can work. In SD it can work in all of your.

So it's it's an exciting, you know, idea to work with these folks come up with.

You know a new way to do something that we're good with.

And then now you know, now we we've got a quick way to get some of that shade and some of that shelter and because of the community. So that'd be helpful for us as well.

So it's just design concept, it's not built. OK, good to know.

But I mean if it if it works out, we'll we'll talk to all your offices.

If I get, yeah, yeah. We've had conversations about that shelters.

This is very interesting, right? Thank you.

No other questions.

Questions from.

DK David Korsak 6:27

For the second.

R1 Room 140 6:33

Other questions?

We can move on to our presentation.

We have parks and rec here.

Norma Garcia and Chester County. Good morning.

DK David Korsak 6:41

But you.

R1 Room 140 6:45

It's still morning first.

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I just want to introduce our new deputy director overseeing the planning and development agency, Chester Kano.

So this will be his first presentation cluster in with this new title, so kill it Chester.

So I want it.

I want to give a little bit of background and I'll and Chester is going to do 99% of the presentation.

Presentation, but I want to just commend that he's supervisor Han's office for initiating this work.

We had Commissioners from the Department of Aging and Disability that approached their office about making sure that parks were more accessible.

To and universal and some of the examples that they actually provided were not necessarily in LA County Parks, but what was very important for us to understand.

DK David Korsak 7:37

Thank you.

R1 Room 140 7:37

And is that, you know, the public doesn't differentiate between county parks and city parks?

So I want to say that one what we're very excited about is that we having our own planning and development agency. Chester and his team will be working with the cities throughout Los Angeles County, especially those cities who don't have capacity to really.

Also, do education about how cities smaller jurisdictions can also.

Adopt universal standards or for access. But I also wanna say that this was a collaboration. The motion was with Supervisor Han and and Supervisor Solis. But it brought two departments together.

So we had Commissioners from the Department of Aging and Disability and a pretty good robust one from every supervisorial district.

So I want to just say that all of your Commissioners.

From the Department of Aging and Disability participated in a task force.

That we spearheaded as well as two Commissioners from 2 Park Commissioners.

Our Commission is much smaller, so we didn't want to have a brown act violation, so the volunteers were from the 5th support District and the second support resolved

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district. So 2 Park Commissioners, Department of Aging and Disability Commissioners came together and we we developed a task force. That really tackled on the creation of universal design guidelines. So I just want to say we did this within one year, 2 departments, 2 Commissioners and this will have hopefully a lasting impact beyond LA County Park system. Chester, take it away.

Great. Thank you, Norma.

This was very rewarding work.

I have to say.

We worked closely within our task force and 1st we discovered that there is a lot of misconception.

In about accessibility and universal design, so one of our first tasks was to differentiate between the American with Disabilities Act and universal design.

Ada is a compliance measure.

It's a civil rights law.

It's now 35 years old.

It's been around so long, Despite that we all know that that many of our own facilities are not perfectly compliant but. And so in many ways because.

In the.

In the field I'm in, we build things. We work with public works. I'm an architect.

We often think of the ADA as the goal, but that shouldn't be the goal.

Because that's really minimum compliance.

It it was from the 90s.

It got updated in 2010 and then pretty much no change.

Universal Design is a more progressive way of thinking about accessibility. It is aspirational.

It talks about quality, just not compliance.

And now we like to say.

Universal design is good design.

Good design is universal design.

Right, please.

So this is in New York. I was on a trip soon after this board motion went.

It might have been around the same time in fact, and I started thinking about this because this is a is a interest of mine and this is for freedom. Spark on Roosevelt

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Island in New York. And it's a beautiful park.

Designed by a famous architect Luke Khan.

But what do you notice?

These grand steps.

There is no accessibility.

There is a way to get around.

You have to kind of go around the promontory and and get up to that top level and you can come back.

And I found that really ironic because as you know, FDR was saddled in a wheelchair for most of his life. And much of this memorial has to do with overcoming disability.

So eventually, I believe they were sued and they added a wheelchair lift along the left side to be clear.

That's not universal design.

That is better than nothing, but it is not.

Universal because it does not provide equal access and qualitatively you can tell it's very different.

Those things are loud, and they usually they they work and when they're maintained but they they go up, you know very rockily and make a lot of noise.

So it's certainly not a qualitative way to experience this part. As a disabled person.

