



Introduction

Transition Plan Need and Purpose

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, is a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability. ADA consists of five titles outlining protections in the following areas:

1. Employment
2. State and local government services
3. Public accommodations
4. Telecommunications
5. Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II of ADA pertains to the programs, activities and services public entities provide. As a provider of public transportation services and programs, City of Austin must comply with this section of the Act as it specifically applies to public service agencies. Title II of ADA provides that, “...no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” ([42 USC. Sec. 12132](#); [28 CFR. Sec. 35.130](#))

As required by Title II of [ADA, 28 CFR. Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150](#), City of Austin has conducted a self-evaluation of its facilities within public rights of way and has developed this Transition Plan detailing how the organization will ensure that all of those facilities are accessible to all individuals. This document serves as a supplement to City’s existing Transition Plan covering buildings, services, programs and activities.

ADA and its Relationship to Other Laws

Title II of ADA is companion legislation to two previous federal statutes and regulations: the [Architectural Barriers Acts of 1968](#) and [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act](#) of 1973.

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 is a Federal law that requires facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds to be accessible. The Architectural Barriers Act marks one of the first efforts to ensure access to the built environment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a Federal law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. The nondiscrimination requirements of the law apply to employers and organizations that receive financial assistance from any Federal



department or agency. Title II of ADA extended this coverage to all state and local government entities, regardless of whether they receive federal funding or not.

Agency Requirements

Under Title II, the City of Austin must meet these general requirements:

- Must operate their programs so that, when viewed in their entirety, the programs are accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities ([28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.150](#)).
- May not refuse to allow a person with a disability to participate in a service, program or activity simply because the person has a disability ([28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130 \(a\)](#)).
- Must make reasonable modifications in policies, practices and procedures that deny equal access to individuals with disabilities unless a fundamental alteration in the program would result ([28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130\(b\) \(7\)](#)).
- May not provide services or benefits to individuals with disabilities through programs that are separate or different unless the separate or different measures are necessary to ensure that benefits and services are equally effective ([28 C.F.R. Sec. 35.130\(b\)\(iv\) & \(d\)](#)).
- Must take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others ([29 C.F.R. Sec. 35.160\(a\)](#)).
- Must designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate ADA compliance [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(a\)](#)]. This person is often referred to as the "ADA Coordinator." The public entity must provide the ADA coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number to all interested individuals [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(a\)](#)].
- Must provide notice of ADA requirements. All public entities, regardless of size, must provide information about the rights and protections of Title II to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, employees, and other interested persons [[28 CFR Sec. 35.106](#)]. The notice must include the identification of the employee serving as the ADA coordinator and must provide this information on an ongoing basis [[28 CFR Sec. 104.8\(a\)](#)].
- Must establish a grievance procedure. Public entities must adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(b\)](#)]. This requirement provides for a timely resolution of all problems or conflicts related to ADA compliance before they escalate to litigation and/or the federal complaint process.

This document has been created to specifically cover accessibility within the public rights of way and does not include information on City programs, practices, or building facilities not related to public rights of way.



Self-Evaluation

Overview

The City of Austin is required, under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and 28CFR35.105, to perform a self-evaluation of its current transportation infrastructure policies, practices, and programs. This self-evaluation will identify what policies and practices impact accessibility and examine how the City implements these policies. The goal of the self-evaluation is to verify that, in implementing the City's policies and practices, the department is providing accessibility and not adversely affecting the full participation of individuals with disabilities.

The self-evaluation also examines the condition of the City's Pedestrian Circulation Route/Pedestrian Access Route) (PCR/PAR) and identifies potential need for PCR/PAR infrastructure improvements. This will include the sidewalks, curb ramps, bicycle/pedestrian trails, traffic control signals and transit facilities that are located within the City rights of way. Any barriers to accessibility identified in the self-evaluation and the remedy to the identified barrier are set out in this transition plan.

