

PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ACCESSIBILITY TRANSITION PLAN



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Introduction

The City of Fairhope has an expansive pedestrian system that links neighborhoods, recreational resources, government facilities, retail centers and business establishments. Pedestrian accessibility provides benefits not only for people with disabilities, but for the community at large. In an effort to continuously improve the pedestrian system, this document was prepared in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to serve as the Public Right-of-way Accessibility Transition Plan for the City of Fairhope. Included in this document are the results of a self-evaluation that addresses accessibility barriers to the City's programs, activities and services.

Legal Requirements

The federal legislation known as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted on July 26, 1990 and later amended effective January 1, 2009, provides comprehensive civil rights protections to qualified persons with disabilities from discrimination on the basis of disability. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination in all services, programs, and activities provided to persons with disabilities by State and local governments, including transportation. City's with more than 50 full or part-time employees are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA and then establish a plan to correct any deficiencies. A self-evaluation is also required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act for all entities receiving federal financial assistance, including federal highway aid for transportation projects. The process of self-evaluation for accessibility provides a framework for communities to develop a Transition Plan that identifies barriers, prioritizes actions to address barriers and then sets forth a schedule to implement those actions.

The Transition Plan used to implement compliance must include the following elements:

- Determine the physical barriers in the public right of way that limit accessibility
- Provide public notice and opportunity for public participation
- Develop a grievance procedure
- Adopt design standards and guidelines
- Prepare a self-evaluation
- Designate officials responsible for implementation



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This Transition Plan incorporates these elements and provides a method for the City of Fairhope to schedule and implement ADA required improvements to existing pedestrian sidewalks and pathways.

Officials Responsible for Implementation

The official Responsible for the implementation of the City of Fairhope's ADA Transition Plan for pedestrian facilities in the right of way is:

Mr. Jonathan I. Smith
ADA Coordinator/Planning Director
Address:
555 S. Section Street
Fairhope, Alabama 36533
Phone:
Office Number: 251-990-2884
Fax Number: 251-990-2879

Mrs. Jennifer Fidler
Public Works
Address:
555 S. Section Street
Fairhope, Alabama 36533
Phone:
Office Number: 251-928-9003
Fax Number: 251-990-2879

Public Input

The City of Fairhope provided the opportunity for individual s to comment on this Transition Plan. The Transition Plan was made available on the City's website at www.cofairhope.com and by request to the ADA coordinator or the City Clerk's Office. Any resident of the City of Fairhope may address their concerns or comments to the ADA Coordinator listed in this document.

Public Complaint Process

The public complaint process is an integral part of the Transition Plan. This process is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Public complaints or requests may often drive prioritization of improvements.

It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of accessibility of a curb ramp or sidewalk located in the City of Fairhope. The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged accessibility issue such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request. The complaint should be submitted



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by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to the ADA Coordinator.

The ADA Coordinator or their designee will route the complaint to the appropriate City department head for inspection and possible action. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator or their designee will respond in writing, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the City of Fairhope and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint. All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator, and responses from these offices will be retained by the City for at least three years.

Self-Evaluation

IDENTIFYING BARRIERS

An element of ADA Title II compliance requires the City of Fairhope examine its services, policies, and practices and the effects thereof to determine whether there are barriers to participation by people with disabilities. For this Public Right-of-way Accessibility Transition Plan, the process includes the identification of existing and planned accessible paths of travel for public facilities and programs to facilitate prioritization.

For cities with responsibility or authority over streets, roads and walkways, the self-evaluation and Transition Plan must include curb ramps and other pedestrian facilities. Curb ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian signals, driveway crossings and other pedestrian facilities are to be reviewed for compliance with recent design standards. For example, specific items for curb ramps that are to be reviewed include the presence of appropriate detectable warnings, slopes, level landings, and algebraic slope changes from the ramp to the street surface.

