

Niki Aurora, is the ADA Field Associate in Somerville's Department of Engineering. Niki's appointment to the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) would continue to provide the connection between the SCPD and the Engineering Division for conversations pertaining to the physical accessibility of public streets and public spaces. Niki has a keen understanding of the challenges and opportunities that exist for accessibility in the City and has been intricately involved with reviewing Sidewalk Construction Permits, Traffic Management Plans and Outdoor Seating Licenses with a primary focus on maintaining and improving accessibility throughout our efforts. Niki has reviewed and prioritized our outstanding sidewalk improvements identified in the 2013 ADA Transition Plan, and has coordinated those improvements for construction. Niki has also conducted research and provided key insight to help the Engineering Division develop new accessibility features, ranging from more accessible pedestrian signals to improved sidewalk direction indicators.

Niki has previous experience working with architecture firms, providing expanded insight into how people use a space, and added experience in how buildings function; skills that engineers cannot typically provide. And most importantly, Niki demonstrates a keen ability to collaborate with colleagues in other departments and divisions, including Mobility, RSJ, ISD, DPW, Parking, etc. Niki's appointment on the SCPD would provide this valuable experience to the commission, and deeper insights to their work in the Engineering Division.