Summary

In 2016, the City of Austin conducted an inventory of pedestrian facilities within its public right of way consisting of the evaluation of the following facilities:

- 125.35 miles of sidewalks
- 2095 curb ramps
- 19.11 miles of trails
- 24 traffic control signals (15 City, 3 County, 6 State)
- 31 bus stops, 25 locations on private property and 6 locations on public property

Pedestrian curb ramps were evaluated to fit into the following categories:

- Category #1, no existing ped ramps, prior to 1970's
- Category #2, non-compliant ped ramps, era 1970's, 80's and 90's
- Category #3, nearly compliant with current standard, era 2000's
- Category #4, compliant, 2010's

A detailed evaluation on how these facilities relate to ADA standards is found in Appendix A and will be updated periodically.



Policies and Practices

Previous Practices

Since the adoption of the ADA, City of Austin has striven to provide accessible pedestrian features as part of the City's capital improvement projects. As additional information was made available as to the methods of providing accessible pedestrian features, the City updated their procedures to accommodate these methods. Recently, more standardized design and construction methods have evolved. This has resulted in the ability of local agencies to receive additional exposure and training on accessible features. This has improved the City of Austin staff's ability to understand available options and to explore the feasibility of implementing accessibility improvements. This information also assists in providing guidance for developing transition plans.

Policy

The City of Austin's goal is to continue to provide accessible pedestrian design features as part of the City capital improvement projects. The City has established ADA design standards and procedures as listed in Appendix F. These standards and procedures will be kept up to date with nationwide and local best management practices.

The City will consider and respond to all accessibility improvement requests. All accessibility improvements that have been deemed reasonable will be scheduled consistent with transportation priorities. The City will coordinate with external agencies to ensure that all new or altered pedestrian facilities within the City jurisdiction are ADA compliant to the maximum extent feasible.

Maintenance of pedestrian facilities within the public right of way will continue to follow the policies set forth by the City. The City will maintain and update the facility database to reflect improvements to inventoried facilities and measure progress.

Requests for accessibility improvements can be submitted to the Right-of-way ADA implementation Coordinator. Contact information for the responsible party is located in Appendix E.

Improvement Schedule

Priority Areas

The City of Austin has identified specific locations as priority areas for planned accessibility improvement projects. These areas have been selected due to their proximity to specific land



uses such as schools, government offices and medical facilities, as well as from the receipt of public comments. The priority areas as identified in the 2017 self-evaluation are as follows:

- Street Reconstruction Projects
- Near Public Schools
- Near Public Buildings
- Public input received

Additional priority will be given to any location where an improvement project or alteration was constructed after January 26, 1991, and accessibility features were omitted.

External Agency Coordination

Many other agencies are responsible for pedestrian facilities within the jurisdiction of City of Austin. The City will coordinate with those agencies to track and assist in the facilitation of the elimination of accessibility barriers along their routes.

Schedule

City of Austin has set the following schedule goals for improving the accessibility of its pedestrian facilities within the City jurisdiction:

- After 10 years (2030), 60% of accessibility features that were constructed prior to January 26, 1991, would be ADA compliant. *(Category #1 intersections with no pedestrian curb ramps)*
- After 20 years (2040), 80% of accessibility features that were constructed prior to January 26, 1991, would be ADA compliant. *(Category #2 intersections with non-standard pedestrian curb ramps constructed in the 1980's & 90's)*
- After 30 years (2050), 100% of accessibility features that were constructed prior to January 26, 1991, would be ADA compliant. *(Category #2 intersections with non-standard pedestrian curb ramps constructed in the 1980's & 90's)*
- After 30 years (2050), 80% of accessibility features within the jurisdiction of City would be ADA compliant.

ADA Coordinator

In accordance with 28 CFR 35.107(a), the City of Austin has identified an ADA Title II Coordinator to oversee the City policies and procedures. Contact information for this individual is located in Appendix E.



Implementation Schedule

Methodology

City of Austin will utilize two methods for upgrading pedestrian facilities to the current ADA standards. The first and most comprehensive of the two methods are the scheduled street and utility improvement projects. All pedestrian facilities impacted by these projects will be upgraded to current ADA accessibility standards. The second method is the stand-alone sidewalk and ADA accessibility improvement project. These projects will be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) on a case-by-case basis as determined by City of Austin staff. The City CIP, which includes a detailed schedule and budget for specific improvements, is included in Appendix B.

Public Outreach

City of Austin recognizes that public participation is an important component in the development of this document. Input from the community has been gathered and used to help define priority areas for improvements within the jurisdiction of the City of Austin.