The City of Fairhope has identified and assessed barriers in the public right of way through the use of an inventory tool. In order to remove these barriers to accessibility, Fairhope utilizes many different approaches including proactively identifying and eliminating the barrier, responding to public complaints, and ensuring the appropriate design and build-out of new construction follows the most recent design guidelines.

BARRIER REMOVAL PRIORITIES

The City bases barrier removal priorities are curb ramps first then sidewalks and are based on two factors: location and the accessibility condition of the intersection.

Location Priority

The City has identified its location priority as follows:

1. Intersections serving government facilities and Public Use Facilities



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- State and Local Government Buildings
 - Hospital/Medical Clinics
 - Schools
 - Access to Public Parks/Transit
2. Intersections serving commercial and employment centers (downtown area)
 3. Intersections serving other areas (such as residential)

PRIORITY RANK

In order to determine the overall priority of an intersection, the City is using a Red, Yellow, and Green ranking system.

1. Red – Non ADA-Compliant needing replacement or not having a curb ramp
2. Yellow – Non ADA-Compliant needing repair
3. Green – ADA-Compliant

Note: Repairs to intersections and sidewalks will be dependent upon the annual budget and the location ranking of each intersection, each fiscal year the city shall prepare a list of proposed items to be considered in the upcoming fiscal year for the City Council to vote and approve. Ramp and sidewalk replacement and/or repairs for compliance may be grouped within a geographic location in order to maximize the use of potential funds.

NEW CONSTRUCTION & ALTERATIONS

In order to ensure the correct design of curb ramps, sidewalks, and crosswalks in new construction and alterations, the City follows the Alabama Department of Transportation design specifications and drawings. The City has also incorporated minimum design standards and drawings to its subdivision regulations and requires the developer of a new subdivision to construct curb ramps, landings, sidewalks and crosswalks during the construction of its roadway infrastructure to meet current ADA design guidelines. Whenever there is an intersection improvement project, resurfacing project or new construction project, any affected curb ramp, sidewalk, and crosswalk will be rebuilt to these ADA design guidelines.

Schedule

The City of Fairhope has approximately 104 miles of existing sidewalks, 424 Crosswalks and 956 Curb Ramps. There is an estimated \$8,600,000.00 in repairs and replacements needed to bring the existing pedestrian infrastructure into ADA compliance. The City of Fairhope has committed to budget a minimum of \$50,000.00 per fiscal years 2017-2022, to fund the repairs needed to correct its existing infrastructure. The first 3 years (fy 2017-2019) the City will focus on installing truncated domes to existing curb ramps that meet cross slope and longitudinal slope requirements totaling nearly 300. Also in year in year 3 the City will begin to repair and replace



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remaining existing curb ramps that exceed ADA cross slope or longitudinal slope requirements. In addition to replacing non ADA compliant curb ramps, the City will repair or replace sidewalk segments between intersections correcting cross slope, cracking, and obstruction issues.

The City will review progress on the ADA program at each budgeting period and add additional funds depending on financial constraints. The City will increase a minimum of \$25,000.00 every 5 years. Focus will continue to be based on barrier removal around government facilities, then hospitals facilities, schools, downtown, etc.

The entire sidewalk system was field surveyed in 2016 and mapped as part of the Self-Evaluation on the City's Arc GIS computer system. The City can evaluate the current status of the ADA program at any time. Projects will be selected each fiscal year based on funding and proposed to the City Council for approval. At the end of each ADA project, the City GIS staff will update the data to include the year the item/items were repaired or replaced and update its condition from Non-compliant to Compliant.

As opportunity allows, the City of Fairhope will make efforts to improve the ADA Accessibility of pedestrian facilities in the public right of way. However, there will be times when it is technically infeasible to provide technical compliance: for example, if clear space at the top of the ramp is obstructed by a building or the slope of a hill is so extreme as to prevent a reasonable slope for a ramp in both directions. The inventory process may not account for such situations and could show a high-priority rating when all feasible actions have been taken. In situations such as previously described the City shall document its findings.

