



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE

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Date: March 30, 2021
To: School Board
From: Dan Jung, Chief Operating Officer
Dana White, Director of Planning & Real Estate Management
Subject: Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan

BACKGROUND

The Americans with Disabilities Act, known as the ADA, had its beginning under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This act endeavored to establish equal opportunities for those with disabilities

In 1994, in recognition of the importance of ensuring full accessibility to all facilities, District staff developed an ADA Transition Plan (Plan). The Plan provided a methodology to meet the new 1990 ADA requirements as it applied to the District's existing facilities. The 1994 Plan was never fully implemented and is outdated.

In 2020, staff began the process of developing a new ADA Transition Plan (New Plan) with the primary purpose of providing an actionable and coordinated work plan for removing architectural barriers across the buildings and grounds.

The 10 month planning process included review and input from members of the disability community, via partnership with FACT Oregon and Community Vision, and included virtual town halls that provided an open forum for community members to voice their concerns, ask questions, and advocate for transition approaches. The process resulted in a very thorough and thoughtful New Plan that outlines the structural and programmatic modifications necessary for equitable access to all District programming.

The New Plan can be found in Attachment A.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

It is best practice to periodically update and correct planning documents in order to ensure the accuracy and relevance of information and adapt to changing design, building, and programmatic practices.

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

Denying District adoption of the New Plan would denigrate the District's ability to ensure full and equal accessibility to District facilities.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the phased improvements to remove barriers District-wide is over one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000). Funding for these improvements is expected to come predominantly from the District's general obligation bonds. Funding for Phases I and II has already been approved as part of the 2020 GO Bond scope of work, and it is anticipated future bond authorizations will fund Phases III and IV.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

The District hosted three virtual town halls between July and August 2020. These town halls were supported by FACT Oregon and Community Vision, two organizations with a long history of disability advocacy and deep ties to the disability community in Portland. Both organizations were able to connect with families directly impacted by the physical barriers at the District’s facilities.

The District also consulted with individuals who experience different types of disability to review and provide input on the New Plan. This review process provided critical perspectives on the mobility, sensory, and cognitive impact of the different physical barriers that the New Plan seeks to eliminate.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION / EVALUATION

The New Plan will immediately inform the ADA improvements that are currently underway throughout the District and those being planned in future years.

CONNECTION TO BOARD GOALS

The Board is dedicated to creating equitable opportunities and outcomes for all students, including the elimination of the physical barriers that are addressed in the New Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approving the New Plan.

As a member of the PPS Executive Leadership Team, I have reviewed this staff report.

_____ (Initials)

ATTACHMENTS

- A. New Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan
- B. ADA Transition Plan - Timeline Memo
- C. ADA Transition Plan – Engagement Memo