Public outreach for the creation of this document consisted of the following activities:

The City will provide an opportunity for interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing such individuals, to comment on the self-evaluation and Transition Plan process. A draft copy of the Transition Plan will be available to the public online at the City's webpage, www.ci.austin.mn.us keyword "ADA Transition Plan."

A draft copy of the transition plan was sent to known organizations that serve people with disabilities in the City of Austin, including;

- Cedar Valley Services, Inc.
- Mower County
- City of Austin Human Rights Commission
- Austin Housing and Redevelopment Authority

The Transition Plan, a list of interested persons consulted and a description of any modifications made to any policies, practices and programs must be maintained on file and available to the public for at least three years following the completion of the self-evaluation.

This document was also available for public comment. A summary of comments received and detailed information regarding the public outreach activities are located in Appendix C.



Grievance Procedure

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, each agency is required to publish its responsibilities in regards to the ADA. A draft of this public notice is provided in Appendix D. If users of City of Austin facilities and services believe the City has not provided reasonable accommodation, they have the right to file a grievance.

In accordance with 28 CFR 35.107(b), the City has developed a grievance procedure for the purpose of the prompt and equitable resolution of citizens' complaints, concerns, comments, and other grievances. This grievance procedure is outlined in Appendix D.

Monitor the Progress

This document will continue to be updated as conditions within the City evolve. The appendices in this document will be updated periodically, while the main body of the document will be updated in short term period, 3-5 years with a future update schedule to be developed at that time. With each main body update, a public comment period will be established to continue the public outreach.

Appendices

- A. Self-Evaluation Results**
- B. Schedule / Budget Information**
- C. Public Outreach**
- D. Grievance Procedure**
- E. Contact Information**
- F. Agency ADA Design Standards and Procedures**
- G. Glossary of Terms**



Appendix A – Self-Evaluation Results

This initial self-evaluation of pedestrian facilities yielded the following results:

UPDATE		1/1/2017		1/1/2021	
	SIDEWALKS (miles)			125.35	
	Slope 2% or Less	TBD		TBD	
	Slope 2% or Greater	TBD		TBD	
	Slope Unknown	100%		100%	
	CURB RAMPS				
	Category 1 (non-existing)	365	18%	243	12%
	Category 2 (non-compliant)	907	45%	789	38%
	Category 3 (nearly compliant)	304	15%	309	15%
	Category 4 (compliant)	437	22%	745	36%
	Total	2013		2086	
	OFF-ROAD TRAILS (miles)			19.11	
	Slope 2% or Less	TBD		TBD	
	Slope 2% or Greater	TBD		TBD	
	Slope Unknown	100%		100%	
	TRAFFIC SIGNALS	24		24	
	Category 1 (non-existing)	1	1%	1	1%
	Category 2 (non-compliant)	31	36%	29	34%
	Category 3 (nearly compliant)	35	41%	29	34%
	Category 4 (compliant)	19	22%	27	31%
	Total	86		86	
	Push button only	13		13	
	Push button & Audible	4		4	
	Timed walk	7		7	
	RRFB's	5		7	
	BUS STOPS				
	Private Stops			25	
	Public Stops			6	



Appendix B – Schedule / Budget Information

Cost Information

Unit Prices

Construction costs for upgrading facilities can vary depending on each individual improvement and conditions of each site. Costs can also vary on the type and size of project the improvements are associated with. Listed below are representative 2021 costs for some typical accessibility improvements based on if the improvements are included as part of a retrofit type project, or as part of a larger comprehensive capital improvement project.

