



City of Newberg ADA Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 1: ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan | March 21, 2022 | 2:30 to 4:30 PM

Attendees

Stakeholders Rebecca Piros, Andrea Byerley, Erica Alvarez, Samuel Roder, Timothy Towers, City staff Kaaren Hofman (Project Manager), Shannon Buckmaster (ADA Coordinator), MIG consultants Heather Buczek, Alexa Vaughn, Hayden Agnew-Wieland

Location

Online meeting venue using Zoom

Agenda

The following summary is organized by the agenda topics provided for the meeting.

- No new items were added to the agenda.

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting participants introduced themselves to the group. Kaaren stated the need to elect a chair and vice-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee. Samuel was nominated to be the chair and was unanimously elected. Rebecca then volunteered to be vice-chair, and she was unanimously elected as well.

ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

MIG provided an overview of the ADA and the City's obligations under Title II, which prohibits discrimination in the provision of programs, services, and activities by local governments. The City of Newberg is committed to providing equal access to citizens with disabilities. To make Newberg more accessible to all, the City is engaged in developing an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (Plan). The project involves four main components:

- Reviewing all City programs, services, and policies;
- Evaluating the accessibility of City facilities;
- Assessing facilities in the public right-of-way; and
- Developing a strategic plan and tools for implementing the recommended changes to City facilities and practices.

Questions and Comments

Rebecca asked if people with disabilities were included in past site assessments of some facilities and if they would be invited to "tour" the remaining facilities so that they may provide input.



- MIG staff will complete the site assessments based on technical requirements, and hosting these tours is not included in this particular scope of work. Still, stakeholders are encouraged to provide insight on specific facilities or locations to be considered in the Plan.

Project Overview

MIG provided an overview of the project's scope of work. The City of Newberg initiated the project in November 2021, and this committee has been formed to provide insights throughout all phases of the planning process, as outlined below.

Policy and Program Evaluation (Self-evaluation)

During the project's policy and program evaluation phase, a comprehensive review of City policies, services, and practices is conducted to ensure that they are nondiscriminatory to people with disabilities. The evaluation involves the following tasks:

- Administering a questionnaire to City staff regarding City practices;
- Reviewing City policy documents, programs, and services;
- Reviewing the City's standards and specifications;
- Identifying modifications to City programs, services, practices, standards, and specifications; and
- Involving this ADA Ad Hoc Committee in identifying issues and reviewing recommendations for modifications to City policies, services, and practices.

MIG will produce a draft report of findings, which City staff and this Ad Hoc Committee members will review.

Questions and Comments

Samuel asked whether the questions asked in the questionnaire would be available for stakeholders to see.

- MIG responded that this information would be included in the self-evaluation report in summaries of responses to all questions.

Facility Evaluations

The facility evaluations involve the assessment and inventory of ADA barriers within the City's facilities where the public accesses City programs and services. The assessment involves the following tasks:

- Review and preparation of previously completed barrier report information;
- Conducting the remaining ADA facility evaluations;
- Identify ADA barrier removal actions; and
- Involving this ADA Ad Hoc Committee in identifying issues and drafting barrier removal priorities for City facilities



The evaluation results will be included in a summary report of the identified barriers across all City facilities. MIG noted that parks are not included in the scope of work as they are managed and operated by the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District.

Right-of-Way Evaluation

The right-of-way evaluations involve the review of existing assessment data of ADA barriers within the public right-of-way for adherence to the existing ADA Standards, and determining where the gaps in the information need to be filled. The assessment involves the following tasks:

- Reviewing the barrier inventory work completed to date;
- Developing procedures for evaluating the remaining right-of-way facilities;
- Evaluating curb ramps, sidewalks, street crossings, and on-street parking;
- Identifying ADA barrier removal actions; and
- Involving this ADA Ad Hoc Committee in identifying issues and drafting barrier removal priorities for the right-of-way.

