

## July 10, 2017 Public Meeting Comments (replies in *italics*) Courthouse Accessibility & ADA Features

### Hard of Hearing Issues

- Making sure the building works well for people who are hard of hearing is a concern (several comments)
- Prefer audio aids that allow people to wear their hearing aid, rather than remove hearing aid to use earphones.
- Research state of the art sound systems at new courthouses (several comments)
- There is a link between people who are hard of hearing and those who suffer disproportionately from our justice system. Good audio system can reduce disparity.
- Add induction loops in public rooms that connect sound from a microphone directly to a person's hearing aid via a telecoil.
  - *Loops may interfere with jury privacy. Building will use an infrared sound system that does not interfere with jury privacy. Infrared good for clear sound.*
  - *Loops and other specialized hearing devices may work at building locations like the payment counter*
- Kiosks should have earphone jack plug-ins.
  - *Yes. Kiosks will also have features for people with loss of vision.*

### Mobility Issues

- Need drains in restrooms for people who need to empty human waste bags
- Need drop-off location for paratransit close to building's public entrance
  - *Project is requesting disabled drop-off parking from City (PBOT)*
- Can someone using a mobility device navigate the fixed stanchions in the queue area outside of security on ground floor?
  - *Yes. And there is a door where security can let in a person to bypass the stanchions.*
- Height of counters and kiosks need to be low enough for all to access
- Where is the building's delivery parking/door, and could it be used as a drop-off location for people with disabilities?
  - *Entrances for deliveries and in-custody defendants are on SW Jefferson St. This is about 2 block faces from main entrance. The 5-minute parking spaces on SW First at Madison are much closer to the main entrance.*
- Courtroom tables and lecterns for legal teams should have adjustable height so that a person in a wheelchair is not at a disadvantage
  - *The tables can be moved, but currently the height is not adjustable. Will explore having some tables and lecterns with adjustable height.*
- Make sure judges have accessible platforms in courtrooms
  - *One courtroom on each floor (10 total) will have ADA access to judge's platform.*
  - *All courtrooms will be fully accessible for jurors and witnesses.*

### **Other Issues**

- Are the four high volume courtrooms as accessible as other courtrooms?
  - Yes.
- Will the building accommodate overnight visitors?
  - No.
- Will there be staff near kiosks to help building visitors who need it?
  - Yes. *Staff and/or volunteers will be just a few yards away from kiosks.*
  - *Elders in Action is interested in providing volunteers to assist visitors.*
  - *The lobby will feature displays with courtroom case information to help visitors confirm their room and floor destination.*

### **Process Issues**

- What is the feedback process for access advocates before the building opens?
  - *Staff from the project team and the existing courthouse (ADA liaison) will respond to comments, requests and review completed user surveys.*
- Please share meeting comments and responses on project website and distribute to attendees.
  - *Yes, we will post to website and distribute to attendees who provided contact information.*