Intersection corner ADA improvement retrofit: +/- \$5,000 per corner

Intersection corner ADA improvement as part of adjacent capital project: +/- \$4,000 per corner

Traffic control signal APS upgrade retrofit: +/- \$ 15,000

Traffic control signal APS upgrade as part of full traffic control signal installation: +/- \$10,000

Sidewalk / Trail ADA improvement retrofit: +/- \$10.00 per SF

Sidewalk / Trail ADA improvement as part of adjacent capital project: +/- \$8.00 per SF

Bus Stop ADA improvement retrofit: +/- \$1,000 per stop

Bus Stop ADA improvement as part of adjacent capital project: +/- \$500 per stop

Priority Areas

Based on the results of the self-evaluation, the estimate costs associated with eliminating accessibility barriers within the targeted priority areas is as follows:

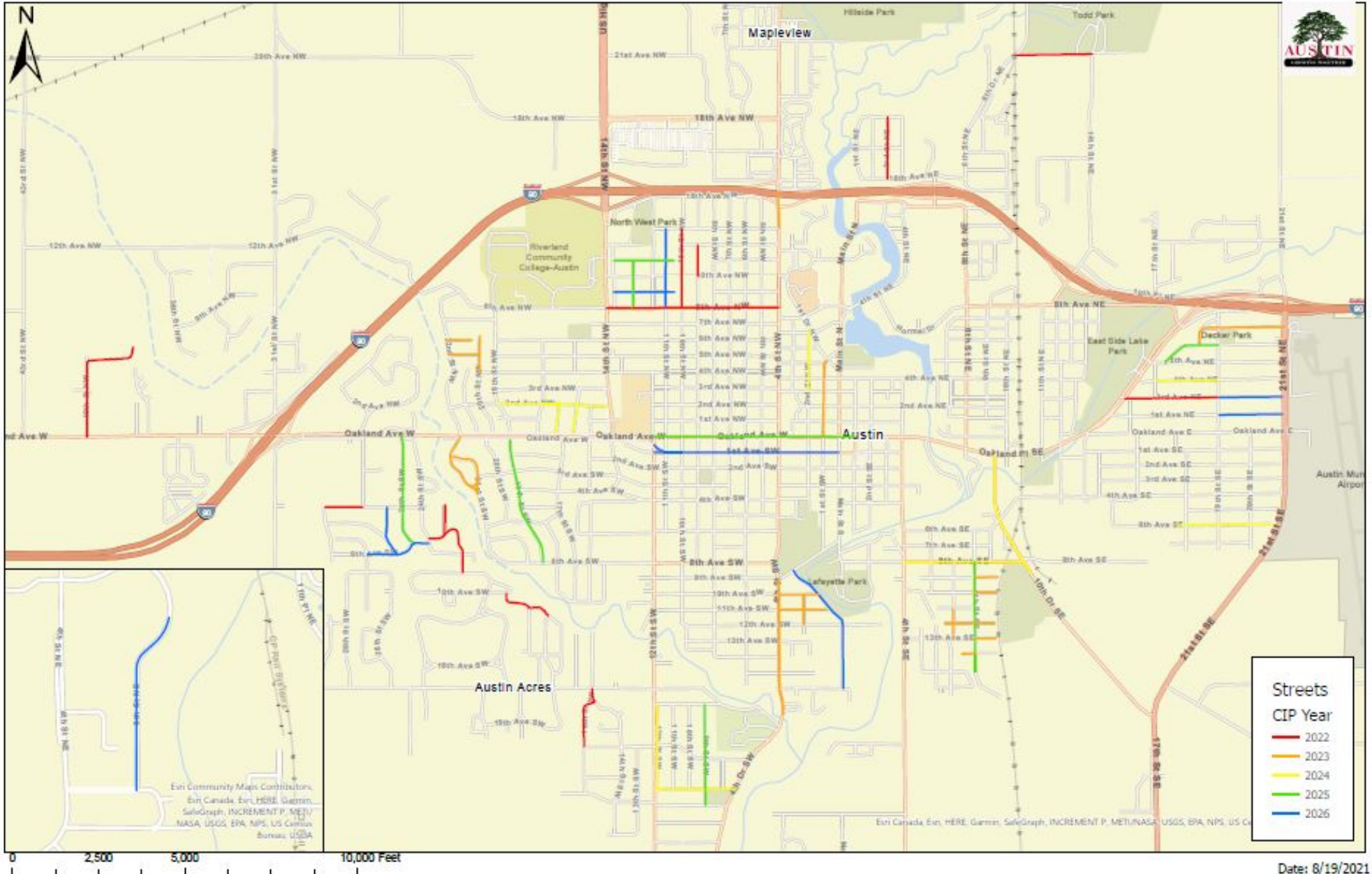
- Category #1 (non-existing) \$2 million
- Category #2 (non-compliant) \$5.5 million

Entire Jurisdiction

Based on the results of the self-evaluation, the estimate costs associated with providing ADA accessibility within the entire jurisdiction is \$10 million. This amount signifies a significant investment that City of Austin is committed to making in the upcoming years. A systematic approach to providing accessibility will be taken in order to absorb the cost into the City of Austin's budget for improvements to the public right of way.



