

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN

FOR CURB RAMPS AND SIDEWALKS

2015

LEON COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan for Curb Ramps and Sidewalks of Leon County is to ensure that the County creates accessible paths of travel in the public right of way for people with disabilities.

This Transition Plan describes Leon County Public Works Department's policies and programs to enhance accessibility in the public right of way. The funding for ADA accessible ramps and sidewalks is available through different programs and Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

- Capital Projects for New Construction: Work involves creating new public right-of-way will provide accessible features in the project area that meets current design standards.
- Capital Projects for Alterations: Work that under the ADA would be considered an alternation of existing public right-of-way will provide new and upgrade existing accessible features in the project area to meet current design standards.
- Maintenance and Repair Projects and Programs: Work that specifically addresses spot areas that are limited to normal maintenance and repairs in the public right-of-way will maintain accessibility of the public-right-of-way.

Leon County adopts Florida Department of Transportation Design Standards, Florida Greenbook, and Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) for the sidewalk design and construction.

TRANSITION PLAN HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The data collection for the existing pedestrian facility locations, types, and associated information started in 2013 through multi-agency cooperation and corroboration. Based on the current data, Leon County owns and/or maintains approximately 100 miles of pedestrian walk paths including sidewalks. The sidewalk widths range from four to eight feet dependent upon the sidewalk location relative to the vehicular travel lane, available rights of way, and the age of the sidewalk.

The sidewalks have been built under the transportation projects or new developments.

Section 10-7.529 of the Leon County Code requires

“Within the urban services area, new development shall be designed and constructed to facilitate pedestrian mobility in and between residential developments; between residential development and nearby businesses, recreational opportunities, and community facilities; and, to connect places of business to one another and to residential developments.”

“New development shall be designed to implement a pedestrian mobility system that facilitates access to residential development, business establishments, community facilities and other

nonresidential land uses, and, provides safe and convenient linkage between developments and between the public and private street system.”

The County began installing sidewalk ramps in the early 2000s for the major transportation projects when curbs and gutters are used.

I. CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

On April 28, 2015, the Board of Leon County Commissioners adopted revised Policy No. 13-1, entitled “Sidewalk Eligibility Criteria and Implementation”, approved Safe Routes to School and Community Sidewalk Enhancements Tier Prioritization Lists, and approved the development of the FY2016 budget to continue allocating \$750,000 per year of the County’s Sales Tax dollars to the sidewalk program (Attachment #1). In addition to these new sidewalks with designated funding, the ADA compliant sidewalks are also included in the Road Improvements, Road Widening, and Road Construction projects.

II. CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR ALTERATIONS

The sidewalks and curb ramps are always considered to be built under Intersection Improvements and Road Reconstruction Capital Improvement Projects. The curb ramps are added, repaired, or rehabilitated under resurfacing projects according to the Department of Justice/Department of Transportation Joint Technical Assistance on the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements to Provide Curb Ramps when Streets, Roads, or Highways are Altered through Resurfacing (Attachment #2).

III. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Upon the citizens’ requests or during the sidewalk repair, curb ramps and truncated dome mats are added or rebuilt if deficiency is identified.

IV. CURRENT SIDEWALK INVENTORY

An inventory database has been established for the pedestrian facilities either owned or maintained by Leon County (Attachment #3). The database includes the locations, surface treatment types, type of the pedestrian walkways, widths, installation year, lengths of the segments, and built under which type of the CIPs. This database is under review for quality assurance (QA), quality control (QC), and completeness. It is expected to complete the QA/QC process in the next 12 months while expanding the database to include new pedestrian facilities added to the County Rights of Way.

V. CURB RAMPS

Since the early 2000s, Leon County Public Works started evaluating the existing sidewalks before each resurfacing project for curb ramp deficiency. The curb ramps would be added, repaired, or rehabilitated according to the latest ADA requirements and engineering standards when identified and included as part of the resurfacing scope.

For intersection improvements, road reconstruction, and road widening, the pedestrian mobility and accessibility are always considered. The sidewalk and curb ramp addition, reconstruction, repair, and rehabilitation are included in the project scope and implemented according to the ADA requirements and latest engineering standards.

Leon County also has a Community Safety and Mobility Enhancement program, which includes the sidewalk construction as stand-alone CIPs. All sidewalks designed and constructed are in compliance with the ADA requirements and according to the latest engineering standards. When exception is required for the sidewalk construction because of the limited rights of way, extreme site conditions, or other constraints, Leon County will follow PROWAG to document the exception warrant.

VI. RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL

The official responsible for implementation of the County's ADA Transition Plan for Curb Ramps and Sidewalks is

Tony Park, P.E., Director of Public Works

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VII. PUBLIC INPUT

Leon County will post the draft Transition Plan at the County's web site for public review and comments. The Transition Plan is a living document and will be updated periodically based on the public input and new regulatory requirements.

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