

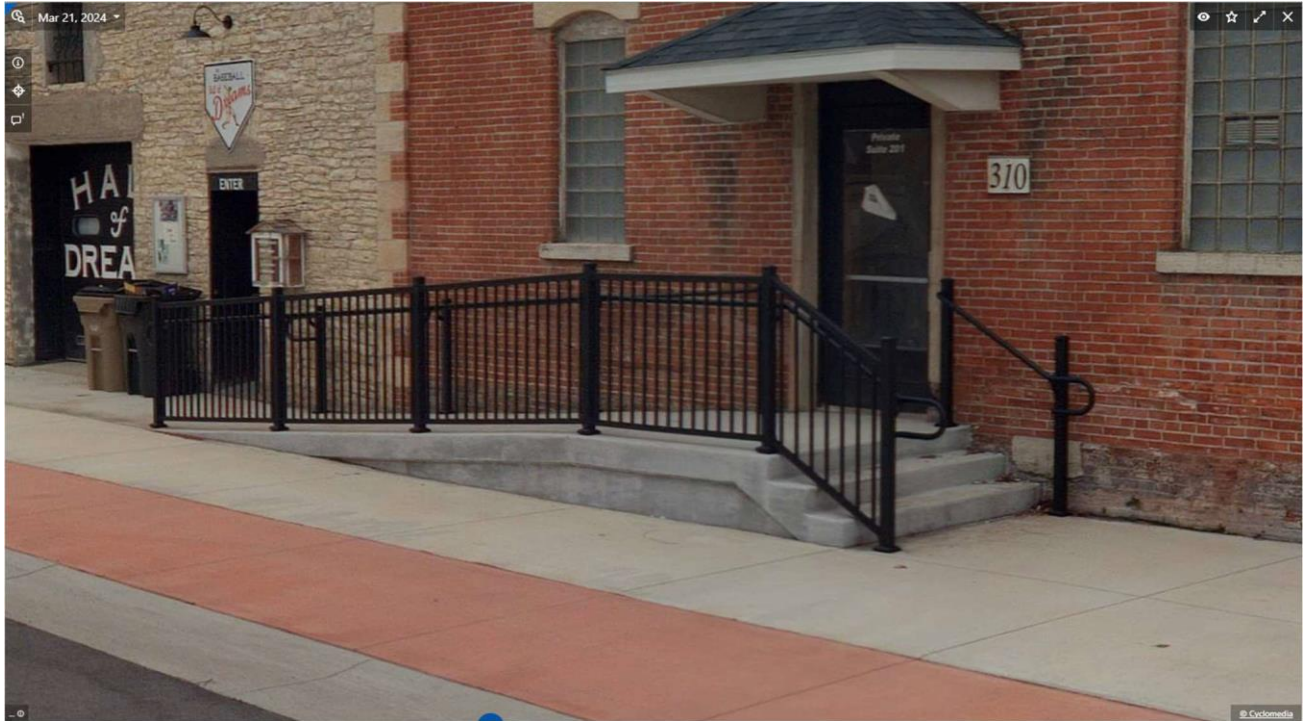
To: Mayor Jacque and City Council Members
Cc: Mick Michel, City Administrator
From: John F. Wandsnider, PE – Public Works Director/City Engineer
Date: October 16, 2024
Subject: Ritz-DFR Ramp - Preliminary Design Report

In 2022, the City Engineer, along with Mike Murphy, a stakeholder representing local handicapped community, performed a Downtown Business Accessibility Study resulting in a report on the various businesses with deficient access for persons with disabilities. In FY24, the City Council appropriated funding to begin to address this issue. It was determined that the first barrier to be addressed should be the largest barrier – that of the 3-step access to the Dyersville Family Restaurant (DFR). Conceptual work had been done for this location in 2021. This is being further refined into a final design. The below information provides a summary of the design decisions as well as the current design for the improvement.

The below photo shows the existing streetscape features of brick pattern pavement and decorative streetlight, as well as the storefronts for the Ritz and DFR. Though the two restaurants have differing architectural styles, Mr. Murphy and I worked to come up with a ramp/railing combination that would fit well with the City's streetscape elements as well as the storefronts.



In the summer of 2022, the City helped with an improvement in the ROW in front of the Baseball Building (formerly Tegeler's Dairy). This included a ramp to provide access to an entrance with a 3-step ascension. Below is a photo of this improvement.



