

Flight Courtesy of Dave Loewenstien Butterfly Effect: Dreams Take Flight

ADA Transition Plan and Evaluation for Americans with Disabilities Act

City of Joplin Missouri
Adopted: January 18, 1993

Title II – Public Services and Transportation

This Title prohibits local governments from discrimination against disabled persons in their programs and activities and requires the development of a transition plan and self-evaluation of the City's present ADA compliance. The transition plan outlines City facilities which need renovations so that all programs and services offered by the City are accessible. It must also address curb ramps which are required at every intersection in the City. The self-evaluation is a study of all programs, policies and procedures of the City to ensure that they are not discriminatory to the disabled.

Title II also requires bus and rail transportation to be accessible. Because the City does not provide bus or rail transportation, these two issues need not be addressed.

City of Joplin's Actions

As a result of the ADA, the City has undertaken a review of all City owned buildings which have public use, although all City buildings were surveyed, those which are not open to the public would only need to comply with the ADA should a person with a disability go to work in that specific facility. A survey was developed for each building, and completed by the building manager to indicated where non-compliance exists in each building. Out of approximately 88 City owned public buildings, it was determined that (8) buildings had the highest public use ant therefore the highest priority. These are the Municipal Building, Schifferdecker Golf Course, the Joplin Public Library, the Joplin Regional Airport, the Health Department, Dorotha B. Hoover Museum, the Mineral Museum, and Memorial Hall. As a result of these surveys, it became apparent that it would be necessary to prioritize renovations due to limited municipal finances. These priorities are as follows:

1. Adequate Accessible Parking with Appropriate Signage and Marking.

2. Accessible Path of Travel to Entrances, including but not limited to curb ramps, entrance ramps, and slopes.

3. All ramps and curb ramps must be accessible and clearly marked.

4. Accessible entrances.

5. Accessible and appropriate directional signage.

6. Accessible path of travel to seating, including but not limited to ramps and wheelchair stair lifts.

7. Integrated accessible seating for individuals and companions.

8. Accessible rest rooms with accessible and appropriate signage.

Facility Standards

1. Controls, Switches, Accessories, and Thermostats – must have the highest operable part at a maximum 48" from the ground. (ANSI4.2.5)

2. Public Telephones – must have the highest operating part at 48" above the ground and a minimum 15" knee clearance. (ANSI4.2.5) (ADAAG 4.31)

3. Corridors – widths must be 36" and halls with solid walls must be 44" clear. (ANSI4.3.3)

4. Ramps – Ramps cannot have a slope greater than 8.3%. (ANSI4.8)

5. Door Thresholds – must be a maximum height of ½" sloped to ¼". (ANSI4.13.8)

6. Doorways – doors will have a 32" clear when opened. (ANSI4.13.5)

7. Door Hardware – must be either lever or push/pull type. (ANSI4.13.9)

8. Handrails, Stair and Ramp – must extend from the wall 1-1/2" (ANSI4.9.4 and 4.8.5)

9. Handrail Extension, Stair and Ramp – must be extended 12" beyond the top and 12" plus tread width beyond bottom of all stairs. (ANSI4.9.4 and 4.8.5)

10. Center Handrails, Stairs – must be installed if the stairway is more than 88" wide. (ANSI4.9.4)

11. Toilets – must be mounted between 17" – 19" from the ground. (ANSI 4.16.3)

12. Urinals – stall or wall-mounted types must have the lower rim at 17" maximum for the ground. (ANSI4.18)

13. Sinks – must be 29" – 34" from the rim to the ground and 17" – 19" deep. (ANSI4.19.6) (ADAAG 4.24)

14. Faucet Hardware – must be operable with one hand, be either push/pull or lever type; and have a maximum 5 lb. push. (ANSI4.19.5 and 4.25.4) (ADAAG4.24.7)

15. Plumbing – exposed plumbing must be insulated. (ANSI 4.19.4)

16. Mirrors – must be a maximum 40" from the bottom of the reflecting surface to the ground. (ANSI 4.19.6)

17. Drinking Fountains – (See ANSI 4.15)

18. Work and Picnic Tables – must be 19" deep for knee space and between 29" to 34" from the table to the ground. (ANSI 4.30.4) (ADAAG 4.32)

19. Signage – post universal handicapped signs at all accessible routes, spaces and elements. (ANSI 4.28) (ADAAG 4.30.5)

20. Handicapped Parking Spaces – (See ANSI 4.6 and ADAAG 4.6)

The Transition Plan document provides detailed information for each of the City's buildings. The estimated cost of compliance with the ADA for all municipal buildings surveyed is $570,000.00. Due to this cost, ADA compliance will be included in the long-term Capital Improvement Project Budget, and will accordingly be implemented as budgetary limitations allow.

A Review of Curb Ramps:

In addition to ensuring accessible facilities, Title II regulations require public entities that have authority over streets and walkways to provide curb ramps at all existing sidewalks and that all new sidewalks have curb ramps installed. The Federal Regulations specify that priority be given to curbs surrounding state and local government offices, transportation facilities, places of public accommodation, and employers.

The City has undertaken a program of gradual modification of its sidewalks to provide curb ramps. To date, all municipal buildings are accessible through curb ramps. A windshield survey reveals approximately 4,000 curbs which need handicapped ramps, at an estimated cost of $600.00 per ramp, for a total cost of $2.4 million. It is the goal of the City to renovate sidewalks and curbs in the downtown core of the City, being the area bounded by 1st to 10th Streets, and Wall Avenue to Virginia within three (3) years. This project will require the construction of approximately 100 curb ramps, at a total estimated cost of $75,000.00.

The Transition Plan contemplates replacement of curb ramps on a gradual basis, as funds are available, with priority as to replacement being as outlined above.

Title IV – Telecommunications

This Title requires that the hearing impaired be able to access a City's 911 system via a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). It also requires that auditoriums with fifty (50) seats or more of fixed seating be equipped with devices to assist the hearing impaired. The communications center has purchased and implemented T-D-D's in the City's 911 system. The assisted listening devices in Memorial Hall will be implemented with the transition plan.

CITY OF JOPLIN OVERVIEW OF AMERICANS WITH DISABILITES ACT
TRANSITION PLAN
DATED JANUARY 1993

1. Introduction
    A. Needs a paragraph added to "Introduction" which states:
        (1) AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES. – The term "auxiliary aids and services" includes-
            (a) qualified interpreters or other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available to individuals with hearing impairments;
            (b) qualified readers, taped texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments;
            (c) acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and
            (d) other similar services and actions.
        (2) DISABILITY. – The term "disability" means, with respect to an individual –
            (a) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual;
            (b) a record of such an impairment; or
            (c) being regarded as having such an impairment.

2. TITLE I – EMPLOYMENT
    A. Add explanation of "Reasonable Accommodation" –
        (1) REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION. – The term 'reasonable accommodation may include –
            (a) making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities; and
            (b) job restructuring, part-time or modified work schedules, reassignment to a vacant position, acquisition or modification of equipment or devices, appropriate adjustment or modifications of examinations, training materials or policies, the provision of qualified readers or interpreters, and other similar accommodations for individuals with disabilities.
    B. Questions/Comments –

(1) Written job descriptions (detailed) are needed for each position classification. Eventho ADA does not specifically state “detailed” written job description, these do “weigh heavy” in a court of law and should there be compliant filed with EEOC.

(2) What are the alternative methods for advertising a job position?

(3) What applicant and pre-employment status assistance does the City of Joplin offer?

(a) Readers, Interpreters, Physical accessibility to progressive interviews.