Why?

So on the same trip I I came across this Clinton Cove at Hudson River Park and this was designed with Universal Design in mind from the beginning.

So they had a multi level area and they made the ramp. The interesting part of the little parklet and they that's where they put the shade. That's where they put the seats and.

Observationally, I can say that's what people used.

They used the ramp.

They didn't use the stairs, so that is a perfect example of what we want to achieve here.

Right.

For universal Design is is a is a known area of design that is based on 7 principles.

I won't read them, but they all have to do with adaptability and flexibility.

There is not a prescriptive.

Code governed way to achieve universal design.

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It's mostly qualitative, ideally like in our world, we like to involve.

People with disabilities and ask them how we can do something better.

These principles are centered around that kind of process.

Slide.

So yeah, as part of our, we want I wanted this to be very useful internally and I can tell you if we create a very dense.

Guideline document. We are very busy at parks and and people won't use it. So we tried to make it easy to use.

Very simple, straightforward. We need to capture the feeling of it more than every little detail.

So three steps, the bare minimum.

88 we have to know that we're professionals.

We're required to know that.

Step 2.

Look at the principles.

Look at the seven principles and ask yourself how you can incorporate them into to the the design and then step three DLA. You get feedback from people who will use it.

Ideally, people who who are from the disabled community, it's not.

Again, I'll repeat, it's not a one-size-fits-all.

Well, it's not prescriptive.

And I'll say for my friend Steve, like, these are the kinds of things that kdi is familiar with and hopefully they will incorporate universal design into the bus shelters.

That's beyond beyond the municip.

DK **David Korsak** 15:04
Umm.

R1 **Room 140** 15:08
So that's a challenge.
So.

DK **David Korsak** 15:13
I don't.

R1 Room 140 15:14

Friendly. Friendly.

Yes, Steven.

DK David Korsak 15:17

Alright, Lisa.

R1 Room 140 15:19

Universal this this is an example we went into different components that you often find in parks and this is how we apply the different principles and try and make it real for staff who are reviewing the many projects or not only our design staff but our capital project.

Our trails and the other.

Other sections within planning and development.

So you can see how we try and take the idea.

Like equitable use, connected to clear park entrances.

You should know when you need to go to feel like this is the entrance to the park, and sometimes that's with oversized graphics and bright colors.

You know, there's many.

Like I said, there's many ways to achieve the common goal.

Right.

Again, going back to block ways.

Just wanting to show you the stark difference.

Ada bare minimum, you can be compliant with the image on the left, but qualitatively the image on the right is what we should strive for.

And you'd be surprised at how often we don't.

We don't go there. We don't.

We don't set out like what is the ideal.

We often start since a lot of our projects are hard and budget challenged. We often start with.

What can we achieve ADA?

It's it's, it's difficult.

You know there's steps and the doorways are too small. Like we see the problem as

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all those restrictions and we lose sight of what the goal is.

And so this document hopefully energizes anyone who uses it with the goal.

I.

More specific examples. Playgrounds. We have a lot of playgrounds and again same thing we can achieve minimum compliance with ADA, but especially in the area of playgrounds I'd say is more advanced than in other areas of recreation.

There's many advocates for adoptive play and play that involves.

Special equipment that can be.

Be adjusted and that makes it more playable, so to speak, for people of all kinds of abilities.

I would say playgrounds is probably the the area that we are already advanced.

Fitness zone.

Same thing became a little bit after playgrounds, but fitness zones now I think all the major manufacturers are realizing this is an opportunity.

We don't build fitness zones for those ***** MMA fighters like rebel fitness zones.

For the everyday person, and oftentimes whether it's elderly or other like youth, they need different kinds of equipment and we have to be cognizant of that when we're designing and scoping.

These projects.

Sorry.

Ask about same thing.

We have a couple of splash pads projects.

We have one in the first district right now with your Narrows and we are working with public works to try and make sure we have some spray areas that can be accessed by wheelchair individuals.

OK.

And as I mentioned, we we work quickly to get to a first draft and then we wanted to put this through the wringer and and get a lot of feedback.

From the members of the task force.

So my team drafted and they put it up on the on the screen and on the board and then we we got a lot of feedback. Everyone has their own. You find that people, you know, they bring their own experiences.

Into the room and we, we heard a lot of anecdotal experiences that applied to what we were trying to do and we did.

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We did change some of it.

