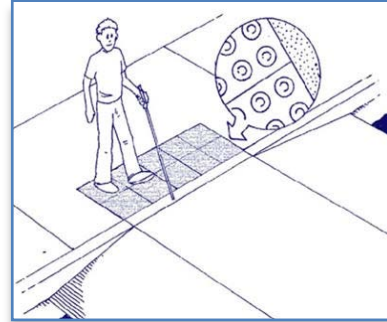




2010 DRAFT TRANSITION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010 Draft Transition Plan, and the process by which it was developed, reflects a substantive effort by the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and its Division of Civil Rights (Division) to reinvigorate and accelerate program efforts focused on accessibility of public facilities, programs, and policies by persons with disabilities. In 2009, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) directed the Division to make increased strides to fulfill requirements of ADA Title II through various programmatic elements, including the designation of a formal staff coordinator responsible for cross-departmental Title II efforts, provision of public notice regarding ADA requirements, adoption and publishing of grievance procedures, development of a self-evaluation of existing physical barriers, and the creation of a Transition Plan for removing identified barriers. In addition to creating a program framework for Title II, in 2010 the Division conducted ADA training for about 500 staff at NJDOT Headquarters and regional offices. Since then, training sessions have been extended to local public agencies throughout New Jersey. As another key accomplishment, the Division also oversaw major and minor accessibility improvements at three regional facilities, the NJDOT Headquarters Building, and two State Welcome Centers.



The most substantive and far-reaching requirement of the Transition Plan is the development of a phased schedule for providing curb ramps along pedestrian crossings where NJDOT has identified and inventoried physical barriers. NJDOT has been steadfastly working toward the goal of compiling a comprehensive inventory of these barriers through analysis of state roadway data. The 2010 Draft Transition Plan serves as the initial means for communicating NJDOT's overarching approach and commitment for improving its compliance efforts to its key stakeholders and program partners, including NJDOT, FHWA, and the public, including members of the disability community. It should be noted that the NJDOT Section 504/Title II program is a relatively new program within the Division of Civil Rights. Beyond its early efforts to establish a program structure and framework, NJDOT's Division of Civil Rights will continue to augment its ADA program activities using an incremental, phased-in approach.

While the Draft Transition Plan highlights activities that can be undertaken within a 10-year (long-term) time span, the Division of Civil Rights has already undertaken several activities to strengthen its existing program and making progress toward the outcomes anticipated from the Transition Plan process. As documented in the 2010 Draft Transition Plan, these steps include:

- Continued inventory efforts to develop a curb ramp installation schedule;
- Activities to assemble an external advisory/ stakeholder group for involvement in future Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan efforts;
- More fully engaging its internal expert resources, as reflected in the cross-functional membership of the current ADA Work Group; and
- Developing a stronger awareness within the Department and with the public by developing promotional materials, a Mission and Vision statement for the program, and establishing a stronger presence on the NJDOT intranet and Internet home pages of its web site.