City of Austin
500 Fourth Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912





Appendix C – Public Outreach

The City of Austin developed a working group to gather input and provide comments on the draft ADA Transition Plan. The work group consisted of the following:

- Rich Pavek, Cedar Valley Services
- Brian Beasley & Alex Pitzen, Austin Public Schools
- Steve Kime, Community
- Nancy Schnable, Austin CVB
- Savile Lord, SPAM Museum
- Taggert Medgaarden, Austin HRA
- Craig Clark, Steven Lang & Mitch Wenum, City of Austin

The group held two meetings:

- 1) Kick-off ADA Transition Plan Meeting; an overview was provided to the group detailing the need for the transition plan, review of the City's self-assessment, and input was gathered from the group regarding areas of concern.
- 2) Draft ADA Transition Plan Meeting; the group was assembled to review the draft plan and provide feedback.

The ADA Transition Plan was then present to the city council at a work session on September 7th, 2021. The document was then posted for 2-week public comment and ____ comments were received. The Final ADA Transition Plan was approved by Council at the _____, 2021 meeting.

The plan is available on-line at the City of Austin website.



Appendix D – Grievance Procedure

As part of the ADA requirements the City/County has posted the following notice outlining its ADA requirements:

Public Notice

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, City of Austin will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in City's services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The City does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Effective Communication: The City will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the City's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The City will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all City programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in City offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a City program, service, or activity, should contact the office of ADA Coordinator, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the City to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

The City will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.



Sample Grievance Procedure (Source www.ada.gov):

**City of Austin
Grievance Procedure under
the Americans with Disabilities Act**

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the City of Austin. The City's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Craig Clark
City Administrator and ADA Coordinator
500 4th Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Craig Clark or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, Craig Clark or his designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Austin and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Craig Clark or his designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the Mayor or his designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Mayor or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the Mayor or his designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.



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Austin, MN 55912

All written complaints received by Craig Clark or his designee, appeals to the Mayor or his designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City of Austin for at least three years.



City of Austin Grievance Procedure

Those wishing to file a formal written grievance with the City of Austin may do so by one of the following methods:

Internet

Visit the City of Austin website (website) and click the “ADA” link to the [ADA Grievance Form](#). Fill in the form online and click “submit.” A copy of The ADA Grievance Form is included in this Appendix.

Telephone

Contact the pertinent City staff person listed in the **Contact Information** section of Appendix E to submit an oral grievance. The staff person will utilize the Internet method above to submit the grievance on behalf of the person filing the grievance.

Paper Submittal

Contact the pertinent City staff person listed in the **Contact Information** section of Appendix E to request a paper copy of the county’s grievance form, complete the form, and submit it to the Responsible Party. A staff person will utilize the Internet method above to submit the grievance on behalf of the person filing the grievance.

The ADA Grievance Form will ask for the following information:

The **name, address, telephone number, and email address** for the person filing the grievance

The **name, address, telephone number, and email address** for the person alleging an ADA violation (if different than the person filing the grievance)

A description and location of the alleged violation and the nature of a remedy sought, if known by the complainant.

If the complainant has filed the same complaint or grievance with the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), another federal or state civil rights agency, a court, or others, the **name of the agency or court where the complainant filed it and the filing date**.

The City will acknowledge receipt of the grievance to the complainant within 10 working days of its submittal. City will also provide to the complainant within 10 working days of its submittal; 1) a response or resolution to the grievance or; 2) information on when the complainant can expect a response or resolution to the grievance.



If the grievance filed does not concern a City of Austin facility, the City will work with the complainant to contact the agency that has jurisdiction.

