

WINTER HAVEN

The Chain of Lakes City

Public Works Department

Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Transition Plan

I Introduction

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights statute (hereinafter referred to as the Act) that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. There are five separate Titles (sections) of the Act relating to different aspects of potential discrimination. Title II of the Act specifically addresses the subject of making public services and public transportation accessible to those with disabilities. With the advent of the Act, designing and constructing facilities for public use that are not accessible by people with disabilities constitutes discrimination.

The Act applies to all facilities, including both facilities built before and after 1990. As a necessary step to a program access plan to provide accessibility under the ADA, state and local government, public entities or agencies are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities (and infrastructure), relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA. The agencies are then required to develop a Program Access Plan, which can be called a Transition Plan, to address any deficiencies. The Plan is intended to achieve the following:

1. Identify physical obstacles that limit the accessibility of facilities to individuals with disabilities,
2. Describe the methods to be used to make the facilities accessible,
3. Provide a schedule for making the access modifications,
4. Identify the public officials responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan,
5. Provide notice to the public about ADA requirements,
6. Establish a grievance procedure,
7. Develop internal design standards, specifications, and details,
8. Approve a schedule and budget for the Transition Plan,
9. Monitor the progress on the implementation of the Transition Plan.

The Plan is required to be updated periodically until all accessibility barriers are removed.

This Transition Plan describes the process by which facilities were evaluated and prioritized for accessibility improvements and establishes a schedule for the removal of those barriers where ADA hazards exist.

II New Construction and Renovations

New construction and renovations are done to meet both Florida and Federal standards for disability access.

III Maintenance Program

Sidewalks, curb ramps, detectable warnings, intersections, crossings, signs, landscape materials, and accessible pedestrian signals shall be inspected periodically for compliance to ensure they do not constitute hazards to the public.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) designs and construction shall incorporate up-to-date standards to bring areas under construction to current ADA standards.

IV Steps to Compliance

Andy Palmer, Parks Planning and Strategic Initiatives Manager has been designated as City of Winter Haven Mobility ADA Coordinator. The expected benefits of having an ADA Coordinator are:

- It makes it easier for members of the public to identify someone to assist them with questions and concerns about disability discrimination,
- It provides a single resource of information so questions from the City staff and from the public can be answered quickly and consistently, and
- It provides focus on the issue and allows a single individual who can be instrumental in moving compliance plans forward.

V Public Outreach Program

Public Outreach programs will include:

- The opportunity for the disabled community and other interested parties to participate in ADA planning, via public meeting.
- The dissemination of information and requests for comments will take place through newsletters, and public websites,
- The possible sources of input to the ADA Transition Plan which will be contacted are activists, advocacy groups, general citizens, organizations that support the right of the disabled, elected officials, or other agencies,
- Comments will be obtained through comment forms at meetings, transcriptions of meetings, an email address, or postal address.

VI Request Procedure

Any request shall be written, signed by the citizen and shall provide a return address to which a reply can be sent. Request shall be sent to:

City of Winter Haven Mobility ADA Coordinator
Attn: Andy Palmer, Parks Planning and Strategic Initiatives Manager
451 Third Street, Northwest
Winter Haven, FL 33881
Email: apalmer@mywinterhaven.com

Request shall state the type and location of discrimination alleged, the circumstances or situation resulting in the alleged discrimination, and the remedy requested.

The City ADA Coordinator (Andy Palmer) will investigate the request and attempt to resolve the request. If unsuccessful in resolving the request, the ADA Coordinator shall provide written notice to the citizen and to the agency of the right to have the request heard should the citizen desire to do so.

VII Self-Evaluation Checklist

ISSUE	POSSIBLE BARRIERS
Sidewalk and Pathway Clear Width	Narrow, Below Guidelines
Sidewalk and Pathway Cross Slope	Steepness, Irregularity, Variability, Warping
Landings Along Sidewalks and Pathways	Less than 4-feet by 4-feet
Sidewalk and Pathway Grade	Steepness, Angle Points
Materials and Finishes	Deterioration of Surfaces, Deterioration of Markings, Appropriateness of Material
Gratings	Grating Type, Grate Opening Orientation
Discontinuities	Missing Sections, Gaps, Drops, Steps
Detectable Warning System	Missing, Inappropriate Materials, Inadequate Size, Wrong Location
Obstructions	Signs, mailboxes, Fire Hydrants, Benches, Utility Pole Obstructions, Traffic Signal Control Boxes or Cabinets, Power Poles, Newspaper Racks, Drainage Structures, Tree Grates, Pole Mounted Objects, Standing Water
Traffic Signal Systems	Lack of Provision for the Visually Impaired, Inadequate Time Allowed for Crossings, Inoperable Buttons, Inaccessible Buttons
Curb Ramp	Missing, Doesn't Fall within Marked Crosswalk, Doesn't Conform to Guidelines,
Curb Ramp Flares	Missing Where Required, Too Steep

Example Prioritization Schema:

PRIORITY	SITUATION
1A	An existing curb ramp with running slope greater than 1:12 and location near a Hospital, School, Transit Stop, Government Building or Similar Facility
1B	No curb ramp where sidewalk or pedestrian path exists and location near Hospital, School, Transit Stop, Government Building or Similar Facility
2A	An existing curb ramp with a running slope greater than 1:12 not located near a Hospital, School, Transit Stop, Government Building or Similar Facility
2B	No curb ramp where a sidewalk or pedestrian path exists not located near Hospital, School, Transit Stop, Government Building or Similar Facility
3	No curb ramp where a striped crosswalk exists
4	One curb ramp per corner and another is needed to serve the other crossing direction
5A	An existing curb ramp with either a running slope greater than 1 to 12 or an insufficient landing
5B	An existing curb ramp with obstructions in the ramp or the landing
5C	An existing curb ramp with any of the following conditions: A cross slope greater than 3%, A width less than 36-inches, No flush transition or a median or island crossings that are inaccessible