

**American with Disability Act
(ADA)
Transition Plan**



City of Venice, Florida

July 28, 2016

I. Introduction

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights statute (herein after referred to as the ACT) that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. There are five separate Titles (sections) of the Act relating to different aspects of potential discrimination. Title II of the Act specifically addresses the subject of making public services and public transportation accessible to those with disabilities. With the advent of the Act, designing and constructing facilities for public use that are not accessible by people with disabilities constitutes discrimination.

The Act applies to all facilities, including both facilities built before and after 1990. As a necessary step to meet the requirements of the Act and to provide accessibility under ADA, state and local governments, public entities or agencies are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities (and infrastructure) to determine compliance with the accessibility standards of ADA. The agencies are then required to develop a Program Access Plan, which can also be called a Transition Plan, to address any deficiencies. The Transition Plan is intended to achieve the following:

1. A list of obstacles to ADA compliance and the procedure for removing and/or accommodating these obstacles,
2. A list of structural modifications that are needed,
3. The timeline when these changes will be accomplished,
4. Estimated costs of each change outlined in the plan,
5. Identify the public officials responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan.

The Transition Plan is required to be updated periodically until all accessibility barriers are removed.

This Transition Plan describes the process by which facilities are being evaluated and prioritized for accessibility improvements and establishes initial budget to initiate improvements based on the priority criteria. Evaluation of facilities to determine the next phase of scheduled construction activities for scheduling and budgeting of phased improvements will be conducted annually during the annual update of the Transition Plan.

II. New Construction and Renovations

New Construction and renovations are done to meet both Florida and Federal standards for disability access. Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) designs and construction shall incorporate up-to-date standards to bring areas under construction to current ADA standards. City Standards Details are updated annually and verified to comply with latest ADA standards.

III. Maintenance Program

Sidewalks, curb ramps, detectable warnings, intersections, crossing, signs, landscape materials and accessible pedestrian signals shall be inspected at last every three years for compliance and ensure they do not constitute hazards to the public. Sidewalk and ramp replacement and upgrades were completed in several locations through-out the city.

IV. Steps to Compliance

The City continues to complete the self-evaluation activities and to upgrade facilities on an annual basis. Funding is budgeted to upgrade facilities including sidewalks, ramps and facility access. In fiscal year 2016, \$250,000 was allocated towards ADA upgrades plus an additional projects were funded to bring Heritage Trail into ADA compliance and upgrades were completed at the Venice Beach Public Restroom to meet ADA standards. An annual sidewalk gap program is also underway to provide continuation and connection of sidewalk facilities to further enhance ADA accessibility. The proposed fiscal year 2017 budget includes \$75,000 in ADA upgrades to sidewalks and other facilities with an estimated \$150,000 per year in future years. In addition to the specific appropriation for ADA, \$500,000 is included to replace the Service Club Boardwalk including ADA compliance upgrades and a significant downtown project is scheduled to be completed to upgrade road and pedestrian facilities. Further, an \$18 million dollar bond issue is scheduled to be on the November 2016 ballot for road improvements including upgrading of ADA facilities within the project boundary. Compliance continues to be an important priority to the City.

V. Public Outreach Program

Outreach activities are outlined in Title VI and ADA Plan. An important part of this outreach is naming Alan Bullock as the ADA Officer and providing publication of the documents with clear procedures to obtain public input regarding needs of the community. Capital projects are presented annually in the budget capital improvement workshops and opportunities for public input are available at all City Council meeting and workshops.

