

Information Item:
Americans With Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update

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Environment Committee: February 11, 2020



Objectives

- Overview of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan
- Highlight ADA and accessibility survey findings
- Share self-evaluation report findings
- Detail Transition Plan and next actions

Background

- To increase accessibility at the Council and comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Council conducted a formal self-evaluation.
- The self-evaluation included all public and support buildings including all wastewater treatment plants and several of our bus stops
- Work conducted by JQP, Inc., local accessibility specialists, from June to December 2019.
- Results used to create a Transition Plan that summarizes the work and explains how the issues will be fixed.

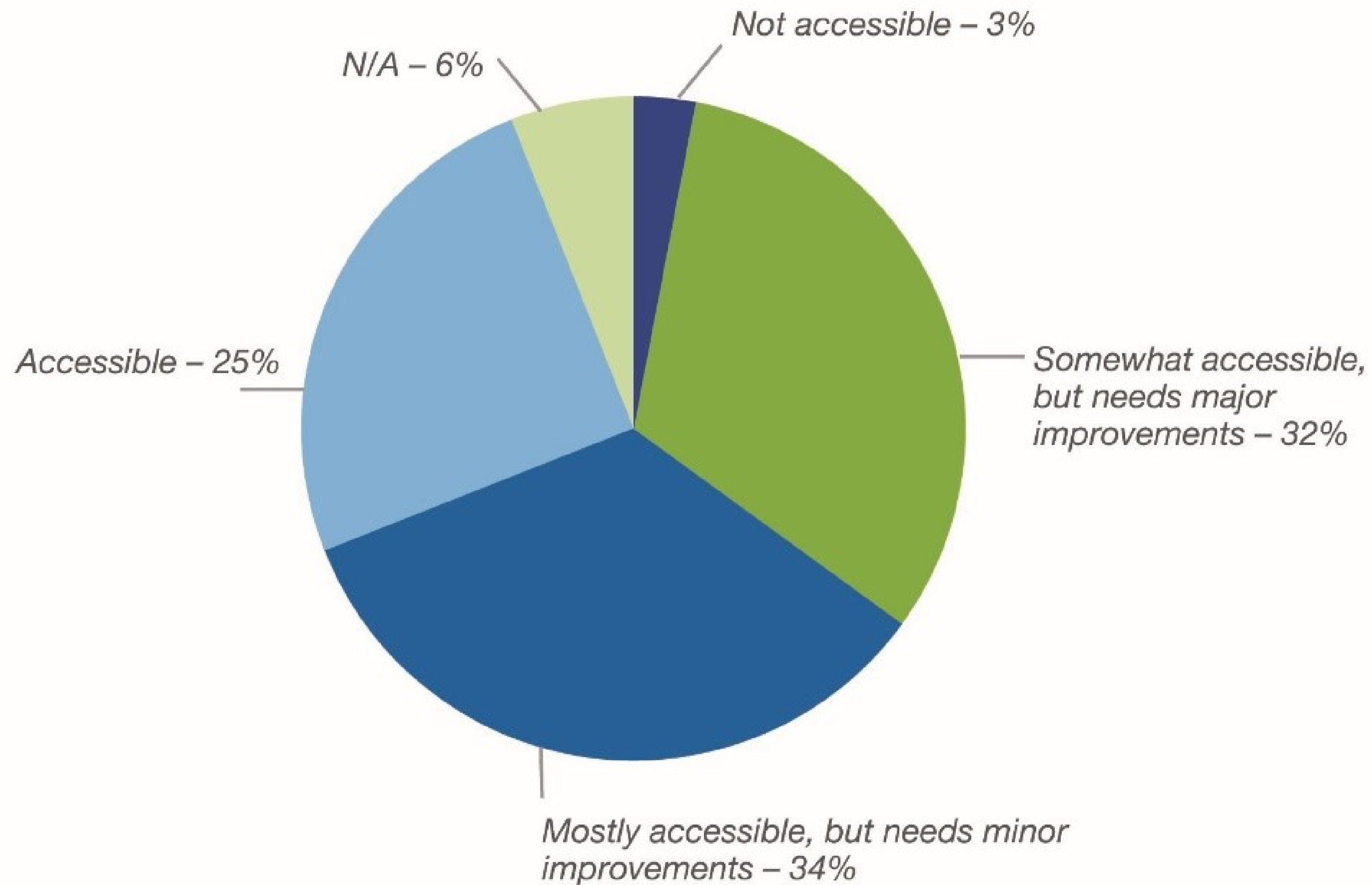
Council Work Already Occurring

- Restriping and signing projects to improve accessible parking
- Installing several 5'x8' ADA pads at bus stops
- Installing power operated door openers at plants and office buildings
- Installing hearing loops in meeting/training rooms

Public Engagement

- Council created an accessibility webpage to share ADA and accessibility work
- Council surveyed staff and community on accessibility
- Listening sessions occurred during the spring and summer
- Public comment period for draft Transition Plan started late January 2020 and ends February 21, 2020

ADA Survey Findings



Additional Survey Findings

Top 10 areas for improvements



Metro Transit buses and bus stops



Public amenities in Council facilities, including doors, restrooms, service counters



Websites



Employee meetings and events



Marketing and communications materials



Employment/ internships



Emergency procedures and action plans



Access at regional parks, including play areas, restrooms, trails



Council-led community meetings and events



Access to public housing

More ADA Survey Findings

Highest priorities



*Metro Transit buses
and bus stops*



Metro Mobility



Websites



*Access at regional parks,
including play areas,
restrooms, trails*

Other priorities



Marketing,
communications



Employment,
internships



Customer service



Council-led community
meetings and events



Physical access to buildings,
facilities, rail platforms



Emergency procedures
and action plans

Julee Quarve-Peterson, Inc.'s Work

- JQP, Inc. is a small, women-owned Minnesota-based business
 - Part of the Met Council's Underutilized Business Program (MCUB)
- Conducted site surveys at over 400 Council public locations including park & rides, transit centers, and each of the wastewater treatment plants, including their tour routes
- Met with Council staff monthly to provide progress updates
- Created facility reports that can be integrated into the Council's facility management program

Report Findings

- Each facility received a report listing each deficiency, code and/or design standard, and barrier priority level
- Results will be incorporated into Council ADA Transition Plan set to be final by April 1, 2020
- Recommendations prioritized 1-4 based on the significance of the barrier (Priority 1 being the most significant)
- Over 2,500 barriers identified, Priority 3 most common severity level

Examples of Barriers Found

Barrier: Sign is 31" above the pavement

Mitigation: Raise parking signs to 60"-66" above the pavement



Barrier: Tour route currently uses stairs

Mitigation: Reroute the tour around stairways when accommodating participants



Work Planned for 2020

- Modify tour routes as needed to accommodate disabled tour participants
- Issue work orders to address relatively minor barriers (e.g. lowering paper towel dispensers in toilet rooms, modifying interior signage)
- Contract for work to address moderate barriers using existing construction contracts (e.g. repair sidewalks and parking lot pavement)
- Execute construction contracts to address barriers (e.g. install automatic doors where needed)

MCES Methodology for Barrier Removal Beyond 2020

- Use procedural, contract negotiations or policy changes
- Issue staff work orders
- Include barrier removal work in facility capital projects
- When replacing a damaged or obsolete item that creates a barrier, replace the item in a way that addresses the barrier
- If funding becomes available, execute construction contracts to address expensive or priority 4 items

Questions

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