



AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

PREPARED BY: Gloria Abbotts, Sr Planner

DEPARTMENT: Planning and
Development

MEETING: Town Council – 12 July 2022

SUBJECT: Hearing on adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulates programs, activities, and services provided by state and local governments. As such, the Town of Carolina Beach must comply with this section, which states: “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity” (42 USC Sec. 12132; 28 CFR Sec. 35.130).

In accordance with Title II, the Town of Carolina Beach conducted an ADA compliance self-evaluation of its services, programs, activities, and facilities on public property and in public rights-of-way. With this information, an ADA Transition Plan has been developed to share findings of the self-evaluation and to establish strategies for improving ADA accessibility within our community.

Our self-evaluation reviewed three fundamental areas for ADA compliance: (1) communications, information and facility signage; (2) public buildings and spaces; and (3) pedestrian facilities and public rights of way. Results of the self-evaluation are contained in Appendix A – Self Evaluation.

Improvements for each of these three areas are addressed by an Implementation Strategy (Appendix B – Implementation Strategy), which contains short- and long-term implementation actions. Short-term improvements generally require a minimal amount of planning, design, and financial investment. As such, these improvements are scheduled for completion prior to the end of FY 2023. Long-term improvements are certain to require higher levels of planning, design, and financial investment. To accommodate these larger-scale projects, the Town has integrated many into our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and will continue to work with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to align Town projects with ADA compliance needs. Funding for the identified improvements will be appropriated through the Town’s annual operational and capital improvement budgets.

ADA self-evaluation, transition planning, and implementation will be a continuous effort for the Town of Carolina Beach. The Town is committed to updating the ADA Transition Plan annually with oversight of the Town Manager and every five years with required action by the Town Council. Involvement of other community leaders and support organizations is, and will continue to be, a critical part of the ADA transition process. The draft plan can be found at www.carolinabeach.org/ada.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider adopting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Approval – The Town Council, does hereby find and determine that the adoption of the following Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan is consistent with federal guidelines.