

## **City of Republic, MO – Safe Streets For All Narrative**

### **Grant Purpose: Supplemental ADA Transition Plan for MPO's Safety Action Plan**

The City of Republic, Missouri is requesting supplemental planning funds to enhance Ozarks Transportation Organization's regional safety action plan. Funds will be used to hire a consultant firm to complete a comprehensive ten-year update of Republic's ADA Transition Plan. The consultant will determine existing barriers to accessibility within city-owned and operated facilities as well as complete an inventory of ADA discrepancies present within sidewalks, ramps, and other aspects of city-maintained right-of-way. The third-party entity will recommend best practices for addressing ADA discrepancies, determine renovation and repair costs, and establish a phased action plan for ADA improvements. Additionally, the third-party entity will facilitate community listening sessions and engage with key stakeholders in the community.

The City of Republic's population increased from 14,751 in 2010 to 18,750 in 2020. The population is currently estimated at 20,500. Since 2020, 556 single family homes and 480 multi-family units were permitted. 2024 has seen no declines in construction. Growth and development leads to more infrastructure to maintain and a greater reliance on planning. The consultant's expertise will allow the City of Republic to identify issues of ADA non-compliance, prioritize and schedule infrastructure upgrades for ADA compliance, and secure financing to ensure the built environment is accessible for those with disabilities.

Ozarks Transportation Organization (OTO) is currently utilizing a FY2022 SS4A planning grant to create a regional safety plan. The regional safety plan will compile crash data and recommend modifications to infrastructure as well as technology-based solutions that will help the region attain Vision Zero. The plan will also evaluate existing policies, programs, and engineering practices for improvement opportunities. Lastly, the plan promotes Complete Streets to enhance pedestrian safety and walkability. While this plan is needed, it does not provide the City of Republic with an in-depth analysis of its infrastructure and areas where ADA improvements are needed. The supplemental planning grant will help strengthen the overall safety action plan.

### **Selection Criteria #1: Safety Impact**

The City of Republic had four motor vehicle-involved roadway fatalities between 2017 and 2021 (FARS). According to MoDOT's crash data, Republic had 44 Serious Injury Crashes and 51 Serious Injuries between 2017 and 2021. The total average annual fatality rate per 100,000 people is 4.26. The ADA Transition Plan will evaluate pedestrian hazards in the right-of-way as well as identify where ramps and sidewalks are non-compliant with ADA standards. The consultant will identify; (1) where sidewalks or paths are too steep or narrow, (2) discontinuities in the sidewalk system, (3) missing or inadequate detectable warning systems, (4) problems with the curb ramps, (5) grading issues, (6) inadequate landing space, and (7) other ADA compliance issues. The consultant will also identify the costs to fix these issues and recommend a phased approach for improvements. Once addressed, these modifications to the right-of-way will significantly increase pedestrian safety.

### **Selection Criteria #2: Equity**

The City of Republic has a population of 18,750; 245 individuals are Black or African American, 704 are Hispanic or Latino, 114 are American Indian, 152 are Asian, 7 are Pacific Islander, 218 are Some Other Race, 1,536 are Multiracial, and 16,478 are White (2020 Census Data). The median household income is \$63,102, 18.0% of the population is over 65, 6.8% are veterans, the disability rate is 14.1%, and 13.3% live below the federal poverty rate (2022 ACS 5 Year Estimates). The City of Republic occupies Tracts 29077004802 (36.84% below 200% of FPL), 29077004803 (25.86% below 200% FPL), 29077004804 (41.46% below 200% FPL) and 29077004805 (6.72% below 200% of FPL) as reported by USDOT's Equitable Transportation Community Explorer.

The ADA Transition Plan will identify physical obstacles that make it difficult for individuals with disabilities to access the transportation network equitably. The consulting entity will engage in community outreach to ensure those with disabilities are included in the planning process. Having a documented plan will enable the city to pursue grants, allocate local dollars, and work to build a more equitable environment in the right-of-way and publicly owned facilities.

### Selection Criteria #3: Additional Safety Context

The City of Republic completed their last ADA Transition Plan in 2016. The plan is maintained and implemented due to oversight, direction, and tasks completed by the Planning and Development Manager, which serves as the ADA Coordinator, the Senior Infrastructure Inspector, two engineers, and one project manager. These individuals will provide oversight for the creation of the ADA Transition Plan alongside the consulting body. They will also manage the plan's adoption by the city and its long-term implementation.

The implementation of the ADA Transition Plan will reduce the likelihood of roadway fatalities involving pedestrians. City of Republic staff and the consultant entity will document their findings within the city's ESRI GIS software system. This will allow the community to document issues that need to be addressed as well as track ADA improvements as they are made.

The City and consultant entity will engage public and private stakeholders through social media posts and community listening sessions focused on the ADA Transition Plan. Private citizens will be able to report ADA compliance issues within the right-of-way and submit them for aggregation and integration within the final Transition Plan. The City of Republic will actively engage the local senior center, Empower Abilities, and other advocacy groups focused on accessibility throughout the planning process. When selecting a consulting entity, the City of Republic will evaluate each applicant's understanding of evidence-based practices relevant to ADA compliance. This will ensure that the plan informs the adoption of innovative technologies and processes designed to promote safety and equity.

The final ADA Transition Plan will become a part of Ozarks Transportation Organization's regional safety plan. The supplemental document will serve as an example of ADA Transition Planning and help inform strategies that can be used by other communities within the region. SS4A supplemental planning dollars will help update a 10 year old plan and increase capacity for ADA compliance within the City of Republic.