The design for the ramp at Ritz/DFR essentially matches this design with the following exceptions:

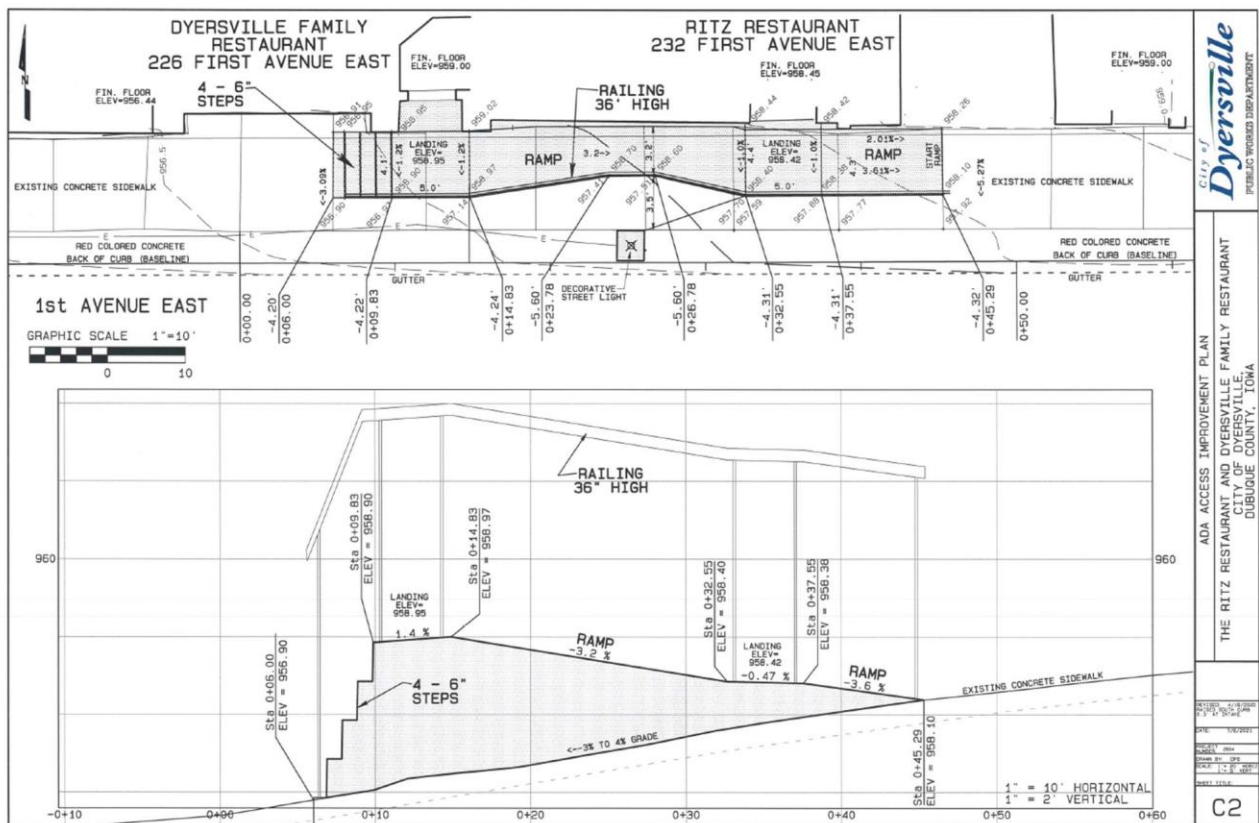
1. The ramp at Ritz/DFR will be a mirror-image of this ramp, though it will be much longer with a mid-ramp landing for the Ritz.
2. This application had much more ROW space. The ramp at RITZ/DFR will be narrower, and will taper in and back out when it passes the existing street light.
3. It will have a buff-color (light-brown) concrete on the outside wall below a standard-color cap.
4. There will not be handrail on the building-side of the ramp.
5. We felt this railing was too imposing for the Main Street application. Instead we sought a more delicate appearing railing to match the streetscape and work well with the storefronts. The rail will be similar to the below photo, including the copper patina to match the street lights:



6. Because of the narrow space available for the ramp and adjacent sidewalk, the handrail will mount on the side of the concrete ramp, similar to the one in the below photo, rather than on the top of the ramp surface like at the Baseball Building.



Below is the plan-view and profile-view of the design for the ramp. It is necessary to narrow the ramp as it passes the existing street light. This design is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The foundation design is still being finalized, expected next week.



The ramp will begin with four steps up to a flat landing in front of the DFR entrance, ramp down to a flat landing in front of the Ritz entrance, and ramp down to match the sidewalk just west of the entrance to Vintage Treasures (see photos below).



- END -