

**From:** [Shyla Patera](#)  
**To:** [Krista Artis](#); [Darcy Dea](#); [commission](#); [Alaina Mattimiro](#); [Andrew Finch](#)  
**Cc:** [Margaret Keener](#); [Matt Maze](#)  
**Subject:** Commission retreat public comments  
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My name is Shyla Patera as a city resident as well as a representative of North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. I do wish to submit these comments regarding the commission retreat. I hope it is a productive one for all members and city staff attending. As a city resident with a disability NCILS and I hope that the City of Great Falls focuses on pedestrian and disabilities accessible CDBG projects that are accessible, and do promote disability accessibility. We need to ensure that all city services and projects are not only affordable but disability accessible for all. NCILS and I believe that we need as a city to fully implement and keep growing our ADA transition plan possibilities. The City of Great Falls needs to truly define what Public Rights of Way on city sidewalks and streets mean we need to be focused upon implementing PROWAG. We need wider shoulders on mini city streets, complete sidewalk policies, and snow removal policies as well NCILS hopes be a part of the discussion moving forward.

As part of city growth policy and planning, the City of Great Falls needs to enhance public private partnerships that create accessible affordable opportunities in our physical infrastructure. The City of Great Falls needs to grow its universally designed housing, stock and accessible ADU, housing rehabilitation and Tiny Housing out options as well as those opportunities for physical accessible universally designed shelter that will accommodate all homeless individuals with disabilities. The COC, and other options should be focusing on homeless diversion energies as well so that we can truly assist all with homelessness and diverting homeless issues as well. We may need to work with justice court and other legal entities to ensure that those who have legal issues in regard to eviction receive services as well.

North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. believes that our city leaders are and need to be stewards of policies that will benefit people with disabilities. We hope that you will work with us to encourage the Montana Department of Commerce to reopen the Section 8 eight waiting list as soon as possible. We also hope to see the city of Great Falls and its commissioners, promote policies that will benefit those citizens and residents that are low income, and those with disabilities as well. Thank you for allowing me to submit these comments.

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