ADA Access and Inclusion

ADA Compliance Specialist Michele Stokes, Office of Strategic Management & Diversity
ADA Compliance with ADA Liaisons

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Process accommodation and modifications of policy requests
- Address complaints, referrals, requests, and inquiries
- Training, policy reviews, site plan reviews
- Review budget for ADA implementation
- Apply for grants for inclusion projects
- ADA Transition Plan work flow with city departments
- Legislative involvement with City Manager’s Office
Mayor’s Commission on Disability Concerns

- Involvement on CIP projects access and inclusion
- Coordinate Mayor’s Disability Awards
- Host:
  - Access Tempe Network
  - Deaf/Hard of Hearing/Disability Job Fair
  - Youth Mock Interview Appaloosa
  - Hearing Loss Association of America Meetings
  - Quarterly speakers on disability topics
At the City of Tempe, accessibility is a part of everyday life. From accessible playgrounds to wide, flat cityscapes, from assistive listening devices to large print documents, we will provide the access that you need. We want everyone to be able to live, work, and play in Tempe.

Currently, the City is evaluating what needs to be removed, changed, or repaired to become more accessible for all its residents and visitors. This evaluation will form the basis of Tempe’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan.

Contents
- Why Is Accessibility Important?
- Self-Evaluation & Transition Plan
- Technology & Data
Becoming a More Accessible City

Explore Data
- All Layers
- Corridors
- Curb Ramps
- Parking & Park Facilities
- Pedestrian Crosswalk / Traffic Signal
- Pedestrian Islands
- Phase Areas
- Sidewalk Cross Slope
- Sidewalk Obstructions
- Transit Stops

For more information on the ADA Transition Plan content and data evaluated, please visit the City of Tempe ADA Transition Plan page.
Curb Ramps & Crosswalks

Curb ramps are an essential engineering design that makes mobility from a sidewalk surface to a crosswalk possible. In the self-evaluation process, curb ramps are classified as "none" (a curb without a ramp) or as one of the 5 different kinds of curb ramps. At each location, field technicians note the ramp’s running slope, cross slope, flared sides, landing area slope, detectable warning systems, and the transition from ramp to pavement.

Common Barriers

Missing or Non-Compliant Detectable Warning Systems & Landings
Truncated domes are small dome-shaped bumps that cover the curb ramps and are a type of detectable warning system (DWS). Detectable warning stems like the domes are designed to be felt underfoot, or under a cane or wheelchair by people who are blind or have low vision, alerting them that the pedestrian sidewalk is transitioning to a crosswalk in the roadway.

Landings refer to the presence of a flat, level area at the bottom and top of a ramp and allow for proper maneuvering such as a person who uses a wheelchair changing direction.

No Ramps at Crosswalk
When a location doesn’t have a curb ramp where one is warranted, it creates an obstacle for accessing places and a possible hazard.
Sidewalks

Tempe’s evaluation areas cover major street corridors including sidewalks, curb ramps, crossing signals, bus stops, public parking and parks throughout the city. The next sections show examples of these types of identified barriers that need to be removed, changed or fixed.

Sidewalk evaluation includes running slopes and cross slopes, obstructions, joint heaving (bumps or changes in level), joint gaps (spaces or cracks) and driveway crossings. Sidewalks that have access issues tend to be constructed before the ADA.

Common Barriers

Sidewalk Cross Slopes that Exceed the Two Percent Maximum
The degree that a sidewalk tilts across its width is the cross slope. When the sidewalk cross slope is too steep, the ease with which a person who uses a wheelchair, cane or walker can propel forward while maintaining control and balance may become difficult. The ADA standard is a two percent cross slope and most of the sidewalk cross slope problems in Tempe are minor.
New strategies:

- “Easy English” ADA Summary report in large print at 5th grade reading level
- Request feedback on “priority” at health & wellness community fairs
ADA Transition Plan - Public Involvement

- New strategies:
  - Prioritization - What should we fix first - Right of Way amenities
New strategies: Extending “Public Involvement” outreach to two months

- Apache ASL Trails - Deaf Senior Housing Community
- The Center for Habilitation (TCH) – Developmental and Physical
- Hearing Loss Assoc. of America (HLAA) - Hard of Hearing
- Southern Az. Assoc. for the Visually Impaired (SAAVI) – Blind/Low Vision
Access Tempe

- Resources for disability services in East Valley
Access Tempe

**Communication**
Resources that serve people who are deaf, hard of hearing or who have speech limitations.

**Vision**
Resources that serve people who have vision loss or blindness.

**Movement**
Resources that serve people who require services regarding mobility, dexterity or physical coordination.

**Thinking**
Resources that serve people who require services pertaining to thinking, reasoning or cognition.

**Caregiving**
Resources that serve people who require caregiving or support for caregivers.

**Behavioral**
Resources that provide services to improve behavioral health, psychological or emotional health.

**General**
Resources that serve people with multiple disabilities or general services, i.e. advocacy, transportation, recreation, etc.
Inclusion - Gila River Indian Community Grant: ADA Transit Wayfinding Pilot

- $30,000 grant
  - Develop Transit Wayfinding Pilot with riders who are blind
- Purpose
  - Provide electronic landmarks, bus stop, & scheduling information via beacons with an audible app developed by the City of Tempe and ASU. IT development: Dr. Stephanie Dietrich, GEO Info Systems Manager
- Status
  - Evaluation Phase: Life Quest Training and Consulting, LLC
- Upon successful completion
  - Replicate to all Tempe bus stops
Gila River Indian Community Grant: ADA Transit Wayfinding Pilot
Gila River Indian Community Grant: ADA Transit Wayfinding Pilot

You are in the Tempe Transit Center Smart Hub
You are pointed East
You're near the South West Entrance to the Tempe Transit Center. You are pointed East. To the South of you is 5th Street and the 5th Street Crosswalk. To the West a few feet away is the South West entrance to the Transit Center. Please be careful, if you are heading North or West, there is a Bus path that buses use to enter the transit center.
Inclusion - Arizona Community Foundation Grant: Induction Hearing Loop Installation

- $23,000 grant
  - Installation of Hearing Loops in Tempe Public Library meeting rooms to serve guest using hearing aids & cochlear implants
- Purpose
  - Inclusion of guests in meetings, services, activities and events.
- Status
  - Installation procurement process
- Supports
  - ACDHH and HLAA
Challenges

- Integrating ADA Transition Plan data into workflow processes:
  - Community Development Projects
  - CIP Projects
  - Transportation & Engineering Plan Review processes
  - Funding processes
Challenges

- Keeping up with new technology and its value in access and inclusion:
  - Auxiliary Aids in renovations or new construction
  - Employee accommodations and new technology in the workplace

- Policy, direction, and training:
  - Mental Health Accommodation Strategies
  - Reduction of ADA rights due to law changes on state or local levels

- Prioritization of Funding