VI. Complaint Procedure

The complaint procedure is clearly outlined in the Title VI and ADA Plan and published through a variety of public medias including the City of Venice website. Further information regarding complaint procedures or to submit a written complaint, please contact:

Alan Bullock
Director of Administrative Services
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
Email: abullock@venicegov.com
941-486-2626 ext. 21001

- For persons with TTY/TTD or requiring calling assistance, please contact:
Florida Relay Services: 711 or 1-800-955-8771 (TTY) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice)

VII. Self-Evaluation of Facilities

The City has completed self-evaluation on most facilities and continues to examine and evaluate remaining facilities to inventory and schedule required upgrades. Many facilities have already been upgraded to comply with ADA requirements. Facility self-evaluations have been completed as follows:

ADA Transition Plan

Part 1. – City Parks

The City of Venice, Florida has evaluated its parks to determine whether parks and park facilities are accessible in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. This self-evaluation has resulted in a Transition Plan to bring all parks into compliance. The City currently has 34 Parks plus 5 pocket parks. Sarasota County, via an Inter-local Agreement, provides day-to-day operation and maintenance for 16 of the City's 34 parks. The City operates and maintains the remaining parks as well as the five pocket parks. The City's Capital Improvement Program identifies plans to construct or renovate various parks. The Transition Plan evaluates the following design features:

- parking facilities for number and design of accessible parking spaces;
- site access points;
- access to site amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, shelters, etc.;
- accessibility of facilities for various recreation programs.

Summary of this self-evaluation of parks facilities:

Part 1.A. – City-maintained Parks*

1. Centennial Park – public restrooms compliant.
2. City Hall Park – open space.
3. Fountain Park – compliant.
4. Dr. Fred Albee Park – needs further evaluation.
5. East Gate Park – needs further evaluation.
6. Graser Park – compliant.
7. Heritage Park – scheduled for renovation FY16.
8. Humphris Park/South Jetty – compliant.
9. John Nolen Park – ADA ramps upgrades and additional sidewalk completed.
10. Michael Biehl Park – compliant.
11. Mundy Park – needs further evaluation.
12. Ponce De Leon Park – ADA ramps require upgrades.
13. Prentiss French Park – Compliant, parking upgrades completed FY15.
14. Ruscelletto Park – compliant.
15. Sawgrass Park (future park) – undeveloped.
16. Venezia Park – vacant land and playground, needs access upgrades.
17. Venice Fishing Pier – compliant. Upgrades scheduled FY16 to boardwalks.
18. West Blalock Park – compliant.

*Five Pocket Parks (Tampa, Barcelona, Granada, Harbor and Pensacola)

Part 1.B. – County-maintained Parks*

19. Brohard Park/Clark Pavilion – compliant.
20. Chauncy Howard Park – compliant.
21. Chuck Reiter Park – main restrooms require renovation in future. Additional evaluation required. ADA accessible scheduled for installation in FY16.

Part 1.B. – County-maintained Parks* (cont.)

22. Hecksher Park – compliant, main restrooms scheduled for renovations in the future.
23. Higel Park – compliant.
24. Legacy Park - Newly constructed park constructed to current ADA standards completed FY16. ADA accessible covered playground scheduled for FY17. (under construction) – all proposed construction compliant.
25. Marina Park – compliant.
26. Maxine Barritt Park – compliant.
27. Service Club Park – requires upgrades. Boardwalk replacement scheduled FY17 with ADA upgrades to be included at time of construction.
28. South Brohard Park – compliant.
29. South Brohard Paw Park – compliant.
30. Venice Beach Park – compliant – Restroom upgrades completed FY16. Parking upgraded 2015.
31. Venice Community Center (East Blalock Park**) – compliant.
32. Venice Myakka Park – compliant.
33. Venetian Waterway Park – compliant.
34. Wellfield Park (Pinebrook Park) – additional evaluation required. Parks Master Plan underway.
 - a. Baseball 3 – compliant
 - b. Softball - compliant
 - c. Letson Field – needs renovation
 - d. Baseball ½ - needs renovation.
 - e. Tennis – need renovation
 - f. Soccer - compliant

*Note that Curry Creek Preserve, Patriots Park, the Train Depot (adjacent to Marina Park) and portions of the Legacy Trail are located within the city limits but are owned and maintained by Sarasota County. Caspersen Beach is a county park located within Sarasota County, but is accessible only from Harbor Drive in the city.