The City of Fairhope has invested in upgrading its ADA Accessibility over the last several years by including ADA upgrades to roads being resurfaced as well as requiring developers to install ADA compliant curb ramps and landings in newly constructed subdivisions. Improvements include replacing/ repairing curb ramps, landings, sidewalks and crosswalks have been included on projects such as Resurfacing and Median Improvements to Fairhope Avenue. Included in this project, the City utilized in-house personnel to construct and install 5 new ADA compliant crosswalks with median safe zones located between Bancroft and Greeno Road. The City relocated roadway drainage structures to other locations to remove the ADA Barrier and allow sidewalks to be straightened out and brought into compliance, added truncated domes to all curb ramps and restriped the crosswalks as well.

Additionally, given a program as broad as the city of Fairhope's pedestrian network, the City will follow the concept of Program Access under Title II of the ADA. Program Access does not necessarily require a public entity to make each of its existing facilities accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, as long as the program as a whole is accessible. Under this concept, the City may choose not to install a sidewalk at some locations, or install them as a lower priority later, as long as a reasonable path of travel is available even without the sidewalk.



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Monitor Progress

In order to be effective, the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Transition Plan needs to be utilized in planning and funding decisions. Therefore, it is important to update the Plan regularly to reflect changes in real world conditions and to address any possible new areas of non-compliance. Regular updates will also result in monitoring compliance and the effectiveness of priorities set in the plan itself.

The City of Fairhope intends to implement this Plan effective immediately from the date of this document. The City is committed to acting on the guidelines set forth in this document and also to actively revising and amending the Plan as progress is made.



City of Fairhope ADA Complaint/Grievance Form

Please complete and return to: City of Fairhope, ADA Coordinator,
555 South Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36533. By request,
reasonable accommodation will be provided in completing this form, or
copies of the form will be provided in alternative formats. Contact the
ADA Coordinator at the address listed above, via telephone
(251) 990-2884, fax (251) 990-2879,
e-mail: jonathan.smith@cofairhope.com
jennifer.fidler@cofairhope.com

Name of Complainant: _____

(If someone other than complainant is filling out form, please state relationship above)

Street Address of Complainant: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Street Address/Location of Complaint – Please be as specific as possible as to the location:

Please describe complaint (attach additional pages, if necessary): _____

Please describe below what you think may be done to resolve the complaint:

Signature: _____ Date: _____



City of Fairhope ADA Comment Form

Please complete and return to: City of Fairhope, ADA Coordinator,
555 South Section Street, Fairhope, Alabama 36533. By request,
reasonable accommodation will be provided in completing this form, or
copies of the form will be provided in alternative formats. Contact the
ADA Coordinator at the address listed above, via telephone
(251) 990-2884, fax (251) 990-2879,
e-mail: jonathan.smith@cofairhope.com
jennifer.fidler@cofairhope.com

