



Americans With Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update
Metropolitan Council Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee
December 4, 2019

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.
- Self-evaluation included our public and support buildings, several of our bus stops, and our programs and services.
- Work conducted by JQP, Inc. Contract ends Dec. 31.
- Results being used to create a Transition Plan that summarizes the work and explains how the issues will be fixed.

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 will occur in January 2020.

Survey Findings

- Survey questionnaires were completed by over 160 employees and over 430 community members, including Council committee members
- 54% of employees, 58% of community view the Council as accessible
- 50% of the employee respondents work for Metro Transit, Over 65% of community respondents use public transit as their primary interaction with Council services
- Over 60% of employees do not know how to handle a public accommodation request
- Staff want mandatory accessibility and ADA trainings, more accessible support facilities
- Community wants improved snow removal practices, more accessible public facilities, and greater ease of access to Council meetings and documents.

Julee Quarve-Peterson, Inc's Work

- JQP, Inc. was awarded the contract in June
- Conducted site surveys at over 400 Council public locations including park & rides, transit centers, Green Line, NorthStar, and facility-connected bus stops
- 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

- Reports still being submitted – contract ends Dec. 31
- Results will be incorporated into Council ADA Transition Plan due April 1, 2020.
- Recommendations prioritized 1-4 based on the significance of the barrier (Priority 1 being the most significant)
- Over 2,000 barriers identified, Priority 3 most common severity level

Examples of Barriers Found

Perform maintenance to ensure availability of required accessibility features. – Woodbury Theater P&R



Relocate program as necessary to an accessible location to provide program access. MN 1341 1104.4 Multiple locations along the tour route include interior and exterior stairs; at some locations, an alternate exterior route is available that does not include steps. Reroute the tour as needed to accommodate participants. – Empire Plant



Transit Barriers Found

Relocate object to achieve needed maneuvering clearance at the door. ICC / ANSI 404.2.3, Table 404.2.3.2 Relocate the trash bin to the opposite side of the power door opener push plate, currently obstructs the maneuvering clearance at the entry door. – Maplewood Mall TC



Modify walkway to provide a maximum 1:48 (2%) cross-slope. ANSI 403.3 There is an 8.1% cross slope along the accessible route.



Engineering and Facilities Work Planned for 2020

- Better Bus Stops Program
 - Replace 35 aged shelters
 - Install 25 new shelters
 - Install up to 50 ADA pads at unsheltered stops
 - Continue accessibility evaluation at 900+ bus shelters started in 2019
- Enhanced Shelters & BRT Stations
 - Build enhanced shelters on Hennepin Avenue in downtown Minneapolis
 - Build enhanced shelter at 6th/Jackson in downtown Saint Paul
 - Replace bus stops along I-35W at Lake St and 66th St with new Orange Line Stations
 - Replace 58 Route 5 bus stops with new D Line Stations

More Work in 2020

- Rail Stations
 - Light Rail and Commuter Rail ADA and Safety Improvements Program
- Transit Centers
 - Renovate Brooklyn Center Transit Center
 - Rebuild Northtown Transit Center
- Park-and-Rides
 - Parking lot paving and ADA improvements program
- Support Facilities
 - Construct new driver break room and entrance in Heywood Garage

Transit Work Beyond 2020

- Barriers identified will be corrected through ongoing capital projects
- Highest priority barriers will inform priorities for new capital projects or shorter-term operations or maintenance corrections

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