

## **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination in access to jobs, public accommodations, government services, public transportation and telecommunications. The City of Tempe has undertaken a comprehensive multi-year approach to the re-evaluation of its policies, programs and facilities to determine the extent to which individuals with disabilities may be restricted in their access to City services, activities and facilities.

The City is currently developing an ADA Transition Plan that will guide the planning and implementation of necessary program and facility modifications over the next several years. The City of Tempe conducted an evaluation of the City's programs, and suggested modifications of building and public right-of-way facilities to ensure accessibility. These evaluations are the second phase of facility evaluations selected by the City staff. The plan will include one additional phase to complete the evaluation of the entire city. The ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update is significant in that it establishes the City's ongoing commitment to the development and maintenance of policies, programs and facilities that include all of its citizenry.

## **2. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OBJECTIVES**

The City of Tempe values public input and believes that community members should be engaged early on in decisions that affect them. The purpose of the Public Involvement Program (PIP) is to create an open and transparent process to guide the ADA Transition Plan resulting in a shared community vision.

The scope of the PIP is to:

- Provide objective information to assist the public in understanding the purpose of the ADA Transition Plan.
- Seek and encourage the involvement of all community members.
- Provide a variety of opportunities for the public to contribute ideas and provide feedback through all phases of the process.
- Make the process accessible and engaging to interested community members.
- Consider the public input in the implementation of the ADA Transition Plan.
- Provide an opportunity for public participation by all stakeholders including people with disabilities and those who speak other languages but have limited understanding of the English language.

### 3. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

An early step in the Public Involvement Program is to identify the internal and external community members that have an interest in the process.

#### Internal

- Mayor and Council
- City Departments
- Commission on Disability Concerns
- Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board
- Transportation Commission

#### External

- Residents, businesses & property owners in Tempe
- Accessibility community
- Educational Institutions
- Civic, Non-profit and Religious Groups

### 4. INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUES & COMMUNICATION APPROACH

Public involvement and communication techniques may vary depending on the phase of the planning efforts. The approach will be to facilitate working directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently noted, understood and considered.

While traditional methods (meetings, presentations, etc.) will still play an important role in public engagement, social media and electronic participation and communication tools will also be extensively used to disseminate information and broaden outreach, including considerations for limited English and English as a second language along with people with disabilities when gathering public comment.

The following dedicated websites and online URLs will be used to share information and to collect feedback throughout the process:

Website	<a href="http://www.tempe.gov/ADA">http://www.tempe.gov/ADA</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:michele_stokes@tempe.gov">michele_stokes@tempe.gov</a>
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/CityofTempe">http://www.facebook.com/CityofTempe</a>
Twitter	@tempegov
Newsroom	<a href="http://www.tempe.gov/newsroom">http://www.tempe.gov/newsroom</a>
Comments	<a href="http://www.tempe.gov/forms">http://www.tempe.gov/forms</a>

Some or all of the following methods will also be used to achieve broad and continuous public participation:

- Documents will be posted on the project website.
- Comment forms will be available at the ADA Transition Plan public meetings.
- Online comment forms will be available throughout the duration of the project.
- Presentations to stakeholder Boards and Commissions.
- Bi-lingual communication and ASL Interpreter services as requested

The communication methods used will include:

- Press releases / Tempe Today articles
- Brochures and posters located in common public areas of city facilities
- Social media posts on city's Twitter/Facebook w/ meeting and public input information
- Bulletin boards with meeting and public input information played on Tempe 11
- Public meeting dates posted on City online calendar
- Project web site regularly updated
- Handouts at other city events and meetings including the Mayor's Disability Awards
- Email notification to Neighborhood & HOA's with meeting and public input information
- Email notification to Ability 360 (Statewide Independent Living Center) list

## 5. PRESENTATIONS / PROJECT TIMELINE

- **March 2018: Public meetings and notification**
- March 5, 2018: Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns monthly meeting
- March 9, 2018: Council Friday Packet
- March 13, 2018: ADA Transition Plan Open House
- March 20, 2018: Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors Planning Committee
- March 21, 2018: Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board
- March 22, 2018: Tempe Accelerates Presentation to city departments and the public
- **April 2018: Stakeholder meetings: Events and with Accessibility organizations**
- April 4, 2018: Presentation to Site Plan Reviewers, Community Development
- April 9, 2018: Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns monthly meeting
- April 17, 2018: Mayor's Disability Awards – Materials shared with over 200 attendees
- April 21, 2018: Care fair Health and Wellness – Materials shared at Community event
- **May 2018: Stakeholder meetings: commissions, public, and Accessibility organizations.**
- May 3, 2018: Southern Arizona Association for the Visually Impaired (Blind / Low Vision)
- May 7, 2018: Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns
- May 8, 2018: Transportation Commission
- May 9, 2018: Library Department Staff Meeting
- May 12, 2018: Stakeholder- Hearing Loss Association of America (Hard of Hearing)
- **June 2018: Stakeholder meetings: Accessibility organizations**
- June 4, 2018: The Center for Habilitation (Developmental /Intellectual)

## **6. PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULING, LOCATION & ACCESS**

There will be a general public meeting open house held to inform the public about the ADA Transition Plan and to gather input from residents. Public meetings will be scheduled at times that help maximize attendance. Meetings will be held in locations accessible to persons with disabilities and will be held as near as possible to transit routes when possible. With 48 hours advance notice, special assistance will be provided for persons with sight and/or hearing impairments; a Spanish language translator can also be made available for the meeting.

- Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns meetings: March, April, May and June 2018
- Public meetings: March 13, 2018, 10 am to noon and 5 – 7 pm at Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Road, Room B.
- Transportation Commission: May 8, 2018
- Parks, Recreation, Golf and Double Butte Cemetery Advisory Board meeting: March 21, 2018

## **7. RESPONSIBLE DOCUMENTATION**

Documentation of all phases of the process will occur for future use and understanding of how the program worked, what comments were received and how the results of the public involvement were used in the ADA Transition Plan.

Documentation will include:

- The Public Involvement Program
- List and samples of outreach and communication documents
- Database of participant contact information
- All public comments made
- Survey results

## **8. PROCESS EVALUATION & CONCLUSION**

The City of Tempe seeks continual improvement of all of its activities. An evaluation will be performed throughout the public involvement process to ensure the PIP is meeting participation requirements mandated by state law. Feedback opportunities related to public involvement techniques will be provided through the website and meetings and continuously reviewed.

This Public Involvement Plan may change as conditions change or additional resources become available. The most current information about upcoming meetings and comment opportunities will be available on the dedicated website.

For further information about the process, please contact the following City of Tempe staff:



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