
Mayor's Disability Council



Caitlin O'Malior
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Co-Chairs

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Director

April 16, 2026

San Francisco Capital Planning Committee
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Letter of Support for Public Works Curb Ramp Program Request (FY 2027-28 General Fund Request)

Dear Members of the Capital Planning Committee,

The Mayor's Disability Council (MDC) submits this letter in strong support of the ADA accessibility and elevator modernization proposals included in the FY27–FY28 Capital Budget Department Presentations. These investments—particularly the curb ramp improvement programs and critical elevator repairs—are essential to ensuring that San Francisco remains an accessible, equitable, and compliant city for all residents and visitors.

The need is urgent. As highlighted in the 2024 Community Health Assessment from the Department of Public Health, roughly one-quarter of San Franciscans are either adults over age 60 (approximately 187,000 people) or adults living with disabilities (about 38,000 people). Timely investment in ADA infrastructure is essential not only to meet these residents' needs but also to keep the City on track toward the long-term goal of achieving full curb ramp coverage by 2035. Delayed upgrades increase federal compliance risk and prolong barriers in the public right of way, undermining equitable access for people with disabilities, older adults, families with strollers, and others who rely on safe, accessible pedestrian routes across neighborhoods.

The Mayor's Disability Council also strongly supports the elevator repair and modernization proposals. The report documents elevators at the Opera House, Davies Symphony Hall, SOMArts, and the African American Art & Culture Complex that are aging, unreliable, or non-code-compliant, with some systems already experiencing entrapments, controller failures, or complete inaccessibility of upper floors. These failures create safety risks, limit program access, and disproportionately affect seniors and community members with disabilities. Funding these projects will reduce hazards, prevent service disruptions, and ensure that essential cultural, civic, and public facilities remain accessible to all.

Deferring these ADA and elevator projects would have serious consequences—extended barriers, elevated safety and liability risks, growing maintenance costs, and reduced access to City services and public spaces. In contrast, funding these improvements now represents a sound and responsible investment in accessibility, safety, and equity.

For these reasons, the Mayor's Disability Council urges the Planning Commission to fully support and prioritize the curb ramp improvements, basement-condition ramp remediation, and elevator modernization projects outlined in the FY27–FY28 capital plan.

Thank you for your leadership and your ongoing commitment to advancing accessibility throughout San Francisco.
Sincerely,

Mayor's Disability Council
Caitlin O'Malior, Co-Chair of the Council

CC: Eli Geraldin, Director, Office on Disability and Accessibility