

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION

ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan Update

Elaine Acacio, Diversity and Inclusion Program Administrator, 452-4246

Blayne Amson, ADA/Title VI Program Administrator, 452-6168

City Manager's Office

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL**INFORMATION
ONLY**

Staff will provide an overview of steps taken to conduct an updated ADA self-evaluation and Transition Plan. The plan will be finalized in Q1 2019. While no action is required by Council to adopt the plan, tonight's presentation will highlight the public outreach process and alignment between the plan's goals and City programs, activities and services.

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS

The City of Bellevue is dedicated to ensuring that all City programs, services, activities and facilities operated or funded by the City are fully accessible to, and useable by, people with disabilities. In demonstrating that commitment, staff have prepared a comprehensive updated ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan (Attachment A) as part of the Diversity Advantage Initiative.

A self-evaluation serves as a comprehensive review of programs, activities and services operated by the City. This evaluation also identifies areas of growth in accessibility and ADA compliance and is also used to inform the transition plan, which outlines a plan for removing physical barriers to accessibility in the City's programs, activities and services. The ADA Self-evaluation and Transition Plan builds upon ongoing efforts to improve accessibility in the City of Bellevue over the years.

Background of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Signed into law in 1990, the ADA is a broad and sweeping civil rights act that prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, education, transportation and telecommunications.

Title II of the ADA applies to state and local governments and prohibits discrimination based on disability in government programs, services and activities. Title II requires that all programs, services, and activities be accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities. Access may be provided by making reasonable modifications to programs and services, or activities. Examples of these modifications include providing effective communication such as accessible websites, auxiliary aids and services such as sign language interpreters or materials in Braille or large format. Public entities should review their policies and eligibility criteria and modify them so they do not screen out individuals with disabilities. Agencies are also tasked with examining where physical barriers to access exist and

develop a plan to remove these barriers and make facilities accessible. The US Departments of Justice (DOJ), Transportation (DOT), Education (ED) and other agencies develop regulations and enforce Title II.

ADA Program

In early 2014, the Section 504/ADA Coordinating Team drew from decades of accessibility efforts to initiate development of a comprehensive ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan that incorporated the results of a departmental survey of program accessibility, public outreach efforts and assessments of City facilities, sidewalks, curb ramps and accessible pedestrian signals. While the role of ADA coordinator had previously been designated to a position with multiple responsibilities, a dedicated ADA/Title VI Program Administrator position was created in 2015. Following that addition, the City's ADA Core Team was chartered, with a purpose including development of an updated ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.

Making use of best practices for ADA programs and existing plans, the team reviewed best practices used by a number of other cities and counties, including the City of Seattle and King County, and working in conjunction with the Diversity Advantage Plan, began working to update the Citywide assessment of cultural competence and diversity needs. One immediate task was to update the data and develop concrete plans for using the results of the prior ADA program surveys, facility surveys, sidewalk, curb ramp and pedestrian signal self-assessments. Some barriers have already been removed in the intervening years, and changes in facility use or urban development patterns require re-prioritizing many of the findings. This Plan includes material reflecting these efforts and will serve as a baseline for additional evaluation and recommendations moving forward.

Other input considered in the development of the Plan included:

- City-sponsored accessibility open house events;
- Partnership with other agencies, including collaborating with King County Metro Access Services to survey residents who use Metro Access paratransit service;
- Development of relationships and public outreach processes to gain greater input and participation from disability consumer and advocacy organizations as well as local government personnel and members of the public with disabilities;
- Focus groups held in multiple locations soliciting feedback on June 19, 2018, July 17, 2018 and August 23, 2018. Additional opportunities to provide feedback were provided through an online survey, which was available in English, Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese.

Upon adoption of the Plan by the City Manager, staff will begin working to accomplish the recommendations found within both the self-evaluation and transition portions of the Plan.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The City has many policies regarding inclusion of the ADA, from citizen engagement, transportation and mobility, economic development, parks, recreation and open space, and design and development.

The ADA Administrator and core team have worked to ensure compliance and have already created or updated policy to reflect requirements of the ADA Transition Plan.

Fiscal Impact

As an ongoing practice, stakeholder departments have historically included costs of ADA compliance in their program budgets and will continue to do as work identified in the Transition Plan is implemented. Recommendations within the plan are largely ADA compliance, and were considered within the recently adopted 2019-2020 Operating Budget and 2019-2023 Capital Investment Program Plan.

OPTIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. 2018 Self Evaluation and Transition Plan Draft Update

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A