CAT Ad Hoc - Virtual Accessibility
August 26, 2022
1 – 2pm

ATTENDEES:
CAT:
Jan Campbell
Claudia Robertson
Kris Meagher
Ryan Skelton
Patricia Kepler

Staff:
Margo Moore
Eileen Collins
Charlie Clark
Matthew Fouts
Yar Mityuk
Pavel Varivoda

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:
Matthew Fouts began by discussing various platforms for virtual meetings – specifically regarding the accessibility features for those platforms.

Each of these platforms were discussed in general terms as to who has used them and pros and cons for each:
Webex
Microsoft Teams
Zoom

Yar Mityuk discussed features and functionality of Webex, specifically on various devices like computers, phones, tablets, etc.

Challenges for accessibility:
*Using speech-to-text speech engines instead of typing on a keyboard
*Webex tries to force users to download the program instead of using the browser
*Using a screen reader is problematic and doesn't allow functionality of most buttons and requires the learning of those function buttons. Ctrl/ is a shortcut that is only available in the app, but not in the browser
*Patricia mentioned that HTML is best for accessibility
*There are various screen readers with different functions
*Kris uses iOS/Apple and in that program using a screen reader there is a default for the screen reader to read aloud in Webex that is difficult to turn off
*Patricia shared her screen to highlight the challenges she faces with using Webex via the browser

Follow Up:
Matthew asked to follow up with Kris, Patricia and Ryan in the future in order to see more barriers to accessibility for them within the various platforms.

Additional input:
The group was also asked if there are any other things at this time that they'd like the team to address when searching for a new platform.

It was mentioned that hybrid meeting environment options need to be available as well as the ability to include virtual participants in a more inclusive manner instead of making them feel like they are simply 'watching' the other participants in a meeting

Additional audio/video platforms that are being used by the various participants were included in the discussion and suggested for review by the TriMet team.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59pm