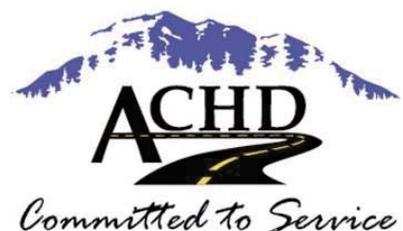


# **Ada County Highway District Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan**

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**Adopted April 2019 by Resolution 2272**



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# Acknowledgements

Many individuals were involved in the development of the Ada County Highway District ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

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## Executive Summary

The ACHD ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (the Plan) provides a framework for the continuous improvement of Ada County Highway District's (ACHD) programs and facilities for people with disabilities. The Plan is intended to be a living document that is regularly updated as programs and services change, as barriers are removed, and new facilities come under ownership or control of ACHD.

The Plan outlines a strategy for ACHD to progress toward compliance with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA), identifying physical barriers for persons with disabilities and a schedule to remove those barriers over time. Based on legal requirements, the Plan must:

- List barriers;
- Identify feasible solutions to each barrier;
- Establish a timeline for removing barriers;
- Identify the person responsible for compliance; and
- Involve people with disabilities in the preparation of the Plan.<sup>1</sup>

### Legal Requirements

The ADA is a comprehensive civil rights law for persons with disabilities.<sup>2</sup> The ADA states that its purpose is to provide a “clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” Congress emphasized that the ADA seeks to dispel stereotypes and assumptions about disabilities and to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.

As a public entity, ACHD is subject to the ADA's Title II Requirements for State and Local Government Programs and Services and is responsible for the provision of accessible programs and facilities that are available without discrimination toward people with disabilities. Programs offered by ACHD to the public must be accessible and free from barriers. Barriers include any obstacles that prevent or restrict the entrance to or use of a facility, including physical and programmatic. Accessibility applies to all aspects of a program or service, including advertisement, orientation, eligibility, participation,

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<sup>1</sup> DOJ, Title II Regulations Subpart D § 35.150 (d) Transition plan

<sup>2</sup> Congress passed the ADA on July 26, 1990.

testing or evaluation, physical access, provision of auxiliary aids and services, transportation, and policies.

## **Background**

The Ada County Highway District (ACHD) has jurisdiction and responsibility for all public roads and streets within Ada County, Idaho, except state highways and interstate freeways. Under Idaho law, pedestrian (typically sidewalks) and bicycle system components of most public streets also fall within ACHD's jurisdiction.

In an effort initiated by ACHD, the ACHD Commission adopted the Pedestrian Bicycle Transition Plan (PBTP) on December 14, 2005 with a primary emphasis on addressing federal pedestrian planning guidelines and the regulatory requirements of the ADA. The PBTP was intended to accommodate the most recent ADA policies and rules, providing a comprehensive program to enhance the Ada County urban area pedestrian and bicycle system. Based on the ADA requirements for inventory and self-evaluation, ACHD targeted a significant portion of the overall planning effort to complete a walking inventory of the entire street-side pedestrian system within the Ada County urban areas. Since the adoption of the PBTP, ACHD has worked diligently to plan, develop, and construct improvements to the pedestrian system that bring the sidewalks and curb ramps in Ada County into compliance with the ADA.

## **Plan Content**

This Plan supports ACHD in its efforts to ensure the accessibility of its programs, services, and facilities. The planning process included a self-evaluation and identification of physical barriers at ACHD buildings and right-of-way facilities. The self-evaluation:

- Evaluated services, policies, and practices;
- Identified modifications needed to services, policies, and practices; and
- Involved people with disabilities in the self-evaluation process.

Development of the Plan also included coordination with the ACHD ADA Advisory Committee. The Committee met at key milestones of the planning process to support plan development.

The Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan includes five sections:

- Section 1 – Legal Requirements, provides an overview of the legislative mandate and transition plan requirements;
- Section 2 - Self-Evaluation of Policies, Procedure, and Programs describes the review of ACHD policies, services, programs, and activities, based on responses to a program accessibility questionnaire completed by staff and a review of ACHD documents and policies;
- Section 3 – ADA Transition Plan describes the evaluation of barriers based on a detailed evaluation of ACHD’s buildings and public right-of-way where programs, activities, and services are available to the public;
- Section 4 – ADA Policy and Complaint Procedure includes ACHD’s notice under the ADA and ACHD’s updated ADA Grievance Procedure.
- Section 5 – Definitions provides commonly used terms within this document and in the ADA.

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