Slide.

OK.

Yeah, that's it wanted to.

I know wanted to get this done quickly, so that's that's our presentation and I'll just conclude we have the report. I think many of you received the link of the entire report, a question that was asked by our park deputies was our department has already implemented starting to.

Implement. So we're very excited about the opportunity I think we.

Are we?

Chester has been leading this work really in regards to our playgrounds.

Most of the playgrounds that we've developed have this universal design, but I'll just say in Altadena we had the Loma Alta, which is a playground that was burned.

It's the only playground.

In the entire community of Altadena and there's a three story tower and all three stories can be reached at Universal Design.

And we have what we used to call a merry go round that you have you can use.

With either a stroller or a wheelchair, you've got swings.

That and so it's actually really glorious to to see that, you know, when we are make a concerted effort to really include all how it really does include all I've seen elderly people with their children, with their grandchildren on those.

Very same features that are used for for people with disability.

So I think that's the question. If we have, our goal is to include it as every design.

From this point on, and we're very excited also to share this information with all the cities of LA County, we started movement of accessibility in universal design throughout Los Angeles County parks.

Take any questions you may have just to add to your point.

And it's not just for new projects. It's for any renovation, renovation projects. All of these guidelines.

We have a question comment.

Thank you.

This is to see.

Reminds me of angelic policy link.

That yeah, describes like the the cut outs and sidewalks, right, it's.

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For ADA, yes.

For people who are reservative helps, if you're, if you're a mover and you have a Dolly and you have.

Around strollers and so forth.

So I appreciate y'all putting this forth and.

And hope that we can extend it well beyond just parks and really thinking about the concept of design.

I mean this is an example of how the government can move away from just checking a box, or how do we design so we don't get sued versus how do we design for people to actually use that?

Last thing I'll share because.

Or this from a friend feel like you know?

Thought that on engagement, we should predominantly focus on young people and elderly because we all come from being young and we're all going.

In most of the work is done by those with able bodied and we miss that.

Yeah. How it was when we were younger and we don't think about how it's gonna be when we're older.

So I think this captures like spectrum and I really appreciate all this work on it.

Thank.

Thank you.

Question is in trouble or here. This isn't my second district, which is.

Just wondering if there was consideration given to the gender, you know that women, because they're disproportionately caregivers, not always, but more often than men.

Polar is more likely to travel with groceries, travel different times of the day, use public spaces differently.

I'm just wondering, I think a lot of that overlaps right with a lot of the communities you talked about. But I just wonder if you could talk a bit to how you thought about gender or if you did during this process.

And I'll start.

I was actually the first woman to lead the planning and development agency for LA County Parks, and that was one of the first areas in which I really took on the responsibility to look at how parks designed and we actually I think in we developed our first design.

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Guidelines for parks really about safety and how women and children.

It was women and children use parks.

We forever changed how restrooms.

Were being developed at parks.

I mean, I don't know if you've gone to an older park.

Women's restrooms are in the back corner.

That is anti safety and like that is and so doors facing public.

Places for safety.

We did a lot and I think that there's a lot more to do, but for example, even our trail design, our trail website, everything was around.

Making women told us that they were not safe.

If using our trails because they did not know how to access, where to leave egress and and so, I will just say that we've done a lot of work and I will say one more thing.

We received a grant 3-4 years ago.

And the number two issues for women and children in parks.

We'll use a park if the park restroom is safe and clean, and if the playgrounds are safe and clean.

And so, Chester, as part of this work, has we've renovated a lot of the playgrounds with those aspects.

As well as have put on a lot of features, every restroom in Alley County parks.

Thanks, CEO. About three years ago, we received the funding so that every restroom, whether it be male or female, have a child.

Changing area and has all of those features.

So we've, we've done a lot.

Over the over the time of really trying to create spaces.

That are gender are gender safe and gender welcoming. The next phase that we're very excited about is looking at teenagers.

We've heard a lot from our teenagers about there's still more work to be done about.

Spaces for teenagers to find a space in our parks.

They now we're like, have spaces really have spaces where our teen house spaces.

So I just want to say if this work is actually wonderfully evolving and we don't have it right yet, but we're very excited about like always constantly learning.

And even on the gender side for women.

But there was a lot of work thought about in regards to placement of restrooms,

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placement of facilities, placement of safety shrubbery, landscaping, all of that in regards to how do we create safe environments for, for women and welcoming environment for women.

