



# ADA TRANSITION PLAN

2013

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# ADA TRANSITION PLAN

## Introduction

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), this document shall serve as the Village of Western Springs' Transition Plan. Included are results of a self-evaluation that addresses barriers within Village programs and facilities. The Village of Western Springs' ADA Coordinator will coordinate all aspects of ADA compliance. Any comments, additions or suggestions about this plan may be directed to the ADA Coordinator:

### ADA COORDINATOR

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Village facilities, programs, services, policies, practices and procedures will continue to be surveyed on an ongoing basis, and the Plan may be revised from time to time to account for changes to Village activities. An accessibility inventory of sidewalks, curb ramps, marked crosswalks, government buildings, parks, recreation facilities and programs has been completed, and an approach has been put in place to ensure that Village programs, activities and services are handicap accessible.

This Plan will be posted on the Village's website for review and consideration by the general public. Individuals may submit comments on the accessibility of Village programs and facilities by contacting the Village's ADA Coordinator, the Village Clerk's Office or the designee.

# ADA TRANSITION PLAN

## Purpose

The federal legislation known as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990, provides comprehensive civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, state and local government services, and access to public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. Title II of the ADA specifically applies to state and local governments, referred to as “public entities,” and their programs and services. Title II Article 8, requires public entities to take several steps designed to achieve compliance. The Transition Plan used to implement compliance must include:

- A list of the physical barriers in a public entity’s facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs, activities, or services to individuals with disabilities.
- A detailed outline of the methods to prioritize the barriers removal and make the facilities accessible.
- The schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II.
- The name of the official responsible for the plan’s implementation.

This Transition Plan provides a method for the Village of Western Springs to schedule and implement ADA required improvements to existing streets and sidewalks. Before the transition plan could be developed, an inventory of current curb ramps and sidewalks had to be developed.

# ADA TRANSITION PLAN

## Identified Obstacles to the Public Right of Way

The Village of Western Springs has a two-tiered system to identify and assess obstacles in the public right of way:

1. A Preliminary Evaluation of intersections including the curb ramps and adjacent sidewalks and a Preliminary estimate of the remaining sidewalks.
2. A Detailed Evaluation of intersections, sidewalks and crosswalks within the Village's roadway capital improvement plan (CIP). Detailed evaluations will be updated annually as the Village schedules out future roadway capital improvement projects.

### PRELIMINARY EVALUATION

The Preliminary Evaluation of curb ramps and sidewalks is to determine which intersections are obviously non-compliant to the ADA guidelines and to get a comprehensive overview of the pedestrian network. The preliminary inventory evaluates three (3) criteria for curb ramps and three (3) criteria for adjacent sidewalks:

#### Curb Ramps

1. Is there a curb ramp?
2. Does the curb ramp have a color contrasting detectable warning?
3. Does the curb ramp have a clear landing at the top of the ramp?

#### Sidewalks

1. Is there a continuous clear space for pedestrian access?
2. Does the sidewalk appear to provide adequate passing zones?
3. Does the sidewalk appear to be smooth without grade breaks?

The Preliminary Evaluation utilizes aerial and street-level photography to view each intersection. If the curb ramps or sidewalks do not meet the criteria outlined above, then the intersection will be deemed "not compliant". If the item did meet the above criteria it would be deemed "potentially compliant". If an item was reconstructed or brought into compliance within the past twenty years, the item would be marked as "compliant" and have indicated in the inventory to which year and standard it achieved compliance.

### DETAILED EVALUATION

A detailed evaluation consists of those intersections, crosswalks and sidewalks identified to fall within the Village's roadway capital improvement plan, or those intersections, crosswalks and sidewalks that have not received maintenance or reconstruction since the adoption of the ADA.

A detailed evaluation requires the measurement of specific physical attributes of the item in question such as width, running slope and gaps. Mechanical elements for signalized intersections will also be measured to determine compliance to the identified ADA barriers.

## Criteria for Determining Impediments at Village Facilities

To determine whether corrective action needs to be taken at a Village operated facility such as the Village Hall, Recreation Center or Community Center the following evaluation criteria has been established.

1. Can the program or service offered be provided at an alternative facility?
2. Is the facility currently in ADA compliance and has the facility undergone previous renovations to obtain past ADA compliance?
3. What is the current state of accessibility?
4. What are the costs of alternatives to physical barrier removal versus the cost of alternative corrective actions?
5. Is the physical barrier programmed for removal as part of the facility's annual ongoing maintenance?

## Removing Barriers

### METHODS

The Village of Western Springs utilizes many different approaches in removing barriers in the public right of way, including proactively identifying and eliminating the barrier; responding to public grievances and ensuring the appropriate design and build-out of new construction.

