



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6002
February 1, 2022
Study Session**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 6002: Draft ADA Transition Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive report. No formal action required.	

DEPARTMENT:	Public Works
STAFF:	Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations Patrick Yamashita, City Engineer Lia Klein, Transportation Engineer
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	1. Draft ADA Transition Plan
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to hand-off the draft Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Transition Plan (see Exhibit 1) to the City Council. This also marks the start of the public review/comment period for the draft ADA Transition Plan. For purposes of this agenda bill, the “planning team” refers to staff from multiple City departments and the project consultant team, Transpo Group.

- Development of an ADA Transition Plan is a requirement of ADA Title II and was included in the City’s 2021-2022 work plan.
- Planning work began in May 2021 and included a public engagement process (survey, focus group, and mapping exercise.)
- The planning team prepared a draft ADA Transition Plan based on the public engagement process, review of existing assets, and review of City documents (see Exhibit 1).
- The draft ADA Transition Plan identifies barriers on City-owned public property and includes a cost estimate for associated projects, totaling \$40M.
- The planning team will provide an overview on the Transition Plan at the City Council meeting and is seeking initial feedback, questions, and comments.
- The draft ADA Transition Plan will be posted to Let’s Talk (note: page development was still pending at time of agenda bill publication) over the next three weeks through February 22 to solicit

community input. The planning team will incorporate feedback and suggestions into a revised draft for consideration at the April 5, 2022 City Council meeting.

- The planning team requests that the City Council submit comments and questions on the draft ADA Transition Plan by March 8, 2022 to provide staff time to prepare for the meeting on April 5, 2022.

BACKGROUND

The Americans with Disabilities Act aims to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities and includes guidance for government agencies to provide reasonable accommodation for accessibility in public spaces and programs. The ADA's regulations and the ADA Standards for Accessible Design, originally published in 1991 and updated in 2010, establish minimum standards for facility accessibility. ADA Title II requires that government agencies provide equal access to programs and services they offer through the completion of a Self-Evaluation and development of an ADA Transition Plan.

DRAFT ADA TRANSITION PLAN

While the ADA applies to all aspects of government services, the ADA Transition Plan focuses on existing City of Mercer Island attributes within the public right-of-way, facilities (buildings), and parks. Attributes include things such as sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian pushbuttons, crosswalks, driveways, accessible parking stalls, staircases, wheelchair ramps, bathrooms, and City building interiors.

The ADA Transition Plan summarizes the requirements, methods, findings, and recommendations associated with achieving ADA compliance and improve accessibility for all residents. ADA Title II requirements for a Transition Plan include a self-evaluation, public engagement, data collection and analysis, development of a project list and associated cost estimates. Each plan component is detailed below.

Self-Evaluation (Transition Plan – Chapter 2)

ADA Title II requires the completion of a self-evaluation which entails review of City documents relating to ADA programs, policies, and practices. This includes review of standard engineering drawings, the Municipal Code, and the City's Comprehensive Plan. The findings from the Self-Evaluation identify several changes to current City standards to achieve ADA compliance and address gaps. Most recommendations improve clarity, increase consistency across standard design details, and provide a greater level of detail for design elements that have not yet been addressed. Recommended revisions to the City code include additional statements referring to WSDOT design standards in the absence of a City of Mercer Island standard.

Public Engagement (Transition Plan – Chapter 3)

ADA Title II requires engagement with the community, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the development of the ADA Transition Plan.

The planning team used four methods to capture public feedback:

- A virtual open house (July 4 to September 14, 2021).
- Engagement survey - 17 questions regarding specific locations of barriers and community priorities posted on www.mercerislandada.com and promoted on social media.
- Online mapping tool from July 4 to September 14 - Allowed interactive feedback to be shared about specific locations.
- In-depth focus group on September 30, 2021 - The focus group was comprised of four community members either having a disability or supporting someone with a disability and having long histories of living on Mercer Island.

Promotion and advertising of these community engagement opportunities utilized the City’s website and social media channels, as well as hard copy surveys and flyers delivered by City staff. Comments collected during these engagement activities were used to inform development of the ADA Transition Plan.

Data Collection (Transition Plan – Page 122)

The ADA Transition Plan includes an inventory and barrier assessment of all existing pedestrian assets. The physical inventory of facilities in the public right-of-way include 34 miles of sidewalk, 794 curb ramps, 84 signal pushbuttons, 144 bus stops, 326 driveways, 58 staircases, and 10 wheelchair ramps. Each asset was evaluated based on ADA design standards, which details the width, slope, location, etc.

The barrier assessment at facilities and parks identifies non-compliant features within City building entrances, pathways, bathrooms, docks, and parking lots. These barriers include non-compliant doors, ramps, drinking fountains, picnic tables, and more.

Prioritization (Transition Plan – Page 131)

ADA Transition Plan requirements include prioritization of each pedestrian asset based on a numerical score. Assets are scored independently on two factors: physical impact to accessibility and proximity to pedestrian destinations. The scores are used to categorize each asset on a scale of 1 to 75, indicating very high, high, medium, and low priority for barrier removal. This prioritization process will help inform project funding strategies.

Cost Estimates (Transition Plan – Page 50)

ADA Transition Plan requirements also include development of unit cost estimates for each barrier type using recent WSDOT and other construction bid tabulations, input from subject matter experts, and planning level cost assumptions. The estimates account for all design and construction costs, assuming contract-based construction. The total estimated cost to remove ADA barriers identified in the Transition Plan are summarized below in 2021 dollars:

- \$30,760,000 (public right-of-way)
- \$7,220,000 (parks)
- \$1,981,439 (City buildings) elements

For comparison, the City of Sammamish completed an ADA Transition Plan in 2021. Cost estimates for the same elements in the Sammamish Transition Plan were \$173 million (right-of-way), \$4.5 million (parks), and \$390k (buildings). For a city with 2.5 times the population of Mercer Island, the estimated costs were roughly 4.4 times higher.

Recommendations

The total investment outlined in the draft ADA Transition Plan is nearly \$40 million for the entire list of projects. As part of development of the final plan, staff will return to the City Council with a financing strategy to move forward improvement projects identified in the ADA Transition Plan.

The draft ADA Transition Plan recommends developing a two to five-year project plan to remove barriers. The plan also recommends that the City:

1. Evaluate all City programs and activities as they relate to ADA
2. Develop a process to track barrier removal
3. Develop a grievance process for accessibility concerns
4. Adopt a Citywide Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) policy
5. Develop a Maximum Extent Feasible (MEF) documentation and database

6. Review and clarify policies relating to accessibility and implementation of accessible features in construction projects

LOOKING AHEAD - ADOPTION OF THE PLAN

Following this meeting, the draft ADA Transition Plan will be made available for community input using Let's Talk for the next three weeks through February 22. Staff will promote the community engagement process across social media channels, the MI Weekly, and through other channels. Input from the community and the City Council will be used to prepare a revised version of the ADA Transition Plan, scheduled to be presented to the City Council at the April 5, 2022 meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive report and provide initial comments and feedback. No formal action required.