

City of
Bellevue



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 28, 2009

TO: Chair Tanaka and Members of the Transportation Commission

FROM: Jen Benn, Transportation ADA Coordinator

SUBJECT: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan Development

Staff was present at your October 8, 2009 meeting to discuss the status of the Transportation Department's Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Self-Evaluation (completed) and ADA Transition Plan update. Part of the presentation was an enumeration of policy and plan framework issues that could influence how the ADA Transition Plan is structured and implemented. In response to the Commission's request, staff will return to the November 5, 2009 meeting to review a package of alternatives and recommendations related to five key questions supporting the development of the Public Rights of Way element of the city's ADA Transition Plan.

Background

Access to civic life by people with disabilities is a fundamental goal of the ADA. To ensure that this goal is met, Title II of the ADA requires state and local governments to make their programs and services accessible to persons with disabilities (28 CFR 35.149-35.151). This requirement extends to physical access at government facilities, programs, and events and to pedestrian facilities in public rights-of-way.

To comply with the ADA, every state and local government is required to prepare a self-evaluation to identify access issues. Using innovative technology and partnerships with county and federal agencies, Bellevue staff completed the Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Self-Evaluation earlier this fall. The report and technical appendices can be viewed at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/accessibility-reports.htm>.

Per Title II of the ADA, the Transition Plan Update should provide an implementation schedule and financing plan for completing corrective measures associated with the barriers identified in the Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Self-Evaluation report. Several questions raised at your last meeting are critical to completing the programming of the Transition Plan. For each of the following five topics, staff will present the alternatives considered and rationale supporting the associated recommendations.

- **Leveraging existing CIP projects to advance ADA improvements**

Recommendation: Establish as "best practice" that during project scoping and design all identified barriers within the termini be evaluated. Special attention provided to high priority barriers.

- **Prioritizing corrective measures**

Recommendation: Prioritize/program corrective measures in the following order:

- 1) Block faces/ramps associated with CIP projects to the year of implementation (include ramps associated with 5-year overlay plan).
- 2) Block faces/ramps associated with remaining TFP projects prioritized by self-evaluation ranking.
- 3) Sort remaining block faces/ramps by Self-Evaluation ranking.
- 4) Group block faces/ramps by district (prioritize district sequence).
- 5) Sort within ranking category (i.e. High-High) by type of barriers that generated the Impedance Ranking (prioritize – in no order – missing ramps, ¾” heaves, and fixed obstructions).
- 6) Include provision in narrative that priority array may be modified to take advantage of leveraging opportunities.

- **Setting an annual financial target**

Recommendation: Assume \$1 million base plus the following proposals:

- 1) Additional costs associated with evaluation/mitigation of all barriers within CIP project termini.
- 2) Enhancement of existing program budgets addressing ADA issues, including PW-W/B-49 (Pedestrian Facilities Compliance Program).
- 3) Opportunities to leverage other known improvements, i.e. completing connections with permitted development conditions.

- **Utilizing the Transition Plan in future CIP development**

Recommendation: Do not utilize the Transition Plan prioritization as a direct tool for CIP development but do provide information about the ADA issues associated with a project (either in a notes section or as part of the project description). However, if the presence of ADA barriers could help to leverage additional funding for a project, then special consideration is warranted.

- **Establishing a CIP ADA Implementation Program**

Recommendation: Request an increase to the annual allotment to PW-W/B-49 (Pedestrian Facilities Compliance Program) and ensure scope allows for response to citizen requests and staff directed improvements.

Commission's input will assist staff in finalizing a draft plan by the end of the year. Once completed, the updated Public Rights of Way Transition Plan will be integrated into the citywide transition plan that addresses the other key areas of ADA accessibility: access to public facilities and to city programs and services. Completion of the update to the citywide ADA Transition Plan is anticipated in 2010.

If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please contact me at 425-452-4270 or jbenn@bellevuewa.gov.