

Attachment A

American with Disability Act (ADA)

Transition Plan



City of Venice, Florida

November 22, 2023

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 for when these changes will be accomplished.
4. Estimated costs of each change are 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.

II. New Construction and Renovations

New Construction and renovations 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. The 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 are inspected at least every three years for compliance and to ensure they do not constitute hazards to the public. Sidewalk and ramp replacement and upgrades are complete or under construction for city owned transportation facilities within 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. The City recently completed an \$18 million dollar bond issue for road infrastructure improvement including ADA ramp and sidewalk upgrades. In addition, the historic downtown roadway was re-constructed bringing all ramps into compliance and adding pedestrian crossing flashing lights for additional safety. Fire Station #1 was demolished and re-constructed, bringing the entire facility into compliance. A fully ADA compliance Public Safety Facility was constructed to serve as the Venice Police Department

Headquarters and emergency operation center. The former Police Department was converted to a facility for Public Works, including ADA upgrades. Annual funding is allocated in the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) as part of the City of Venice Annual Budget to upgrade facilities and add additional facilities to improve access.

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 the 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 meetings 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 media including the City of Venice website. Further information regarding complaint procedures or to submit a written complaint, please contact:

Alan Bullock
Director of Human Resources
City of Venice
401 W. Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
Email: abullock@venicefl.gov
941-882-7377

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:

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. The self-evaluation provided in the previous Transition Plan update below to indicate the compliant parks and areas that continue to be upgraded. The City continues to complete the remaining Transition Plan identified items 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.; and,
- facility accessibility for various recreation programs.

Summary of this self-evaluation of parks facilities:

Part 1.A. – City-maintained Parks*

1. Centennial Park – public restrooms, gazebo, and parking compliant.
2. City Hall Park – compliant.
3. Cockrill St.- ADA sidewalks added.
4. Fountain Park – compliant.
5. Dr. Fred Albee Park – needs further evaluation.
6. East Gate Park – needs further evaluation.
7. Graser Park – compliant.
8. Heritage Park – compliant.
9. Humphris Park/South Jetty – compliant.
10. John Nolen Park – compliant.
11. Michael Biehl Park – compliant.
12. Mundy Park – needs further evaluation.
13. Ponce De Leon Park – ADA ramps require upgrades.
14. Prentiss French Park – compliant.
15. Ruscelletto Park – compliant.
16. Sawgrass Park (future park) – undeveloped.
17. Venezia Park – compliant.
18. Venice Fishing Pier – compliant.
19. West Blalock Park – compliant.

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

Part 1.B. – County-maintained Parks*

20. Brohard Park/Clark Pavilion – compliant.
21. Chauncy Howard Park – compliant.
22. Chuck Reiter Park– main restrooms require renovation in future. ADA restrooms available. Additional evaluation required.
23. Hecksher Park – compliant, main restrooms scheduled for renovations in the future.
24. Higel Park – compliant.
25. Legacy Park - compliant.
26. Marina Park – compliant.
27. Maxine Barritt Park – compliant.
28. Service Club Park – compliant.
29. South Brohard Park – compliant.
30. South Brohard Paw Park – compliant.
31. Venice Beach Park – compliant. ADA mobility mat added for beach access.
32. Venice Community Center (East Blalock Park**) – compliant.
33. Venice Myakka Park – compliant.
34. Venetian Waterway Park – compliant.

35. Wellfield Park (Pinebrook Park) – additional evaluation required. Park to be mater planned and redeveloped in the future. Negotiations with the County for the Interlocal Agreement are ongoing, for planning for full park restoration.
 - a. Baseball 3 – compliant
 - b. Softball - compliant
 - c. Letson Field – needs renovation.
 - d. Baseball ½ - needs renovation.
 - e. Tennis – needs 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

Part 2.A. – City facilities *

1. City Hall (401 W. Venice Ave.) - Compliant. Renovations were completed 2021/2022 to address building access, parking, and restroom upgrades.
2. Public Works Building – (1300 Ridgewood Ave) – Compliant.
3. Fire Station #1 (401 W. Venice Ave, next to City Hall) – Compliant.
4. Fire Station #2 (200 Grove Street N) – Relocation of Fire Station #2 underway. The new building will be fully compliant.
5. Fire Station #3 (5300 Laurel Road) – Compliant.
6. Police Firing Range (at Wellfield Park) – Vacated, planned for demolition.
7. Fire Training Facility (at Wellfield Park) – Vacated, planned for demolition.
8. Maintenance Yard (221 S. Seaboard Ave) – New facility planned in the future for Solid Waste.
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.
12. Julia Cousins Laning and Dale Laning Archives & Research Center (224 Milan Ave.) – compliant.
13. Lord Higel House (409 Granada Ave.) – Not open to the public. Historical designation.
Renovation work under way in FY22.

*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 completed a full evaluation and major renovation of our transportation infrastructure has achieved compliance with ADA Standards. From the previous self-evaluation plans an estimate 195 intersections upgraded with either replacement of ADA ramps to correct slopes or installation of tactile surfaces meeting the current criteria. Most of the minor arterial and collector streets within the City operated and maintained by Sarasota County or FDOT and are not part of the City’s Transition Plan (see list below). The City also completed sidewalk gap construction in several areas to improve access. Currently, with the assistance of the CDBG Grant Program, sidewalks are being installed on Cockrill Street to provide access for shopping, school, church, and parks facilities. The City will continue to look for opportunities to improve access within our transportation system.

Sidewalks upgraded evaluated to meet the following criteria:

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

During the infrastructure construction, the following improvements were completed:

1. Proper detectable surface installed.
2. Slopes corrected to meet allowable longitudinal and cross slopes except where existing conditions prohibited modification.
3. Proper transitions between the curb ramps and adjacent surfaces installed except where existing conditions prohibit modification.

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

1. All new sidewalk construction will be completed in accordance with current accessibility standards.
2. All non-compliant curb ramps are to be corrected at the time of road resurfacing or reconstruction unless existing conditions prohibit meeting the required standards. In cases where existing conditions prohibit modification, available measures to improve compliance will be completed.
3. 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.
4. A mechanism for public involvement in the process.

Upgrades Completed based on public input in past two years:

1. Barcelona Ave. – added pedestrian crossing.
2. Pinebrook Way – added crosswalks and ADA ramp.

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. Bus shelters installed and upgraded along bus routes.
 - b. Door to door transit service added to SCAT program.
 - c. US 41 Bypass construction upgraded and added bus shelters.
2. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) - Widening project from Center Road to Gulf Coast Blvd underway with proposed improvement ADA compliant. Gulf Coast Blvd. to north City Limits widening previously completed including all ADA upgrades. Resurfacing of US 41 Business included upgrade of ADA facilities.

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.

Part 3.A. – 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. Knights Trail Road
9. Laurel Road
10. Jacaranda Boulevard
11. Pinebrook Road
12. Venice Avenue – east of 41 Business including Venice Avenue Bridge
13. Rustic Road

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. Upgraded by FDOT.
2. US 41 Bypass – Widening project from Center Road to Gulf Coast Blvd underway with proposed improvement ADA compliant. Gulf Coast Blvd. to north City Limits widening previously completed including all ADA upgrades. Compliant.

VIII. Schedule for Completion:

Funding is allocated on an annual basis to retrofit public facilities. The City will utilize grant funds to increase the transition fund. In accordance with previous goals, upgrading ADA sidewalk, ramps and improving access routes were the priority with parallel upgrading of other city-owned facilities. With access routes upgraded, City parks and facilities retrofits will be the priority until all facilities are compliant.