

Gail A. Dorfman, COMMISSIONER
Phone: 612-348-7883 Fax: 612-348-8701 TDD: 612-348-7708

Board of Hennepin County Commissioners
2400 Government Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55487-0240

December 22, 2009

Commissioner Thomas Sorel Minnesota
Department of Transportation 395 John
Ireland Blvd - MS 120 St. Paul, MN
55155

Dear Commissioner Sorel:

As the co-chair of Active Living Hennepin Communities (ALHC), a partnership of businesses, developers, cities and the county, I am pleased to have this opportunity to comment on Mn/DOT's draft Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. It is clear that much work and thought went into the development of this document. ALHC members appreciated that this draft was made available for public review.

Please find attached some detailed comments for your consideration as you finalize this plan. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. We are pleased at Mn/DOT's emphasis on accessibility, and look forward to supporting to your efforts.

Sincerely,

**Gail Dorfman, 3rd District Commissioner Co-
Chair, Active Living Hennepin Communities**

Comments on draft ADA Transition Plan

Because the term "Transition Plan" is not descriptive, it would be helpful if the definition were given as one of the very first items in the Introduction.

Accessible Pedestrian Signals are noted under Mn/DOT history and then on page 8 in more detail. However, it would be helpful if these were explained for lay audiences as to their purpose and function.

It would be helpful to describe PRO WAG and provide information about how to access this guidance.

In addition to discussing the various committees and staff working on ADA, it would be helpful to have a list of committees as an appendix, as well as a few words on their function, and whether or not they're still functioning or if their work was completed or stopped for any reason.

The consultant's estimate of the cost to correct deficiencies is noted on page 8, but it doesn't say whether Mn/DOT has identified dollars to correct them, or if not, a strategy to identify dollars and a timeline.

On Page 8 - Curb ramp and sidewalks - the plan states that Mn/DOT will complete an evaluation of these facilities in 2010. Will it also lay out how it will assign dollars to correct the priorities?

For all of the evaluations/assessments (curb ramps, bridges and underpasses) will there be clear and consistent criteria used to evaluate their presence or absence, condition and compliance with ADA? And will this checklist or other evaluation document be made available for public comment?

Page 10 - Please be more clear on a date that a maintenance review will be completed, as well as a prioritization as to which sidewalks and trails get plowed or swept and when, how this ties directly to the plowing of roadways, and which sidewalks/trails will not be plowed or swept and why. This is critical not only to those with disabilities, but to those using strollers and others as well.

The appendices are nicely laid out. In general, if there could be a

sentence or two explaining each appendix for a lay audience, it might save on explanations after the fact as cities and other government agencies begin consideration of similar plans.

Comments on Appendices:

A - Is the written form on the web and also available by calling? If the grievance is not a Mn/DOT responsibility, what is the timeline for notifying the correct agency? Is that also within the 10 days?

B - What does it mean to be a priority 1 or 2 site?

C - How will identified costs be funded and what is the timeline for amelioration?

D and E - Once the curb ramp / sidewalk inventory is completed, can these appendices be combined or can there be a reference from one to the other so people know where APS priorities fit in with curb ramp construction/reconstruction?

E - As part of CSS, it is important to include historic trees, or trees of significance in the assessment so these are documented as to NOT be taken down in the event a sidewalk is recommended where it's not currently present.

F - Can the bridge numbers list a cross reference as to location in addition to "Feature Crossed"?

G - Further description of the various Standard Plates would be helpful.