Transition Plan Development

During the final phase, the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan is developed. Based on the policy and program evaluation, the facility evaluations, and the prioritization and scheduling process, MIG will prepare a draft of the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. MIG will work with City staff and this Ad Hoc Committee to prepare the schedule of barrier removals based on the facility prioritization process. The ADA Ad Hoc Committee will review the draft Plan and provide comments before distributing the public review Draft Plan. The Plan will then be posted to the City website, and hard copies will be available at designated locations to collect public comments.

Needs, Challenges, and Opportunities

MIG asked the group a series of questions about the current state of accessibility in Newberg. This discussion was tracked on-screen during the meeting and is reprinted here.

A question was asked whether signalized pedestrian crossings with pushbuttons and flashing beacons are a part of this project. MIG noted that these are not incorporated into this project scope as it's MIG's understanding that the crossings are under ODOT jurisdiction. In addition, MIG noted that ODOT publishes the progress of their ADA transition plan online and provides contact information for their ADA coordinator team, who can address more specific questions.

What's working well?

- Small improvements have been noticed around town, such as the addition of accessible curb ramps with detectable warnings in neighborhoods

What are the biggest needs?

- Accessible street crossings - addressing barriers within crosswalks such as changes in elevation at deteriorated asphalt, potholes



- Some sections (e.g. Elliott St, near Fulton/Meridian) of streets have no sidewalk at all. Many detours are required for pedestrians to travel the City via sidewalk; more sidewalks are needed.
- More signed crosswalks with flashing lights to alert drivers of and create safer crossings for pedestrians
 - 99W and College crossing - unsafe for all people. Would a different traffic pattern (e.g., traffic circle) improve conditions?
 - Springbrook and Vittoria Ave near fire station - another potentially dangerous and high use location to prioritize
- Sidewalk maintenance in general - property owners not maintaining the right-of-way in front of their house
 - Wynooski and surrounding streets
 - Pedestrians and people in scooters (or other powered mobility devices) are forced to use bike lanes due to inaccessible sidewalks
- A map and/or better information about accessible pathways and routes to key destinations in town

What are the biggest challenges?

- Finding information on the City website (e.g. staff contact information). The website is difficult for people with vision disabilities to use.
 - Issues with logging into City email, viewing agenda for this meeting

Where are the greatest opportunities?

- The Newberg Downtown Coalition is already encouraging private businesses to increase accessibility. Would it be a possibility to collaborate with them?
- First Friday ArtWalk (<https://www.newbergartwalk.com/>) and similar events could be used for outreach and to gather information from the public
- Library has added a braille section and this is a good example of accessible programming and providing accessible materials for blind and low vision library patrons

Planning Priorities

Prioritizing the removal of barriers at City facilities is an essential component of developing and implementing an ADA transition plan. MIG discussed draft criteria to consider for determining the schedule for removing barriers when looking at the City's programs in their entirety. These are adjustable based on staff and stakeholder preference.

- MIG asked the group if there are any unique or inherent elements to Newberg that should affect the priority categories, and if there are additional criteria that should be considered.



Questions and Comments

- Erica Alvarez suggested "cost" as a consideration for prioritizing barrier removal. Given a limited budget, it's important to prioritize completing as many barrier removal projects as possible.
 - MIG noted that Maintenance/Small Capital/Large Capital which can be folded into the transition plan data

Next Steps

MIG has begun reviewing publicly available policy documents and program information found online, and the staff questionnaire is underway. Based on the policy review, staff questionnaire analysis, and staff interaction, MIG will prepare a draft ADA Self-Evaluation Report for review by staff and stakeholders. MIG has also reviewed the existing facility barrier reports and has started on the remaining facility assessments. Once the assessments have been completed, MIG will meet with City staff, as well as this group, to discuss results and begin to prioritize barrier removal.

Questions and Comments

Erica asked whether anything had been sent out to the general public to collect feedback on the major barriers to accessibility experienced across City of Newberg facilities.

- MIG indicated that a general community questionnaire is not included in this scope of work. However, the transition plan will be easy to update over time as more data and feedback are collected if the City chooses to conduct broader outreach.