### PRIORITIZATION

The Village of Western Springs bases barrier removal on a number of factors: location, condition, priority ranking, cost effectiveness and any other pertinent considerations of the removal.

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

The Village of Western Springs will attempt to provide relief to any site where a disabled person has requested help.

### LOCATION PRIORITY

The Village of Western Springs has identified location priority as follows:

1. Intersections identified in roadway capital improvement plan
2. Intersections serving government or public school facilities
3. Intersections serving the central business district or commercial districts
4. Intersections serving other areas

Using data from the preliminary and detailed evaluations, an accessibility grade can be assigned for each intersection. The Access Grade assigns a letter grade to the intersection based upon preliminary or detailed evaluations. This is paired with the location priority outlined above to create a priority ranking table.

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## LOCATION PRIORITY

	1	2	3	4
Access Grade	Locations in roadway CIP	Government or Public Facilities	Central Business District	Other Areas
Non-Compliant	1NC	2NC	3NC	4NC
Potentially Compliant	1PC	2PC	3PC	4PC
Compliant	1C	2C	3C	4C

High	Medium	Low
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A listing of priority intersections and a map that identifies each intersection based upon its priority ranking is shown in Appendix A.

Repairs to intersections will be dependent upon the annual budget and the location ranking of each intersection. Due to the limited funds available for sidewalk replacement repairs for compliance may be grouped with geographic location in order to maximize the use of potential funds.

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## Policies

### **PUBLIC GRIEVENCE PROCESS**

To file a grievance or request regarding accessibility of a sidewalk or curb ramp, contact the ADA Coordinator in writing or via email, and describe the issue in detail, including the location. If the person filing the grievance needs assistance in providing the ADA Coordinator with a written grievance, assistance will be provided upon request.

### **ADOPTED DESIGN GUIDELINES**

The “Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction in Illinois”, adopted January 1, 2012 and the of the “American with Disability Act Accessibility Guidelines”, amended September 2002 will apply to and govern all proposed improvements for ADA compliance.

#### **Illinois Department of Transportation Highway Standards**

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u>
424	Curb Ramps for Sidewalks

#### **ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)**

<u>Section</u>	<u>Title</u>
4.7	Curb Ramps
4.29	Detectable Warnings

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## Construction Costs & Schedule

### ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST

The estimated cost for implementing this transition plan is:

**\$633,600**

Costs were based upon an averaging of the past three years of sidewalk maintenance bid tabulations. Estimated work included all intersections marked as “potentially compliant” or “non-compliant” and assumed removal and replacement of all corners at an intersection, the installation of a new 5” deep concrete square with a tactile strip and the removal and replacement of two additional concrete squares 5” deep to account for adjustments to slope that may be required. A 10% overall estimate was added to the cost to account for additional work and engineering costs.

### SCHEDULE

The Village of Western Springs will make reasonable efforts to improve the accessibility of pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way through its annual roadway capital improvement plan and its annual sidewalk replacement program. Compliance is required to the extent practicable within the scope of a project. If warranted and funds allow special projects with funding specifically for ADA compliance or pedestrian improvements.

There will be times when it is technically infeasible to provide compliance due to the physical and topographic limitations of an area. The inventory process may not account for such situations and could show a “high-priority” rating when all feasible actions have been taken. The Village of Western Springs will select areas with high priority and solvability where feasible before moving to lower priorities.

Additionally, given the breadth of the program and the size of the Village’s pedestrian network, the Village will follow the concept of Program Access under Title II of the ADA. Program Access does not necessarily require a public entity to make each of its existing facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, as long as the program as a whole is accessible. The Village may choose to not install a sidewalk at some locations or may choose to lower their priority if a reasonable path of travel is available even without a sidewalk.

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## Public Input

A copy of the ADA transition plan is available on the Village website at [www.wsprings.com](http://www.wsprings.com) and by request to the ADA coordinator or the Village Clerk's Office. Any resident may address their concerns or comments to the ADA Coordinator listed in this document.

Residents are welcome to attend and Public Works & Water Committee meeting, which meets on a monthly basis to comment on this transition plan. Details pertaining to the time and date of the next meeting can be found on the Village's website or at Village Hall.

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## Examples of Compliant and Non-Compliant Crosswalks



*The above crosswalks are compliant with the current ADA standards. All future construction will include the installation of similar crosswalks.*



*The above crosswalks were installed to meet the previous ADA standards. They are non-compliant in the current ADA standards and make up the majority of the non-compliant intersections in the Village.*

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*The above examples show crosswalks that are non-compliant with both previous and current ADA Standards.*