

General comments on the Mn/DOT ADA Transition Plan:

1. Cite the actual language from the law at some point, see: <http://www.ada.gov/reg2.html> ... first page preferably. Cite legal reference: 28 CFR PART 35 for transition plan requirements.

I agree with Maryanne that this is more of a "Interim ADA Transition Plan - draft" than an ADA Transition Plan because work yet to be done that the ADA Tran Plan requirements call for ... curb ramp schedule, still need to "identify physical obstacles in the public entity's facilities," and a description of how we will "identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period." We also need to describe "in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible." Also, I think the title should contain "draft"... it is only a draft if we are still seeking public comment. Also, is the FHWA reviewing this now, too? Or did they review it?

2. Self-evaluation. Looking at the self-evaluation text in the document from the reader's perspective, it was hard to determine if we have completed the self-evaluation or still working on it or it has not started yet. Have the self-evaluation requirements been addressed at this point? Also, clarify the difference between the self-evaluation and the Transition Plan, they are different. FHWA seems to say that the self-evaluation leads to the transition plan. If this is the case, our self-eval should be complete and it should be available and open to public inspection.

Are pages 6 - 11 the Self-evaluation? If so, what opportunity did people with disabilities have in developing this? If we have a self-evaluation separate from pages 6 -11, it should be posted somewhere on our website. Outline how we addressed these requirements:

(a) A public entity shall, within one year of the effective date of this part, evaluate its current services, policies, and practices, and the

effects thereof, that do not or may not meet the requirements of this part and, to the extent modification of any such services, policies, and practices is required, the public entity shall proceed to make the necessary modifications.

(b) A public entity shall provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the self-evaluation process by submitting comments. Has this been done?

(c) A public entity that employs 50 or more persons shall, for at least three years following completion of the self-evaluation, maintain on file and make available for public inspection:

(1) A list of the interested persons consulted; ... where is this list?

(2) A description of areas examined and any problems identified; and

(3) A description of any modifications made.

3. Throughout the document: cite the section of the law that is being discussed or being referred, for example: The adoption of PROWAG refers to 38 CFR 35.151

4. The public entity is required "to provide an opportunity to interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the development by submitting comments." Is taking public comment on this document the process? If so, it should be mentioned on the website. The process to notify groups, and what groups, should be documented, especially with the short time frame of response, and being around the holidays.

What distribution list did we use to send to those interested parties? Do we have a list so that anyone that says later they didn't get a chance to review, we can show them we gave them ample opportunity?

5. The Plan needs to "indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan" ... section 35.150 existing facilities. I believe for this to carry out the intent, the person needs to be identified, not just the position or office location.

6. Page 4 ... The ADAAC and the Stakeholder Advisory group. How did these groups interact? How did the Advisory committee find out about obstacles or issues? Why were these groups separate? Was there representation on the ADAAC of people with disabilities?

7. A DOJ document is cited ... website link or reference so that a person can access it. In general, offer this information whenever other document is cited, either in footnotes, endnotes, or within text. This would make the document much more helpful on a day to day basis.

8. For clarity, cite the definition and legal reference for the ADA Transition Plan early on in the document, the first page preferably, and what the purpose of the tran plan is. This makes it much more reader friendly and also is way to better communicate the information and importance to our customers.

9. Public involvement, page 6. This comprises a large part of our project development process and scoping, planning and involves so much more than just public meetings and hearings. It also involves more than just events. Communications, project maps and alternatives to project visualizations, Hear Every Voice, all of these could be mentioned in this section. When we conduct surveys, what is being done so that we include people with disabilities and also ensure our surveys are not inaccessible?

10. This document could be more reader friendly by providing the following: Table of contents, appendix with Mn/DOT policies and links to websites where these policies are located (tech memos, cost participation policy), footnotes or endnotes that cite laws and expand on topic, to keep it out of main body of text, an introductory paragraph on the transition plan, its goal, purpose, and why it is required. Also, at some place in the document, cite the timelines that this was due.

11. Transit, page 9. Who will be doing the inventory of bus stops? Transit also administers grants for bus stop improvements, what is being done to ensure these are compliant? What role does Mn/DOT have in managing grants that involve public rights-of-way ADA issues for other entities? Maybe a brief reference on how this is handle or description of role. Maryanne, is this where you could help?

12. Bridges and underpasses should include ALL bridges with bike/ped accommodations, not just bike/ped bridges. With our large scale bridge program, this is critical to clarify how we will address ADA on redecking, reconstruction and new construction.

13. Training, page 3: Pedestrian bike section has produced and delivered much training on ADA Title II. It reads as if AAO and Tech Support has done the training in 2008. Describe the content of this training. Also, ped section conducted, on a statewide basis, ADA Title PROW training in 2009 ... with trainings conducted throughout the year. This should be described in the text.

14. Describe pedestrian curb ramp standards development.

15. Curb ramp and sidewalks: delete: "A summer intern was trained on how to collect the data with the aid of a laser level." This type of training is not necessary to mention. More training has been

conducted internally at Mn/DOT. The ped section has conducted several audits, construction reviews, and developed worksheets for evaluations. To call out one summer intern's training and work seems inconsequential.

16. Consistency in referencing ADA Title II coordinator and ADA coordinator.

17. Work sites in appendix ... define priority 1 and priority 2 sites.

18. Statewide APS prioritization summary ... needs explanation of score, what does a high score mean? How often will these be installed? What is the policy (mentioned in text, but no reference to it ... website, document, etc). Is there a schedule? Even though the fed regs emphasizes a schedule specifically for CURB RAMPS, it would be helpful to include schedule for APS since the two features are tied together (curb ramp upgrades and ped signals).

19. The number of crosswalks per intersection varies throughout the list. Most intersections have 4 crosswalks by legal definition of crosswalk. It seems that the definition of crosswalks should be used here, instead of what may be intended, the number of MARKED crosswalks per intersection. There is a HUGE policy piece here ... how many legs of the intersection will we provide ped accommodations? Need common ground here.

20. Still need schedule for curb ramps as per 28 CFR 35.150(d)(2)

21. There were many documents that were left off the list for needing review and alterations and modifications to integrate ADA. For example, LFRD Bridge manual, bikeway manual, cost participation manual, HPDP bike and ped pages, scoping documents (beyond just worksheets), Limited Use Permit documents, Maintenance Agreement documents, utility guidance,

etc. Funding processes, all websites, funding, programming and state planning documents.

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