So it's clear this is thoughtfully put together.

So when you hear how you're thinking that thanks for sharing.

Knowledge the first person to point out when we don't have.

A place for mothers to hang their, you know, their bags and and things like she. She has a quick eye for stuff like that, or shade in aquatic facilities.

Like, has anyone ever sat through a swimming lesson at 105° right?

And so so we we want so like these. So those are the things that we're like.

We're constantly challenging this space.

I I appreciate the motion first of all and the the thoughtfulness that went into the developing the the guidelines. I wanted to just out of curiosity based on everything that you pulled together from the Commission Commissioners and your findings from this, has it made you think differently about?

Programming, especially with adaptive sports and maybe how you would might go about purchasing.

Maybe even more adaptive equipment.

Yes, I think you all all board healthices have had asks.

Need to you know, one of the things that we're very committed to is I think that's probably the frustration of our Commissioners.

They wanna see action, right?

So as soon as we approve this, they want all our parks to look have this universal design.

So I just wanna say what we're committed to doing is in regards to our benches, our benches, our tables, when we start ordering, we have to incorporate.

And so Chester will start specking.

This out.

I will just say that that's that's kind of the the the it's gonna take some time to really think about the implementation piece and the funding piece.

But one of the things that we've asked for funding for it's been.

Discretionary funding is to outfit at least one of our gyms with universal it's extremely expensive.

Yeah, it's. So we're trying to so adaptive play all our pools.

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Have ada lifts.

We've now through the CfcI grant that the board approved funding.

We've now put funding in so that there is adaptive sports.

We haven't.

We haven't closed the gap on equipment.

It's really expensive to buy all of the adaptive equipment, so that's an area of gap and we're going to be we're going to be applying for as many grants, but we would at least want to point, I mean the goal for all of us is that at least.

In one supervisorial district, we can point to. That's our goal.

Where we can say this park?

As all of the.

Elements to be universal design, playground, sports, field, sports equipment and programming.

And is that to the department that's running those programs directly or are there are you partnering?

We we do not have the staffing to do that and that takes a lot of training. So we are partnering with the Special Olympics and with CFCI we are actually are partnering with CBO organizations. They don't have the ability right now to run full leagues, but what they.

Do have the ability, as we've been doing clinics.

To engage parents into.

To to engage and to build a constituency of support to really establish leagues for adaptive sports. And we'll we'll get there, but we're working on that piece.

Angel City sports the one.

Yeah, they're Angel City's wonderful, but doesn't have the capacity right now to grow.

Said we've I begged Angel City and I think we've done what they are and they're wonderful advocates, but I believe that they're consumed with.

The city of LA and Alley 28 grant programs that we have if they don't have the ability to grow, but they are.

They are.

Angel City is actually one of our partners that is doing clinics in our parks.

Thank you.

That brings us to the conclusion of our meeting.

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We'll move on to public comment if we have any members of the public that would like to comment on any of the items on the agenda, please raise your hand or press *6 to unmute.

Have one.

Adriana 2 minutes.

AC **Adriana Carias** 31:40

Hi, good morning, everybody.

My name is Adriana Carrier season and I'm a senior at design associate with Conquer Design Initiative or KDI.

We're the lead on the Florence Firestone Bus shelter project.

This project is about more than bus stops, is about equity, health and dignity for the thousands of residents who rely on transit every day.

Through our participatory process, we're working directly with community members to envision shelters that provide shape safety.

Comfort. While this project doesn't currently include installation, it really lays the groundwork for future implementation.

It does that by ensuring that any shelter is built, reflect the real needs and priorities of the people who use them.

The Department of Public Works plays a very critical role in this effort. Their expertise and infrastructure permitting and long term maintenance, ensures that the community's vision.

Can be translated into solutions that are both practical and lasting.

This partnership is essential to bridge community voices with the technical capacity needed to make improvements a reality.

R1 **Room 140** 32:52

OK.

AC **Adriana Carias** 32:54

We really look forward to working hand in hand with public works.

We want to set the stage for a healthier, more equitable transit experience, not only for the residents of Florence Firestone, but residents in underserved communities.

Thank you.

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R1 **Room 140** 33:09

Yeah.

Thank you.

Hey, no other no other comments.

Will adjourn the session.

Wayne.

□ **Anna Hom-Wong** stopped transcription