

CITY OF PARK RIDGE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADA POLICY AND TRANSITION PLAN

January 2022



This document evaluates the City's current compliance level with the infrastructure requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and establishes a plan for making progress going forward. This transition plan will guide the City in establishing, maintaining and administering mobility and accessibility in City-owned parking lots and other parking facilities, right-of-way and intersections.

City of Park Ridge
505 Butler Place
Park Ridge, IL 60068

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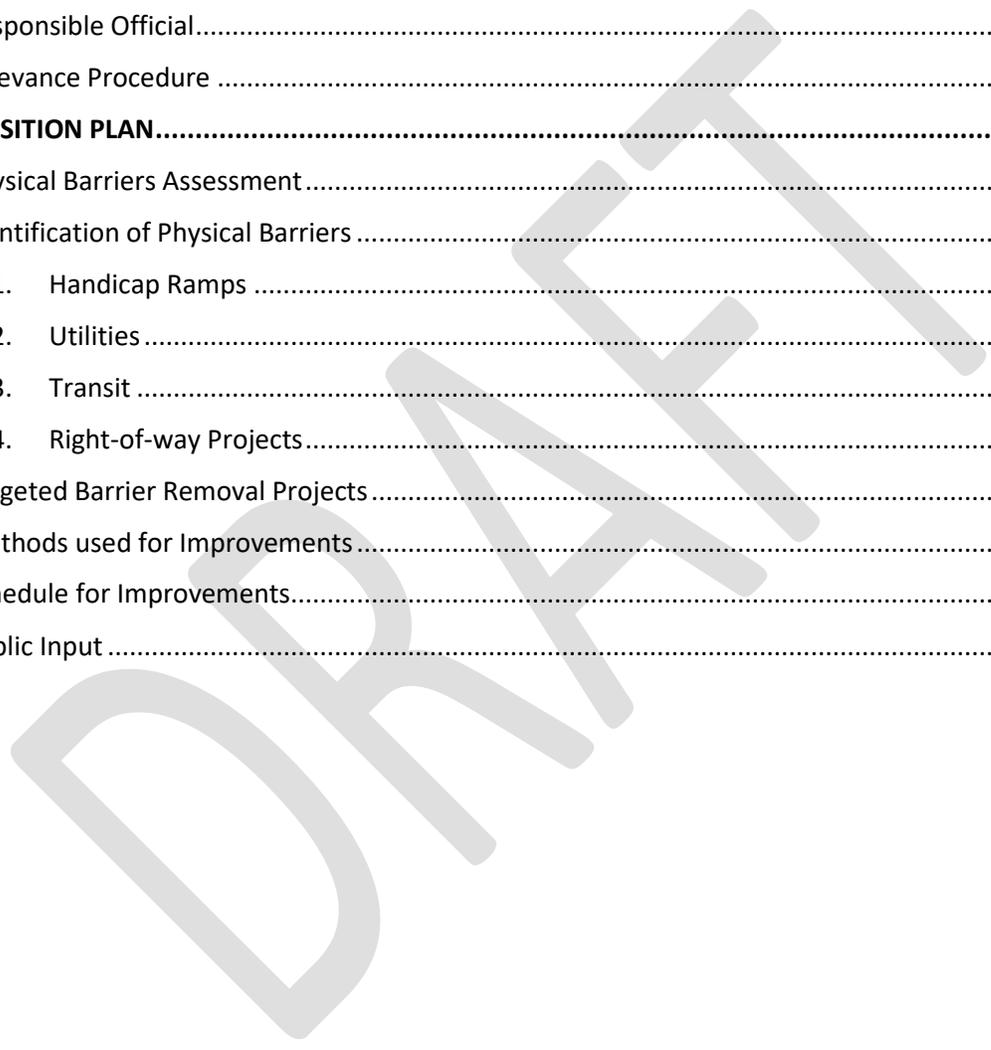
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BACKGROUND

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a Federal Civil Rights Legislation which mandates non-discrimination to persons with disabilities. The ADA, Title II prohibits discrimination by public entities on the basis of disability. Therefore, it is important that the City of Park Ridge, as a recipient of federal funding, complies with all applicable federal and state laws, including those protecting persons with disabilities.

