



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 01/18/2021

REQUESTER: Jesse Hill, ADA Technician

PRESENTER: Cinthya Allen, Chief Diversity and Equity Officer

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2122-80: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, ADOPTING THE 2021 ADA TRANSIT TRANSITION PLAN AS AN ADDENDUM TO THE 2018 SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLAN IN ORDER TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY FOR CITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, PROJECT DECISIONS, AND IMPROVEMENTS THAT ARE PLANNED AND GUIDED BY THE CURRENT AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT REQUIREMENTS.

BACKGROUND:

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was developed for the City of Norman in 2018 by Kimley-Horn Associates of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and in association with Accessology of McKinney, TX. The 2018 plan was developed to replace the former Transition Plan that had been in place since 1993. City Council adopted by Resolution R-1718-110, the 2018 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, as required by federal law, on June 26, 2018. The City's 2018 Transition Plan focused on accessibility at City-owned facilities and provided a schedule for compliance with sidewalk accessibility and Public Rights of Way. It was understood that the City would continue to evaluate remaining facilities and update the 2018 ADA Transition Plan over time. Council also adopted the following updated policy statement at that time:

It is the policy of the City of Norman that no person or groups of persons shall on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, age, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, familial status, marital status, including marriage to a person of the same sex, disability, retaliation, or genetic information, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in employment activities or in all programs, services, or activities administered by the City, its recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors. In the event of any comments, complaints, modifications, accommodations, alternative formats, and auxiliary aids and services regarding accessibility or inclusion, please contact the ADA Technician at 405-366-5424, Relay Service: 711. To better serve you, five (5) business days' advance notice is preferred.

On August 28, 2018, University officials advised City staff of their desire to transfer non-campus bus services in Norman to another operator by the end of the FYE 2019 fiscal year. Working with the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA) d/b/a EMBARK, the City was able to successfully transition the operations of the service without missing a day of service. The City has now operated the transit operations for a little over 2 years.

DISCUSSION:

Once the City began operating transit, there was a need to perform an ADA evaluation for the transit operations. The 2021 ADA Transit Transition Plan addendum to the 2018 Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan was developed internally through the Office of the City Manager and the Public Works Department. The following documents were used to develop the 2021 ADA Transit Transition Plan: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular: Guidance for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the U.S. Department of Transportation's implementing regulations at CFR Parts 27,37,38 and 39.

The purpose of the ADA Transit Transition Plan is to identify barriers that could significantly impact those individuals with disabilities in its programs, services and activities (PSA). City staff conducted audits of each transit bus stop, vehicle, and facility to ensure compliance. If anything was not in compliance, a remediation was proposed.

Once all of the audits were performed, staff compiled the information into a single document, the 2021 ADA Transit Transition Plan. On September 13, 2021, the plan was reviewed by the Citizen's ADA Transportation Sub-Committee and was recommended to be forwarded to the Citizen's ADA Advisory Committee. On December 13, 2021 that committee subsequently reviewed and recommended it be sent to City Council. Finally, the City Council Community Planning and Transportation Committee discussed the plan at its December 30, 2021 meeting and recommended it be forwarded to the full City Council for consideration.

Staff would like to share a note of appreciation to the all members of the Citizen's ADA Transportation Sub-Committee for their work over the past two-year span to deliver these recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution R-2122-80, adopting the 2021 Transit Transition Plan as an addendum to the 2018 ADA Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan, establishing a framework for reducing current barriers and sets priorities for future accessibility improvements for transit in Norman.