



TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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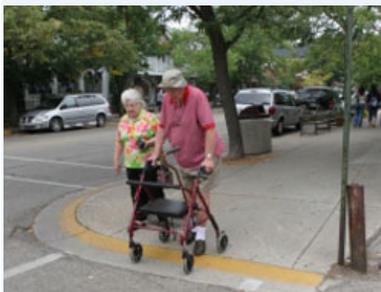
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Principal Investigators:

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IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT COST:

\$29,119



Disabled pedestrians may face challenges such as traffic signals with insufficient crossing time or lack of convenient or safe crossing opportunities.



RESEARCH SERVICES

OFFICE OF POLICY ANALYSIS,
RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Putting Research into Practice: ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way

What Was the Need?

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a wide-ranging civil rights law intended to prohibit discrimination and to improve the accessibility of facilities and public infrastructure. The ADA specifically requires public entities with more than 50 employees that have responsibility over streets and walkways to create a transition plan that identifies the steps needed to bring the infrastructure under their authority into compliance.

While the transition plan requirement took effect in 1992, many agencies in Minnesota and nationwide initially focused on buildings and grounds. Several recent lawsuits, however, have demonstrated that this focus is inadequate and that local agencies need to include public rights of way in their transition plans.

The information and guidelines necessary to develop these transition plans were publicly available, but tracking it all down was time-consuming. Synthesizing the information into a single document will help local agencies save time and money when developing the ADA transition plans needed to comply with the law.

What Was Our Goal?

The objective of this project was to collect existing resources and develop guidance to help communities bring their ADA transition plans for public rights of way into compliance. This would improve the accessibility of public rights of way for people with disabilities and protect communities from the expense of legal action related to noncompliance.

What Did We Implement?

This project compiled existing information from a number of disparate sources, including existing law, the U.S. Department of Justice's [ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments](#) and the experiences of local agencies that had developed some portion of an ADA transition plan independently.

How Did We Do It?

Work began on the project with the assembly of a technical advisory panel composed of representatives from local and state agencies along with consultants. The panel was charged with developing a model transition plan that local agencies can use to develop their own transition plan and a process for agencies to follow in creating their plans.

The panel compiled the model plan by consulting with a number of different agencies. Several local agencies had existing models for specific components of a transition plan. Some of those, such as Scott County's ADA Inventory Template, were included as supporting documents to the model plan.

What Was the Impact?

This project developed the [ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way](#), which provides step-by-step guidance for developing necessary transition plans. It is a navigable

Local agencies are legally required to develop plans for bringing their public rights of way into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This project saves them time and money by synthesizing information and guidelines needed to develop such plans.

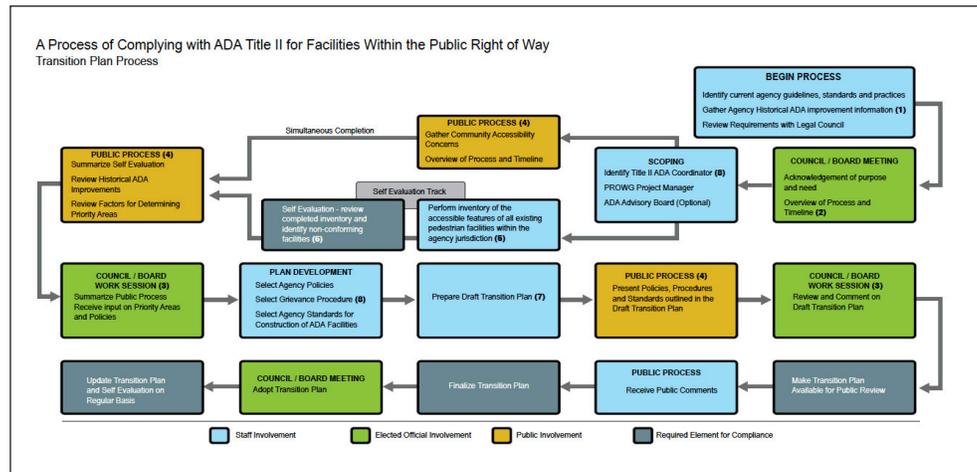
“The product doesn’t require a broad knowledge of the ADA. It will walk you through the steps you need to follow to get from the start of the process to a finished transition plan.”

—Mitch Rasmussen,
Scott County Engineer

“Each agency needs to inventory its infrastructure, identify noncompliant facilities and create a transition plan. This tool will help any agency identify where it is in the process and take the steps needed for compliance.”

—Michael Marti,
Principal, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.

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The process flowchart included in the guide shows all of the steps in creating an ADA transition plan, including agency staff work, necessary public input and approval from elected officials.

PDF rather than a Web page, so users can download it once and access it whenever needed, making it easier to use in rural communities without high-speed Internet access. The file includes links to supporting documents that can be downloaded in one bundle.

Elements in the report include:

- The **process flowchart** for developing a compliant ADA transition plan for public rights of way. The chart includes steps for information gathering, plan drafting and finalization, and input from public and elected officials. Agencies can use it to identify where they are in the compliance process and the steps they need to take.
- A **model transition plan**, in Word format, that local agencies can use to develop their own plans. Much of the text in this document is suitable for all agencies, but sections that each agency will need to fill out based on their own situations are clearly identified. A commentary document provides guidance on how to use the model plan.
- **Sample inventory checklists** that agencies can use to inventory their assets and determine which ones do not comply with the ADA.
- **Sample self-evaluations**, which are a required part of the transition plan.
- **ADA fact sheets** aimed at elected officials from the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and the FHWA Office of Civil Rights.
- **Additional online resources** for general ADA information and best practices.

An October 2012 [webinar](#) introducing the ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way was broadcast to 124 sites, and the recording remains accessible. Investigators have presented the tool at several conferences as well, including the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota chapter of the American Public Works Association and the forthcoming Center for Transportation Studies Research Conference.

What’s Next?

The ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way has been fully implemented and is available for use by any agency in Minnesota through the [Local Road Research Board website](#).

This Technical Summary pertains to the LRRB-produced Report 2012RIC01, “ADA Transition Plan for Public Rights of Way,” published June 2012. The full report, with supporting documents, can be accessed at <http://webapps.srfconsulting.com/ada/lrrb-ada-final.zip>.