In order to accomplish this, the City of Park Ridge is developing a Transition Plan by conducting a self-evaluation of:

- Its public right-of-way to ensure accessibility by persons with disabilities;
- Identifying issues of accessibility that need to be addressed;
- Developing a schedule for the improvement of those facilities; and
- Complying with ADA mandated standards for all new construction projects.

The City of Park Ridge will progressively remove physical barriers to accessibility when facilities adjacent to its roadways cannot ensure access to persons with special needs. Realizing that infrastructure and structural changes will take time and money to upgrade existing facilities, the City of Park Ridge's Transition Plan includes provisions to include specifications on upcoming design projects, to comply with ADA requirements.

The ADA regulations further require the Transition Plan to contain the following elements:

- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation;
- A list of physical barriers in the public entity's facilities that limit accessibility of its programs, services, or activities to individuals with disabilities (the Self-Evaluation);
- A detail description of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible;
- A Schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II;
- A schedule for providing Curb Ramps or other Sloped Areas where pedestrian walkways cross the curb and gutter.

ADA POLICY

ADA Policy Statement

The City of Park Ridge is committed to full compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended (Section 504), 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design and all related regulations, laws, executive orders, and directives.

The purpose of the City of Park Ridge's ADA Policy is to provide guidance for requesting modifications to ensure safe access to the City's programs, services, and activities; and submitting a grievance when the possibility of discrimination may have occurred due to a disability.

Responsible Official

The City of Park Ridge has designated an ADA Coordinator as the person responsible for the development and implementation of the ADA Policy and the ADA Transition Plan. The City's City Engineer is appointed as the ADA Coordinator for all Public Right-of-way (streets, sidewalks, intersections).

Grievance Procedure

This grievance procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone wishing to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs or benefits by the City of Park Ridge.

The City of Park Ridge's Municipal Code **Article 2 - Chapter 25, Americans with Disabilities Act Complaint Procedure**, identifies the procedure to lodge a complaint where ADA accessibility is involved.

The complaint should be in writing and should be sent to:

City of Park Ridge
City Engineer
505 Butler Place
Park Ridge, IL 60068

The complaint should contain information about the alleged discrimination (such as name, address, telephone number of complainant, and location, date, and description of the problem). Alternative means of filing complaints (such as through personal interviews or tape recording of the complaint) will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be made as soon as possible but not later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation. This procedure shall not affect, nor be affected by, other remedies such person may have under the law.

The ADA Coordinator will meet with the complainant within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after that meeting, the ADA Coordinator will respond to the complaint in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print or audiotape. The response will explain the City's position and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the ADA Coordinator's response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant may appeal the decision, within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response, to the City Manager or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the City Manager will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after that meeting, the City Manager will respond to the complaint in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant. The response will explain the City's position and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, appeals to the City Manager, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the City for at least three years.

Time requirements may be extended upon mutual agreement of the City and individual issuing the complaint.

TRANSITION PLAN

Physical Barriers Assessment

The City of Park Ridge is in the process of reassessing their road and sidewalk inventory for compliance to ADA standards (Self-Evaluation). The City is committed to upgrading and implementing ADA regulations and has done so on every road project since enacted by federal regulations. All road improvement projects overseen by IDOT within the City have implemented and been in compliance with ADA standards at the time of construction or improvement.

The City of Park Ridge, as part of its GIS system, has created a collector application to aid in conducting field investigations and is using this app to continually update its inventory of public right-of-way. This information will be used to update this ADA Transition Plan annually. These field investigation results will be posted and updated on an annual basis.

Identification of Physical Barriers

Access to and utilization of the City of Park Ridge facilities by individuals with disabilities is frequently compromised by barriers described below. The barrier descriptions are not necessarily exhaustive, but they represent the type of barriers identified by the City of Park Ridge during our ongoing inventory.

In general, the City of Park Ridge street system provides traveling routes in which local and the traveling public visit public buildings and other services. Sidewalks are the pedestrian travel way, and are frequently obstructed by protruding barriers. Therefore, pedestrian destination from transportation facilities is interrupted, and sometimes not accessible. The following are some barriers noted along pedestrian ways:

1. The presence of Fire Hydrants and other obstructions (utility poles and mail boxes) causes many of the sidewalks to be non-compliant.
2. Many curb ramps have incorrect slopes or lack detectable strips.
3. Due to steeper slopes, some intersection crossings have stairs to access the crossings.

