

**FINAL DRAFT**

**Updated**

**CITY OF PASADENA**

**Americans with Disability Act (ADA)**

**Transition Plan**

*Final Draft Report*

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October 2009

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# Updated City of Pasadena ADA Transition Plan Executive Summary

## **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Updated City of Pasadena ADA Transition Plan (Plan) is to have a single document in a consistent format that contains the remaining structural modifications needed to make services and programs in City facilities accessible to people with disabilities.

## **2. OVERVIEW**

The Updated City of Pasadena ADA Transition Plan meets the three requirements for ADA transition plans specified in Federal regulations. The Plan names an official responsible for implementation, lists structural modifications needed in City facilities, and indicates when these changes will be accomplished. In addition to adhering to these requirements, the Plan: (1) describes an implementation team that will regularly report on the progress of implementing the Plan, (2) includes a history of the development of City of Pasadena ADA transition plans, and (3) provides estimated costs of each structural change in the Plan.

The cost estimates shown in the Plan are preliminary and detailed cost estimates will be completed at a later time during the planning and design phase for each item shown in the Plan. Some items will require major renovation work; therefore, these costs will also be determined at a later time.

The schedule shown will be the City's goal; however, due to the current economic situation projects may actually be completed as funds become available.

## **3. BACKGROUND OF PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

1988: City's Accessibility Task Force recommends hiring an Accessibility and Disability Issues (ADI) Coordinator to coordinate the removal of access barriers in City programs and facilities.

April 1989: The ADI Coordinator begins to evaluate City programs and facilities to identify access barriers and regularly consults with the Accessibility Task Force.

January 1990: City Council votes to create an Accessibility and Disability Commission.

June 17, 1990: The Accessibility Task Force is de-established and the Accessibility and Disability Commission (Commission) holds its first meeting.

July 26, 1990: President George Bush, Sr., signs the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law.

Fall 1990: The ADI Coordinator continues evaluating City services and begins developing separate transition plans for different City facilities, directing initial attention on curb ramps, City Hall, and the Civic Center.

Spring 1991: Public Works reports no funds available with which to begin implementing the curb ramp transition plan. Shortly after a member of the Accessibility and Disability Commission asks the City Manager about the curb ramp plan during a radio call-in program, funds become available.

Fall 1991: The City retains a consultant to survey City buildings for compliance with ADA guidelines. The consultant delivers a binder of simplified floor plans annotated with notes on access issues and recommendations for addressing them. The ADI Coordinator utilizes this product while working to evaluate City programs and develop separate transition plans for different City facilities.

1991-1993: The ADI Coordinator finishes evaluating City programs and continues developing transition plans. He reports on progress at monthly Commission meetings, and receives comments and suggestions from Commissioners. Transition plans follow different formats according to the complexity of the access issues present, available funding, and the characteristics of the City agencies responsible for implementation.

1993: To help develop transition plans for City parks, the ADI Coordinator recommends that the Commission form a group to accompany him while surveying park facilities. The group includes two Commissioners with mobility impairments, two who are blind, and a non-Commissioner who is partially sighted. This group tours most of the City's parks with the ADI Coordinator, identifies access issues, and reviews his reports.

1993-1995: The Commission recommends that the "when viewed in its entirety" limitation on program accessibility allowed in the ADA not be a factor in developing transition plans for parks and libraries. The Commission feels that all parks and all libraries should be as accessible as feasible. The ADI Coordinator agrees to incorporate the recommendation in the transition plans for these facilities.

1996: The last transition plans are written.

1991-1999: The rate at which transition plans are implemented varies greatly. Plans for Civic Center, Rose Bowl, and the former police building are completed. After much progress is made with City Hall, the expectation of a seismic and general building upgrade results in suspending implementation efforts. Steady progress is made with plans for fire stations, libraries, and curb ramps. With the Commission's concurrence the ADI Coordinator makes changes in the implementation priorities for the Curb Ramp plan and also eliminates some locations. Modest progress is made with City parking facilities. Slow progress is made with City parks.

1995-2003: The ADI Coordinator receives occasional requests from the public for copies of the City's transition plan. When informed that the City does not have a single plan for all facilities, but separate plans for different facilities, requesters in almost all instances opt to request only the Curb Ramp transition plan.

Fall 2004: Commissioners visit selected City parks and confirm accuracy of access issues identified in the transition plan for Parks.

January 2005: The agenda packet for the Commission meeting includes a summary of progress on the City's ADA transition plans.

February 2005: At the Commission's request the ADI Coordinator provides members with copies of the City's ADA transition plans.

2006-2008: Several facilities are added to some transition plans. For example, three existing parking structures are added to the Parking transition plan when these facilities become City owned. Also, for a period of one year, Tournament Park is added to the plan for Parks; it is deleted when staff clarify that the park is not a City facility.

August 2008: The City agrees to create a single, updated ADA transition plan for City facilities.

May 2009: Public Comment is obtained on the draft Updated ADA transition plan through written submissions to the City and by oral presentation at the May 5 meeting of the Accessibility and Disability Commission.

August 2009: Accessibility and Disability Commission reviews initial draft of program accessibility issues generated during review of City programs and services. The City anticipates a final report on program access issues will be ready for Commission review in November 2009.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION**

- a) Responsible Official. The City Manager is responsible for implementing the Plan.
- b) Implementation Team. An implementation team will consist of the Accessibility Issues Coordinator and staff representing the Department of Transportation, the Office of City Attorney, the Department of Information and Services, and Building Maintenance, Streets, and Parks Divisions of the Department of Public Works. The team will provide bi-annual written reports on the progress of implementation to the City Manager and to the Accessibility and Disability Commission.
- c) Implementation Timeline. The date for the accomplishment of each structural change is shown in the Plan's facility reports.

# Facility Reports