3. Within 60 calendar days of receipt, a City of Austin staff person will conduct an investigation necessary to determine the validity of the alleged violation. As a part of the investigation, the staff person would conduct an engineering study to help determine the City's response. The staff person will take advantage of department resources and use engineering judgment, data collected, and any information submitted by the resident to develop a conclusion. A staff person will be available to meet with the complainant to discuss the matter as a part of the investigation and resolution of the matter. The City will document each resolution of a filed grievance and retain such documentation in the department's ADA Grievance File for a period of seven years.

The City will consider all specific grievances within its particular context or setting. Furthermore, the City will consider many varying circumstances including: 1) the nature of the access to services, programs, or facilities at issue; 2) the specific nature of the disability; 3) the essential eligibility requirements for participation; 4) the health and safety of others; and 5) the degree to which an accommodation would constitute a fundamental alteration to the program, service, or facility, or cause an undue hardship to the City of Austin.

Accordingly, the resolution by the City of Austin of any one grievance does not constitute a precedent upon which the county is bound or upon which other complaining parties may rely.

File Maintenance

The City shall maintain ADA grievance files for a period of seven years.

Complaints of Title II violations may also be filed with the DOJ within 180 days of the date of discrimination. In certain situations, cases may be referred to a mediation program sponsored by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The DOJ may bring a lawsuit where it has investigated a matter and has been unable to resolve violations.

For more information, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Disability Rights Section - NYAV
Washington, D.C. 20530

www.ada.gov

(800) 514-0301 (voice – toll free)



City of Austin
500 Fourth Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912

(800) 514-0383 (TTY)

Title II may also be enforced through private lawsuits in Federal court. It is not necessary to file a complaint with the DOJ or any other Federal agency, or to receive a "right-to-sue" letter, before going to court.



Americans with Disabilities Act Discrimination Complaint Form

Instructions: Please fill out this form completely, in black ink or type. Sign and return to the address on page 3.

Complainant: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Business: _____

Person Discriminated Against (if other than the complainant): _____

Address: City, State, and Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Business: _____

Government, or organization, or institution which you believe has discriminated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

City: _____

State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____



When did the discrimination occur? Date: _____

Describe the acts of discrimination providing the name(s) where possible of the individuals who discriminated (use space on page 3 if necessary):

Have efforts been made to resolve this complaint through the internal grievance procedure of the government, organization, or institution?

Yes_____ No_____

If yes: what is the status of the grievance?

Has the complaint been filed with another bureau of the Department of Justice or any other Federal, State, or local civil rights agency or court?

Yes_____ No_____

If yes:

Agency or Court:_____

Contact Person:_____

Address:_____

City, State, and Zip Code:_____

Telephone Number:_____

Date Filed:_____



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Do you intend to file with another agency or court?

Yes_____ No_____

Agency or Court:_____

Address:_____

City, State and Zip Code:_____

Telephone Number:_____

Additional space for
answers:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Return to:

City of Austin

Attn: Craig Clark, City Administrator and ADA Coordinator

500 4th Avenue NE

Austin, MN 55912



City of Austin
500 Fourth Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912

Appendix E – Contact Information

ADA Title II Coordinator

Name: Craig Clark

City Administrator
500 4th Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912
507-437-9940
craigc@ci.austin.mn.us

Public Right of Ways ADA Implementation Coordinator

Name: Steven Lang

City Engineer/Public Works Director
500 4th Avenue NE
Austin, MN 55912
507-437-9950
slang@ci.austin.mn.us

Other



Appendix F – Agency ADA Design Standards and Procedures

Design Procedures

Intersection Corners

Curb ramps or blended transitions will attempt to be constructed or upgraded to achieve compliance within all capital improvement projects. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for an intersection corner to achieve full accessibility within the scope of any project. Those limitations will be noted and those intersection corners will remain on the transition plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those intersection corners shall continue to be incorporated into future work. Regardless on if full compliance can be achieved or not, each intersection corner shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the judgment of City staff.

Sidewalks / Trails

Sidewalks and trails will attempt to be constructed or upgraded to achieve compliance within all capital improvement projects. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for segments of sidewalks or trails to achieve full accessibility within the scope of any project. Those limitations will be noted and those segments will remain on the transition plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those segments shall continue to be incorporated into future work. Regardless on if full compliance can be achieved or not, every sidewalk or trail shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the judgment of City staff.

