



CITY OF NORTHFIELD

Americans with Disabilities Act
Pedestrian Facilities Transition Plan

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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:

- I. Employment
- II. State and local government services
- III. Public accommodations
- IV. Telecommunications
- V. 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, The City of Northfield 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](#), The City of Northfield 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. A glossary of terms is included in Appendix G.

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.

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 Northfield 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.

Self-Evaluation

Overview

The City of Northfield 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 2018, The City of Northfield conducted an inventory of pedestrian facilities within its public right of way consisting of the evaluation of the following facilities:

- 63.66 miles of sidewalks
- 1592 curb ramps
- 20.08 miles of trails
- 3 traffic control signals
- 20 bus stops

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

Policies and Practices

Policy

The City of Northfield'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.

New Construction:

- All new construction projects with pedestrian facilities will be designed and constructed to conform with the most current ADA design practices to the extent feasible.

Reconstruction Areas:

- All city reconstruction projects (including mill and overlay projects) will be designed and constructed in accordance with the most current ADA design practices to the extent feasible.

Rehabilitation/Resurfacing Projects:

- Curb replacement projects will be evaluated for ADA improvements. If the curb replacement is at an existing or proposed pedestrian ramp location it will be designed and constructed to conform with the most current ADA design practices to the extent feasible.
- Sidewalk panel replacement will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- Rehabilitation/resurfacing projects that only include the following will not include ADA upgrades: crack sealing, concrete joint sealing, concrete surface grinding/planing, pothole patching, seal coating, sidewalk joint grinding and/or skin patching.

Requests for accessibility improvements can be submitted to the ADA Title II Coordinator. Contact information for ADA Title II Coordinator is located in Appendix E.

Improvement Schedule

Priority Areas

All scheduled city reconstruction projects with pedestrian accommodations will be designed and constructed to conform with the most current ADA design practices, to the extent feasible. Accessible curb cuts/ramps will be added as needed to provide access to existing pedestrian facilities at intersections where they do not currently exist. Existing pedestrian ramps will be evaluated on a case by case basis and those needing improvements to meet ADA requirements will be improved.

External Agency Coordination

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

Schedule

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

- After 5 years (2023), areas identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) would be ADA compliant.
- After 10 years, 50% of accessibility features within the jurisdiction of the city would be ADA compliant.
- After 20 years, 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 Northfield 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

The City of Northfield prepares a year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) each year. This CIP programs out a five year schedule for improvement projects. All pedestrian facilities impacted

by these project will be upgraded to current ADA accessibility standards. The City of Northfield's CIP map is located on the city webpage.

Public Outreach

The City of Northfield 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 Northfield.

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

This document was posted on the City of Northfield Website for a public comment period from August 9, 2018 to August 23, 2018. Additionally, a press release was distributed on August 9, 2018 advertising the location of the draft report and comment submission procedure.

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 The City of Northfield 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 3 to 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. ADA Coordinator

F. Agency ADA Design Standards and Procedures

G. Glossary of Terms

Appendix A – Self-Evaluation Results

Sidewalks		
Miles		63.66
Compliant		42%
Non-compliant		58%
Slope unknown		TBD
Curb ramps		
Trail Curb Ramp		TBD
Sidewalk Curb Ramp		1592
Total		TBD
Compliant		22.1%
Non-compliant		77.9%
Trip Hazards		
Sidewalk Hazard		297
Trail Hazard		TBD
Trails		
Miles		20.08
Slope 2% or less		TBD
Slope Greater than 2%		TBD
Slope Unknown		TBD
Bus Stops		
Public Stops		TBD

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 2016 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: +/- \$7,000 per corner

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

Traffic control signal APS upgrade retrofit: +/- \$35,000

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

Appendix C – Public Outreach

A draft of the proposed transition plan was posted online for public review and comments from August 9, 2018 – August 23, 2018. City Staff received one comment during the open comment period.

After City Council adopts the plan, it will be available at the public library for public use.

Appendix D – Grievance Procedure

As part of the ADA requirements the City 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, The City of Northfield will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in City 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 the ADA Coordinator, Sean Simonson, 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.

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

Internet

Visit the City of Northfield's website <https://www.ci.northfield.mn.us/1196/Americans-with-Disabilities-Act-Transiti> 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 City of Northfield Engineering Department. 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 Northfield facility, the City will work with the complainant to contact the agency that has jurisdiction.

Within 60 calendar days of receipt, a City of Northfield 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 Northfield.

Accordingly, the resolution by The City of Northfield 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)

(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.

City of Northfield ADA Discrimination Grievance Form

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Instructions: Please fill out this form completely and return to the address below.

Complainant: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Person making the complaint: (if other than the complainant)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Government, organization or institution which you believe discriminated:

Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

When did this event occur (date)?

Describe the event in detail, providing name(s) where possible for the people who were involved. (Add additional pages if necessary):

Have prior efforts been made to resolve this complaint through the City of Northfield grievance procedure?

Yes ____ No ____

If yes, what is the status of the grievance: _____

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

Yes ____ No ____

If yes: Agency or Court Name:

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Date Filed: _____

Do you plan to file with another agency or court?

Yes ____ No ____

If yes: Agency or Court:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix E – ADA Coordinator

ADA Title II Coordinator

Name: Sean Simonson

Address: 801 Washington Street, Northfield, MN 55057

Office: (507) 645-3049

Fax: (507) 645-3055

E-mail: Sean.Simonson@ci.northfield.mn.us

Public Right of Ways ADA Implementation Coordinator

Name: Sean Simonson

Address: 801 Washington Street, Northfield, MN 55057

Office: (507) 645-3049

Fax: (507) 645-3055

E-mail: Sean.Simonson@ci.northfield.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 policies, practices and programs

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

Design Standards

The City of Northfield engineering department generally follows the guidelines identified in PROGWAG when practical and feasible.

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.