**East Blalock Park includes the Venice Public Library (a county facility), The Public Art Center (owned by the city but maintained by a private group), the Venice Community Center (owned by the city and operated and maintained by the County) and the Triangle Inn (a City facility).

Picnic tables are currently being upgraded to provide ADA accessible tables.

Part 2. – Facilities

The City of Venice, Florida has evaluated its government facilities to determine whether buildings are accessible in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. This self-evaluation has resulted in a Transition Plan to bring all facilities into compliance. The City currently has 11 facilities with access to the public. The City's Capital Improvement Program identifies plans to construct or renovate various facilities. The Transition Plan evaluates the following design features:

- parking facilities for number and design of accessible parking spaces;
- site access points and building entries;
- access to facilities such as restrooms, meeting rooms, service desks, elevators, etc.;
- adequacy of various forms of communications to meet the needs of those with disabilities.

The summary of this self-evaluation of City facilities:

List of City Facilities*

1. City Hall (401 W. Venice Ave.) - Building is compliant with exception of western restrooms and building access. Renovations to Building Access scheduled FY17, restrooms upgrades scheduled in the future.
2. Venice Police Station (1300 Ridgewood Ave) – new facility planned. Referendum Fall 16.
3. Fire Station #1 (401 W. Venice Ave, next to City Hall) – future upgrade of the facilities in the planning stage. Reconstruction and/or relocation under evaluation.
4. Fire Station #2 (200 Grove Street N) – future upgrades of the facilities pending potential relocation of facility.
5. Fire Station #3 (5300 Laurel Road) – compliant.
6. Police Firing Range (at Wellfield Park) – new facility planned.
7. Fire Training Facility (at Wellfield Park) – pending transfer determination.
8. Maintenance Yard (221 S. Seaboard Ave) – new facility planned.
9. Warehouse (40 E. Venice Ave) – County owned.
10. Triangle Inn (200 Turin Street) – historical designation.
11. Old Chamber of Commerce Building** - (257 Tamiami Trail, under north bridge) – compliant.

*Note that the Venice Community Center is included in the Parks section of the ADA Transition Plan. The Water Plant on E. Venice Ave and the Eastside Treatment Plant on Laurel Road are operated by City Utilities. The Venice Municipal Airport on Airport Ave is operated by the Airport staff. ADA Transition Plans for these facilities are provided in separate documents.

** Currently partially leased to Venice Area Beautification Inc.

Part 3. – Sidewalks

The City of Venice, Florida has evaluated its sidewalk facilities to determine whether existing sidewalks are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act standards. This self-evaluation has resulted in a Transition Plan to bring all sidewalks into compliance. The City currently has 195 intersections where there are existing sidewalks. A similar number of intersections do not have curbs or sidewalks at the present time. Most of the minor arterial and collector streets within the City are operated and maintained by Sarasota County or FDOT and are not part of the City's Transition Plan (see list below). The City has identified a number of locations in the Capital Improvement Plan where it is proposed to install new sidewalks.

The Transition Plan evaluates curb ramps at the following locations:

1. where curb ramps do not exist rendering the sidewalk inaccessible;
2. where existing curb ramps do not comply with current standards and require renovation;
3. where future sidewalk projects are planned.

The Transition Plan evaluates the following design features:

1. proper detectable surface;
2. not exceeding allowable longitudinal or cross slopes except where existing conditions do not prohibit modification;
3. proper transitions between the curb ramps and adjacent surfaces except where existing conditions prohibit modification.

The City's commitment to accessibility in the sidewalk system includes:

1. All new sidewalk construction to be completed in accordance with current accessibility standards.
2. All non-compliant curb ramps to be corrected at the time of road resurfacing or reconstruction unless existing conditions prohibit meeting the required standards. In cases where existing condition prohibit modification, available measures to improve compliance will be completed.
3. Subject to annual budget allocations, allotting at least \$50,000 per year to upgrade curb ramps until such time as the City's sidewalks are fully ADA compliant.
4. Prioritizing curb ramp construction using the following guidelines:
 - a. Feedback from disabled residents,
 - b. Access to government facilities and offices,
 - c. Access to places of public accommodation,
 - d. Access to public transit
 - e. Enhancing safety in areas of significant pedestrian use,
 - f. Construct missing curb ramps,
 - g. Upgrade non-complaint curb ramps.
5. A mechanism for public involvement in the process.