Traffic Control Signals

Traffic control signals will attempt to be constructed or upgraded to achieve compliance within all capital improvement projects. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for individual traffic control signal locations to achieve full accessibility within the scope of any project. Those limitations will be noted and those locations will remain on the transition plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those locations shall continue to be incorporated into future work. Regardless on if full compliance can be achieved or not, each traffic signal control location shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the judgment of City staff.

Bus Stops

Bus stops will attempt to be constructed or upgraded to achieve compliance within all capital improvement projects. There may be limitations which make it technically infeasible for individual bus stop locations to achieve full accessibility within the scope of any project. Those limitations will be noted and those locations will remain on the transition plan. As future projects or opportunities arise, those locations shall continue to be incorporated into future



work. Regardless on if full compliance can be achieved or not, each bus stop location shall be made as compliant as possible in accordance with the judgment of City staff.

Other Transit Facilities

Additional transit facilities are present within the limits of the City of Austin. Those facilities fall under the jurisdiction of Transit Provider. The City of Austin will work with Transit Provider to ensure that those facilities meet all appropriate accessibility standards.

Other policies, practices and programs

Policies, practices and programs not identified in this document will follow the applicable ADA standards.

Design Standards

The City of Austin has PROWAG, as adopted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), as its design standard. A copy of this document is included in the following pages of this appendix.



Appendix G – Glossary of Terms

ABA: See Architectural Barriers Act.

ADA: See Americans with Disabilities Act.

ADA Transition Plan: Mn/DOT's transportation system plan that identifies accessibility needs, the process to fully integrate accessibility improvements into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and ensures all transportation facilities, services, programs, and activities are accessible to all individuals.

ADAAG: See Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Accessible: A facility that provides access to people with disabilities using the design requirements of the ADA.

Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS): A device that communicates information about the WALK phase in audible and vibrotactile formats.

Alteration: A change to a facility in the public right-of-way that affects or could affect access, circulation, or use. An alteration must not decrease or have the effect of decreasing the accessibility of a facility or an accessible connection to an adjacent building or site.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): The Americans with Disabilities Act; Civil rights legislation passed in 1990 and effective July 1992. The ADA sets design guidelines for accessibility to public facilities, including sidewalks and trails, by individuals with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG): contains scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and public facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

APS: See Accessible Pedestrian Signal.

Architectural Barriers Act (ABA): Federal law that requires facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds to be accessible. The Architectural Barriers Act marks one of the first efforts to ensure access to the built environment.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): The CIP for the Transportation Department includes an annual capital budget and a five-year plan for funding the new construction and reconstruction projects on the county's transportation system.



Detectable Warning: A surface feature of truncated domes, built in or applied to the walking surface to indicate an upcoming change from pedestrian to vehicular way.

DOJ: See United States Department of Justice

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): A branch of the US Department of Transportation that administers the federal-aid Highway Program, providing financial assistance to states to construct and improve highways, urban and rural roads, and bridges.

FHWA: See Federal Highway Administration

Pedestrian Access Route (PAR): A continuous and unobstructed walkway within a pedestrian circulation path that provides accessibility.

Pedestrian Circulation Route (PCR): A prepared exterior or interior way of passage provided for pedestrian travel.

PROWAG: An acronym for the *Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way* issued in 2005 by the U. S. Access Board. This guidance addresses roadway design practices, slope, and terrain related to pedestrian access to walkways and streets, including crosswalks, curb ramps, street furnishings, pedestrian signals, parking, and other components of public rights-of-way.

Right of Way: A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for the network of streets, sidewalks, and trails creating public pedestrian access within a public entity's jurisdictional limits.

Section 504: The section of the Rehabilitation Act that prohibits discrimination by any program or activity conducted by the federal government.

Uniform Accessibility Standards (UFAS): Accessibility standards that all federal agencies are required to meet; includes scoping and technical specifications.

United States Access Board: An independent federal agency that develops and maintains design criteria for buildings and other improvements, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and electronic and information technology. It also enforces accessibility standards that cover federally funded facilities.

United States Department of Justice (DOJ): The United States Department of Justice (often referred to as the Justice Department or DOJ), is the United States federal executive department responsible for the enforcement of the law and administration of justice.