

# ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN

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Orange County has prepared this ADA Transition Plan, to identify and address physical obstacles at County owned public facilities which limit accessibility, as part of the County's continued commitment to ADA compliance. This plan details the phases and timelines to:

- Conduct a self-evaluation to determine and identify any physical barriers which limit accessibility of its programs or activities at Orange County owned public facilities; and
- Identify provisions and/or modifications that can be implemented to make programs and services accessible; and
- Rank and prioritize the remediation of any barriers and developing a budget and schedule for those improvements.

### INTRODUCTION

ADA regulations require government entities to make their programs and services accessible to individuals with disabilities and prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability. These regulations also require a plan to address and eliminate structural barriers associated with access to public facilities. The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that Orange County identifies structural barriers to its public facilities and, where feasible, performs ADA compliant improvements to remove those barriers.

Orange County's ADA Transition Plan includes the following Phases:

**PHASE 1: IDENTIFY ORANGE COUNTY'S ADA COORDINATOR.**

**PHASE 2: IDENTIFY AND CATALOG PHYSICAL BARRIERS AT ALL ORANGE COUNTY OWNED PUBLIC FACILITIES WHICH LIMIT THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ITS PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, OR SERVICES, TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

**PHASE 3: IDENTIFY THE METHODS TO BE USED TO REMOVE BARRIERS LIMITING ACCESSIBILITY.**

**PHASE 4: DEVELOP A SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO ACHIEVE ACCESSIBILITY IN PUBLIC FACILITIES.**

### PHASE 1: Identify Orange County's ADA Coordinator

The Orange County ADA Coordinator is the Orange County Commissioner of Planning; contact information is as follows:

Alan J. Sorensen, AICP  
Orange County Department of Planning  
Orange County, NY  
845.615.3849  
asorensen@orangecountygov.com

## PHASE 2: Identify and catalog physical barriers at all Orange County owned public facilities

The second phase of the Orange County ADA Transition Plan will evaluate the County's public facilities for accessibility compliance. Officials from Orange County departments including Planning, Public Works, and Human Resources will coordinate to conduct accessibility evaluations of the following County facilities:

- Sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps along County owned roads.
- County owned, publicly accessed buildings.
- Parking lots serving County owned buildings for which the public accesses.

Over the next several months the County will begin evaluation of the sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps along the 305 miles of county owned roads. Due to the quantity of roads to be evaluated, this process is anticipated to extend into 2018.

For the evaluation of publicly accessible buildings and the parking lots serving those buildings, the Survey will incorporate relevant portions of the ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities, based on the most current ADA Standards for Accessible Design. County officials from the Planning, Public Works, and Human Resources Departments will coordinate to evaluate public buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps.

For each Orange County public facility assessed, a survey ("the Survey") will be completed. Any deficiencies and necessary improvements pertaining to structural barriers along with information regarding feasibility of needed improvements will be noted and recorded on the Survey. The Survey will contain the following ratings to assess the condition of each County building, parking lot, sidewalk, crosswalk, and curb ramp:

Rating 1 – Not Accessible: Significant discontinuity such as steps, no ramps, more than 100 feet of unpaved walkway, heaving, vertical displacement, other severe distress, flooding, etc.

Rating 2 – Partially Accessible: Not designed to current standards, problems with geometry of sidewalks, ramps and landings, no detectable warnings, handrails, etc.

Rating 3 – Accessible: May need additional improvements, for example circuitous routes, insufficient width, etc.

Rating 4 – Fully Accessible: Designed to current standards.

Rating 5 – Not Applicable: A facility not considered to require accessibility, for example, limited-access highways.

An enormous number of facilities will be evaluated in the Survey and therefore this will be a substantial undertaking. The evaluations will be scheduled to begin with outdoor facilities prior to the winter months in 2017 (so as to avoid snow cover or conditions that may impede a thorough review), followed by the remaining evaluations of outdoor facilities anticipated to be completed in 2018.

The results of all surveys will be added to the inventory of Public Facilities ("the Inventory"), which will serve as the central database for surveyed structural barriers. Evaluations of indoor facilities will continue during the winter months of 2017 and 2018. It is estimated that Phase 2 will be completed by **January 2019**.

## PHASE 3: Identify the methods to be used to remove barriers limiting accessibility

The third phase of the Orange County ADA Transition Plan is to develop a method to remove barriers, including identifying the nature of needed improvements, determining the structural feasibility of the improvements needed to meet the ADA standards, and prioritizing any necessary improvements. Once the necessary improvements have been identified and prioritized, this information, along with a list of improvements determined to be physically unfeasible, will be presented for public review.

The primary focus of this ADA Transition Plan will be to address all feasible locations identified with ADA noncompliant barriers which have been assigned a rating of “1” or “2”, with a secondary focus on addressing locations with a rating of “3”, based on the scale discussed in the above Phase 2 narrative.

The prioritization of improvements will be based on the following three factors:

- The severity of the accessibility barrier; and
- The frequency of public presence at the facility; and
- Whether the facility is a location where public meetings take place.

## PHASE 4: Develop a schedule for completion of the necessary improvements to achieve accessibility in public facilities

Upon the completion of the Inventory of Public Facilities and the prioritization of the required improvements based on the factors discussed in the above Phase 3 narrative, the County will prepare an estimated budget for the work to be done. The timeline for completion of the improvements will depend heavily on the number of deficiencies and complexity of addressing the deficiencies identified during the accessibility evaluation, along with the expense required to complete the improvements. The County’s ADA Transition Plan will be updated to include a specific schedule for improvements after Completion of Phase 3, and will continue to be updated during the process of implementing the Transition Plan. The County is committed to making its public facilities accessible to all persons, regardless of disability.

## IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION

This ADA Transition Plan will be updated on a periodic basis and revised as additional information is available and/or the phases of the Plan are completed.

A webpage will be provided outlining the various components of the ADA Transition Plan including, opportunities for public participation, the schedule for implementation of the plan, and the best available design standards and guidelines, including but not limited to the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) for Buildings and Public Rights of Way (PROWAG).