A full inventory of existing road and sidewalk condition was completed in FY15. See attached Existing Sidewalk ADA Inventory for self-evaluation of existing sidewalks and ADA ramps.

Other agencies have also committed to improving accessibility of sidewalks and public transit stops within the City limits as follows:

1. Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) is currently evaluating and updating bus stops to upgrade accessibility.
 - a. Four new bus shelters were installed in Fall 2015 and three additional shelters were installed during FY16 along US 41 Business at Palermo Place (access to Venice Regional Hospital and grocery shopping plaza) and Miami Ave. (access to downtown).
 - b. The transit express bus stop was relocated to utilize existing ADA accessible bus stops adjacent to the Venice Public Library on Nokomis Avenue South.
 - c. Working in conjunction with US 41 Bypass expansion to upgrade bus stops and add bus shelters within project boundary.
2. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - US 41 By-pass is currently under construction and is being upgraded by FDOT to upgrade all sidewalks and curb ramps to meet accessibility standards. US 41 Business is being resurfaced in FY17 and all curb ramps have already been upgraded by FDOT to meet current ADA standards.

The following streets within the city limits are under the control of agencies other than the City of Venice and responsibility for an ADA Transition Plan lies with those agencies.

Sarasota County operated and maintained streets within the City Limits:

1. Airport Avenue
2. Albee Farm Road
3. Auburn Road
4. Avenida Del Circo
5. Border Road
6. Edmondson Road – west of Pinebrook
7. Harbor Drive - south of West Venice
8. Kennedy Drive
9. Knights Trail Road
10. Laurel Road
11. Jacaranda Boulevard
12. Osprey Street
13. Pinebrook Road
14. Venice Avenue – east of 41 Business
15. Everglades Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
16. Bayshore Cir. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
17. Riviera St. - Pine Rd to Gulf Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
18. Sunset Dr. – Beach Rd. to Gulf Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
19. Pine Rd. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
20. Circle Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
21. Golden Beach Blvd. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
22. Park Lane Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
23. Park Side Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2018)
24. Hibiscus Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
25. Golf Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
26. Pinegrove Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
27. Park Dale Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
28. Darling Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
29. Shore Rd. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
30. Beach Road – Sunset to Harbor Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
31. Bayside Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)

Sarasota County operated and maintained streets within the City Limits:

32. Baycrest Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
33. Mahon Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
34. Baynard Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
35. Short Rd. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
36. Spadaro Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)
37. Gulf Dr. (scheduled for transfer 2019)

FDOT operated and maintained streets within the City Limits:

1. US 41 Business (Tamiami Trail)
Tampa Ave. – Miami Ave upgraded by LAP project to meet ADA requirements
Palermo – Venice Ave. scheduled by FDOT for resurfacing including upgrade of all facilities to meet ADA requirements in FY2016.
2. US 41 Bypass – Currently scheduled for widening with FDOT including upgrade of all facilities to meet ADA requirements starting FY2016.

VIII. Schedule for Completion:

Funding is allocated on an annual basis and alternate funding sources such as road construction revenue and various granting programs are utilized to upgrade and increase the number of ADA accessible facilities. Fiscal year 2016, the city is focusing efforts on upgrading ADA sidewalk and crossing and the continued evaluation of existing facilities. Completion of all required ADA upgrades and improvements is a high priority of the City and continues to move forward. Fiscal year 2015 included many upgrades including renovation of Venice Beach parking and restrooms (continuing), initiation of construction of Legacy Park, and additional ADA accessible sidewalks at Granada, Santa Maria, Nokomis, Ponce De Leon, Pedro, Avenue Des Parques and Venice Avenue among other locations.