



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** ADA Transition
Plans

Date: JUN 27 2019

From: Irene Rico 
Associate Administrator

In Reply Refer To:
HCR-40

To: Division Administrators
Civil Rights Specialist

THIS MEMORANDUM SUPERSEDES THE OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS' (HCR) NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEMORANDUM IN ITS ENTIRETY.

PURPOSE: To explain new process for review of submitted ADA transition plans (TPs). The TP review process is being delegated to Division Administrators in the 14 States that do not have either a self-certified TP or a TP that was found to meet the regulatory minimum attributes by the FHWA TP Review Team.

BACKGROUND: Over the last three years, FHWA has worked to ensure that every State, along with the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, has an ADA Transition Plan (TP) that meets the minimum attributes provided in the Department of Justice's ADA Title II regulations, found at 28 CFR 35.150(d). In November of 2015, HCR issued guidance laying out the process for reviews of submitted TPs by an FHWA national review team. To date, 38 States (including DC) have a transition plan in place. Of these, 14 TPs have been vetted by the Team and found to have met the minimum regulatory attributes, and 24 TPs are self-certified plans. Over the course of the last year, that number has held steady at 38.

STATUS: The 38 jurisdictions that already have TPs in place, including the 24 self-certified States, can implement those TPs while continuing to update and improve them. Of the 14 remaining jurisdictions, only two have not yet submitted any plan. The other 12 have submitted plans that have not yet been deemed to meet the minimum attributes. Those 12 States can continue to update and improve those TPs before submitting them to the Division Offices in their States for review. The Resource Center is available to assist any of the 50 jurisdictions with submitted plans in updating and improving their TPs. The two jurisdictions that have not yet submitted TPs will be offered individual TA visits to assist them with getting plans in place so they can be submitted to the Division Offices in those States for review.

BENEFITS: FHWA's efforts over the last three years to assist States in developing and improving their TPs have been successful, but the process has sometimes been cumbersome. By delegating the remaining TP review to DAs and continuing plan

improvement efforts, we can continue to work collaboratively with States in a more productive way than under the current process. FHWA can maintain positive working relationships with the States through a more streamlined process that leverages the Division Offices' working relationships with the State DOTs. The DAs have local knowledge and relationships in their States to ease collaboration efforts to better implement TPs.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

The U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) ADA Title II regulations at 28 CFR 35.150(d) set forth a list of minimum transition plan requirements as follows:

1. Identification of the official responsible for implementation of the transition plan (See 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(iv));
2. An inventory of barriers (i.e., identification of physical obstacles) (See 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(i) & 28 CFR 35.105(a));
3. A prioritized schedule of when barriers will be eliminated and deficiencies corrected (See 28 CFR 35.150(d)(2) & 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(iii)); and
4. A description of the methods that will be used to make facilities accessible (See 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(ii)).

More details about each requirement are available in the attached tools, "State DOT Transition Plan Attributes Review Guide" (Review Guide) and "Transition Plan Review Tool" (Tool). These tools are provided to assist Division Administrators in their review of TPs in States that do not have either a self-certified TP or a TP that was found to meet the regulatory minimum attributes by the FHWA TP Review Team. If you believe that the State's TP does not meet the minimum attributes, you should work with the State DOT to address the identified deficiencies. When the deficiencies, if any, are sufficiently addressed, the Division Administrator will notify the State DOT. HCR and the Resource Center are available to provide technical assistance upon request.

LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCIES (LPAs): LPAs are required to conduct self-evaluations of the accessibility of pedestrian facilities in their public rights-of-way and to correct deficiencies by making necessary modifications. In addition, LPAs with fifty or more employees are required to have a TP. FHWA will not review TPs from LPAs as a matter of course. When FHWA investigates a complaint filed against an LPA, FHWA will review the LPA's compliance with the self-evaluation and TP requirements as part of its investigation. While FHWA review of an LPA's TP is not required, a Division Office may assist LPAs with TPs and/or review LPA TPs if it wishes to do so.

POINTS OF CONTACT: If you have any questions related to this memorandum, please contact Sharon Field at sharon.field@dot.gov or Patrick Gomez at patrick.gomez@dot.gov

State _____

State DOT Transition Plan Attributes Review Guide:

All Elements posted conspicuously on website, for internal and external use

Transition Plan Attribute	Review Comments
<p>Official responsible for implementation of the TP, i.e., Executive Director, Secretary, Commissioner, Chief Engineer, etc. 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(iv)</p>	
<p>Inventory of barriers (identification of physical obstacles) 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(i); 28 CFR 35.105 (a) – State demonstrates good faith by identifying intersection information, including curb ramps and other associated accessibility elements, as a starting point and showing movement and commitment toward developing a full inventory.</p> <p>Require an Action Plan to develop an inventory of sidewalks (slopes, obstructions, protruding objects, changes in levels, etc.), signals (APS), bus stops (bus pads), buildings, parking, rest areas (tourist areas, picnic areas, visitor centers, etc.), mixed use trails, linkages to transit.</p> <p>Best practice - have discussion of jurisdictional issues/responsibilities for sidewalks</p>	
<p>Schedule – Show a strong commitment toward upgrading ADA elements identified in the inventory of barriers in the short term (planned capital improvement projects) and a strong commitment over time toward prioritizing curb ramps at walkways serving entities covered by the ADA. 28 CFR 35.150(d)(2) This would also include prioritization information, planning, and investments directed at eliminating other identified barriers over time. 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)</p> <p>Best practice - dedicate resources to eliminate identified ADA deficiencies</p>	
<p>Describe in detail the Methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible. 28 CFR 35.150(d)(3)(ii)</p> <p>Best practice – include the Standard that the STA is following (i.e., 2010 ADAAG, 2011 PROWAG)</p>	
Other ADA Requirements	Review Comments
<p>Public Involvement – Description of process to allow public to readily access and submit comments for both self-evaluation and transition plan. 28 CFR 35.150(d)(1); 28 CFR 35.105(b)</p> <p>Best practices: a) detailed list of individuals consulted posted conspicuously on website, does not have to be in actual TP, but must be documented and available; b) have both electronic and hard copy notice. 28 CFR 35.105(c)</p>	
<p>ADA policy statement is a requirement of State Agencies, but does not have to be in the TP per se, but it is a good practice and needs to be easily accessible by the public. 28 CFR 35.106</p> <p>Best practice - post conspicuously on website, for internal and external use</p>	
<p>Clear identification of the ADA Coordinator (dedicated trained staff) with contact information (i.e., name, office address, telephone number, email address, fax number) 28 CFR 35.107(a)</p>	
<p>Clear Complaint/Grievance Process to receive and address complaints/grievances from the public (is a requirement of State Agencies, but does not have to be in the TP per se, but it is a good practice and needs to be easily accessible by the public). 28 CFR 35.107(b)</p>	
<p>REVIEWER _____</p>	<p>DATE _____</p>