

NJDOT ADA Transition Plan – Public Involvement and Community Engagement Forum

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Location: MS Teams (Virtual)

ADA Coordinator/Facilitator: Chrystal Section Chrystal.Section@dot.nj.gov 609-963-2046

1. Welcome and Introductions

- ADA Coordinator, Chrystal Section welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the forum's purpose.

2. Purpose of the Forum

- To gather community and stakeholders' input on NJDOT's ADA Transition Plan.
- To identify barriers to accessibility in public infrastructure on NJDOT facilities
- To discuss strategies for inclusive engagement and implementation.

3. Presentation Highlights

- Overview of the ADA Transition Plan goals and timeline.
- NJDOT's ADA Coordinator emphasized the importance of public feedback and collaboration.
- Title II requirements include designating an ADA Coordinator, posting an ADA policy and grievance procedures, all available on NJDOT's website.
- NJDOT has completed a self-evaluation and developed a transition plan, which is a living document.
- The transition plan aims to be comprehensive and transparent and will include an ADA curb ramp inventory to identify non-compliant areas on state-owned roadways.
- Projects identified as non-compliant are scheduled for upgrades; a process is underway to formalize this curriculum.
- The self-evaluation identifies barriers like uneven slopes, inaccessible pedestrian push buttons, and construction zones.
- Evaluation methods include field inspections, surveys, checklists, and GIS mapping.

- Focus areas include government offices, medical facilities, school zones, parks, and public buildings.
- The transition plan outlines steps and schedules for modifications and serves as NJDOT's legal defense in case of ADA-related lawsuits.
- Stakeholders include internal NJDOT departments and external partners like Disability Rights NJ and senior centers.
- Outreach includes virtual forums, in-person meetings, and public information centers.
- Participants are encouraged to report ADA non-compliance via email or the website's comment section.
- All ADA-related materials (transition plan, grievance procedures, non-discrimination notices) are posted on NJDOT's ADA webpage.
- Reasonable accommodations and language assistance are available with five days' notice.
- Feedback is collected through surveys and the website; meeting minutes will be posted online.
- ADA resource links were shared, including NJDOT's ADA site and the U.S. Access Board.

4. Community and Stakeholder Feedback

- Stephen Lieberman from United Spinal Association introduced himself and offered his organization as a resource to NJDOT, emphasizing their long-standing advocacy for accessible transportation, including contributions to ADA provisions like kneeling buses and accessible subways. He noted his personal connection to New Jersey and expressed interest in ongoing collaboration. He highlighted serious challenges with accessible parking, citing a mismatch between the federal standard (2–4% of spaces) and the actual need (nearly 10% of vehicles have accessible placards). He also pointed out issues such as lack of awareness about access aisles, improper parking practices, and insufficient signage. Stephen added that during construction projects particularly at locations like strip malls accessible parking spaces are often blocked by equipment for extended periods. He noted that replacement accessible spaces are rarely provided elsewhere in the lot, creating ongoing access issues for people with disabilities. Chrystal acknowledged the concerns and welcomed future partnership.
- Linda Rapacki from NJTIP asked how to report observed ADA non-compliance, such as during travel instruction. Chrystal explained that reports can be submitted via email or through the NJDOT website's comment section, and they would be forwarded to the

appropriate department for review. Linda also asked whether the ADA Transition Plan includes transit infrastructure. Chrystal clarified that NJDOT's focus is on roadways and pedestrian facilities like sidewalks and curb ramps, while transit-related ADA compliance falls under New Jersey Transit and local municipalities. Linda acknowledged the distinction and emphasized the importance of addressing bus stop accessibility.

- Elise Bremer-Nei, NJDOT's Bike/Pedestrian Coordinator, asked about the status and implementation timeline of the ADA Transition Plan, including whether there is an annual list of locations across the state that have never been upgraded to ADA standards. Chrystal explained that the plan is updated annually and the next submission to Federal Highway is scheduled for November 1st. She noted that NJDOT is developing a curb ramp installation schedule to identify non-compliant areas on state-owned roadways and is working with roadway design standards to improve accessibility. Chrystal also mentioned that updates on ADA guidance under PROWAG are still pending, currently in the final comment stage. Elise acknowledged the information and thanked Chrystal for the clarification.

5. Voting and Decisions

- Chrystal emphasized the importance of making the ADA Transition Plan forum a recurring event rather than a one-time session. She proposed holding meetings at least twice a year, possibly quarterly, and welcomed input on frequency and format.
- Participants expressed support for biannual meetings, with preferences for virtual sessions due to accessibility. Chrystal confirmed the next meeting would likely take place in the spring and would be announced via social media and the NJDOT website. She also mentioned plans to have the curb ramp inventory ready by then and encourage ongoing collaboration. Joseph from Dewberry Engineers suggested including ACEC in future invitations.

Decision: The ADA Transition Plan Public Forum will be convened twice per year.

6. Action Items

- A motion was introduced to hold two public forums annually to ensure consistent community input.

7. Adjournment

- Attendees were thanked for their participation and encouraged to stay engaged through future forums and updates.

Attendees/Contact Information:

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