

From: Columbia Disabilities Commission

To: Mayor and Members of Council

Subject: A Recommendation for the Use of \$300,000 in Surplus Revenue

Date: February 27, 2013

On Monday, February 25, the Disabilities Commission met to discuss a recommendation to the City Council concerning the use of City surplus dollars to improve the accessibility of city facilities for persons with disabilities. We recommend that \$300,000 be allocated for the purpose of making Columbia's facilities and services more accessible to persons with disabilities. We chose this amount, because it corresponds to the ratio of persons with disabilities in the Columbia population. Approximately 15% of our population is persons with disabilities. We recognize the many important places, where the surplus funds may be usefully spent. However, the projects that we recommend will contribute to the completion of the ADA Transition Plan compliance list, and in most cases provide a benefit that serves the entire community.

The list of projects that are attached are the priorities that the Commission members believe will serve the most persons, and address issues of safety for persons with disabilities. In many cases we do not have accurate cost figures for the projects on our list. We recommend that the list provide a guideline for City staff to use to determine the expenditure of the \$300,000. We suggest that as much of the list be completed as the funds will permit.

In conclusion, we recommend that the City of Columbia use a portion of the surplus funds to address some important access issues for persons with disabilities. The commitment that Columbia has made to the full inclusion of persons with disabilities is impressive and appreciated. If we choose some strategic projects, we can take a significant step forward in our ongoing efforts to provide access to all our citizens.

Homer Page

Chairperson of the Columbia Disabilities Commission

LIST OF PRIORITY ADA PROJECTS PROPOSED BY DISABILITIES COMMISSION

- Priority #1: Create additional accessible street level parking in the downtown.
- Priority #2: Pilot project to extend paratransit services for weekday evening hours to attend City Council and other City related meetings.
- Priority #3: Pilot project for auditory pedestrian signals, Broadway & College area or Providence & Broadway.
- Priority #4: Safe and wheelchair friendly surfaces at City parks' playgrounds (poured rubber or rubber tiles in place of mulch).

The following projects are listed in no particular order:

Washboard safety islands on Worley and Park de Ville.

Marked, lighted crosswalk at Fairview & Worley.

Improved barricades for the Stadium corridor projects.

Bus shelter replacements and additions.

Pool lifts - ARC and others.