Date of Comment: _____

Contact Information of Individual Submitting Comment

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

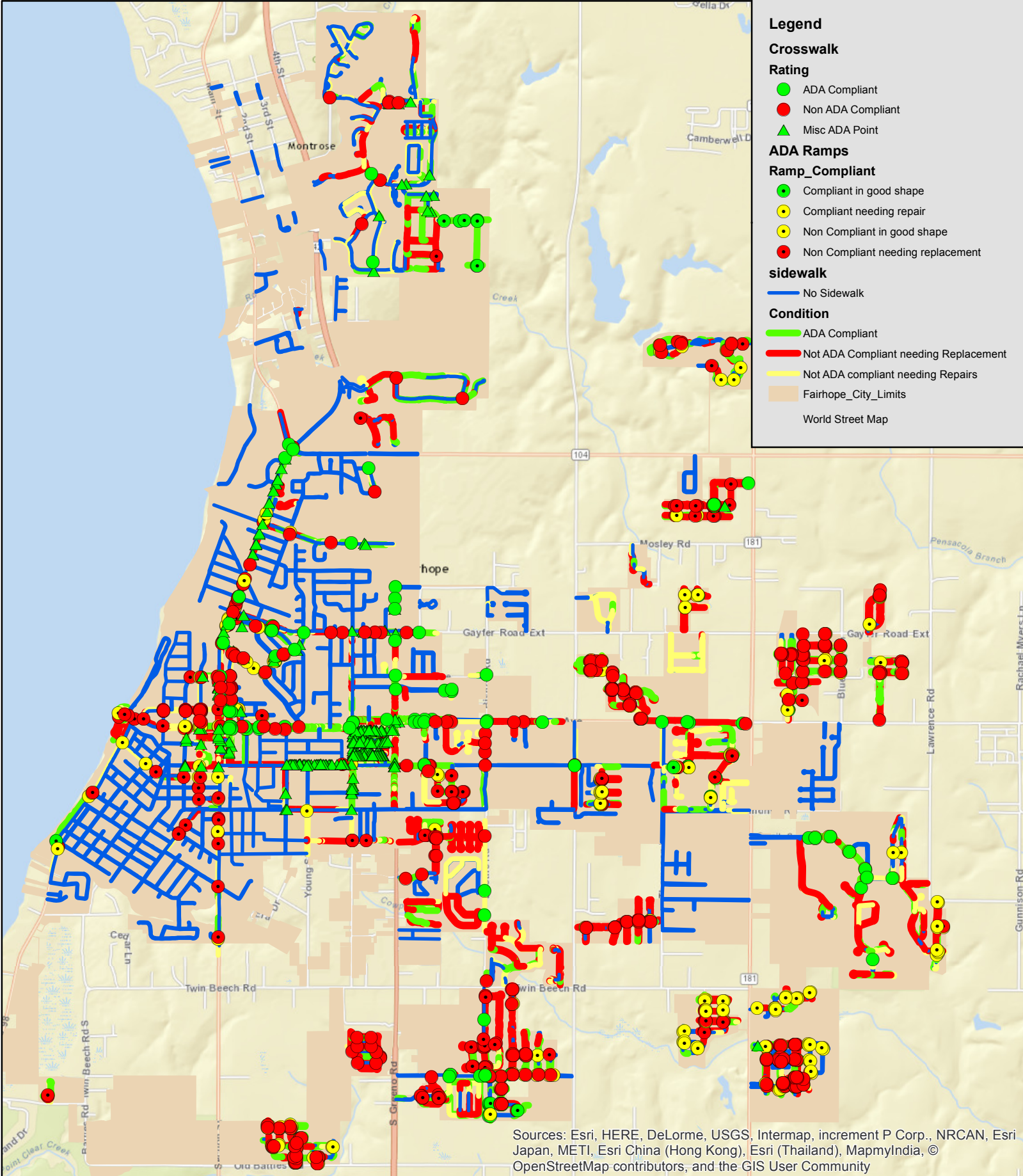
Preferred Method of Contact: E-Mail Telephone Mail

Please provide any comments that you have on the City of Fairhope's ADA Transition Plan (please use additional attachments as necessary):

Response (for the City of Fairhope use only) and Date of Response:

For Office Use: Date Received: _____ Received By: _____

*Please mail or Submit to: ADA Coordinator, City of Fairhope, 555 S. Section Street, Fairhope, AL 36533



Legend

Crosswalk

Rating

- ADA Compliant
- Non ADA Compliant
- ▲ Misc ADA Point

ADA Ramps

Ramp_Compliant

- Compliant in good shape
- Compliant needing repair
- Non Compliant in good shape
- Non Compliant needing replacement

sidewalk

- No Sidewalk

Condition

- ADA Compliant
- Not ADA Compliant needing Replacement
- Not ADA Compliant needing Repairs

— Fairhope_City_Limits

— World Street Map

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



City of Fairhope ADA Transition Plan



1 in = 1 miles