The following strategy will be incorporated within the city's maintenance plan for public right-of-way and facilities:

1. ADA Ramps. The City of Park Ridge contracts for upgrading of existing ramps on an annual basis, via its Streets Maintenance Program, Sidewalk Replacement program, and Alley Repair Program. These will include ramps at intersections and alleys on streets that are contracted to be improved in that calendar year.
2. Utilities. Whenever a utility relocation, construction or alteration occurs within the public right-of-way, the City of Park Ridge will ensure that ADA requirements are implemented.
3. Transit. Transit stops are limited within the City of Park Ridge. The city will access those public stops that are located on City right-of-way and develop a plan to correct if such stops are determined out of compliance with ADA standards.

4. Right-of-way Projects. All right-of-way projects involving street and pedestrian ways will be evaluated and designed accordingly with the 2010 ADA standards. All new construction and improvements to existing facilities will adhere to these standards.

The following Appendices, though incomplete at this time, are inventories and are included in this plan and will be continually updated annually:

- Appendix A. Curb Ramp Inventory
- Appendix B. Sidewalk Inventory

Curb Ramps

An itemized listing of curb ramps is provided in Appendix A. (In process)

Sidewalks

An itemized listing of sidewalks is provided in Appendix B. (In process)

Targeted Barrier Removal Projects

Upon funding availability, the City of Park Ridge will implement a barrier removal program within the right-of-way facilities. The program is based on the inventory conducted by the City of Park Ridge and it constitutes the Transition Plan of accessibility and upgrades.

The top priority of the City of Park Ridge's Transition Plan is to make the City of Park Ridge's existing facilities accessible first. The City of Park Ridge facilities are those which serve pedestrians within the public right-of-way.

When appropriate, the City of Park Ridge will replace existing facilities by reconstructing new ones, thereby bringing them into compliance. Applicable new ADA facilities and respective upgrades will be included in the projects.

The City of Park Ridge through its Public Works Department is responsible for the City of Park Ridge's Transition Plan within the public right-of-way. Most of the problems within the right-of-ways concern physical barriers that cannot be addressed through other options such as Policy Changes or alternative methods. Therefore, the public right-of-way can only be made accessible through a realistic and fundable strategy for curb and gutter modifications, wheelchair ramp construction and some sidewalk modifications.

Methods used for Improvements

Standards currently implemented by the City of Park Ridge, when undergoing new or improvement road projects, adhere to those ADA laws and published under the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Standard Drawings for Pedestrian Access Details for Curb Ramps, Median Curb Details, Pedestrian Islands, Driveways and Driveway Aprons, Stairway and

Handrail requirements, Accessible Parking, all aided by a Detectable Warning Surface where applicable.

Schedule for Improvements

The City of Park Ridge has the responsibility of identifying barriers and implementing a corrective program. As finding to overcome the deficiencies is limited, the City of Park Ridge has prioritized upgrading of those existing pedestrian facilities as part of the City's annual Streets Improvement Plan, as well as annual Sidewalk and Alley Repair Programs.

The Streets Improvement Plan identifies roadways in greatest need of repair and improvements through a yearly evaluation process. Improvements are made to both vehicular and pedestrian facilities on chosen streets. The Sidewalk Replacement Program addresses trip hazards and accessibility issues through an annual survey and repairs. The City's Alley Repair Program includes improvements to pedestrian crossings at alley aprons.

The City will annually review the City fiscal allocation for ADA improvements to improve facilities that present physical barriers or to implement ADA regulations in new projects. The City of Park Ridge will strategically commit, upon fund availability, funding for City of Park Ridge maintenance projects of its annual allocation, towards ADA compliance projects. In addition, developer impacts on the public's right-of-way can be required to further enhance pedestrian facilities. To date, it is unknown the amount of money that the City of Park Ridge has invested into ADA Compliance

Public Input

The City placed copies of the ADA Policy and the ADA Transition Plan at City Hall and on the City website at www.parkridge.us to be reviewed and receive comments from the public.

The public may provide input in writing to the City of Park Ridge Public Works Department.

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