



Agenda Item No. (4)

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole
Meeting of June 27, 2024

From: Jon Gaffney, ADA Compliance and Program Manager
Ron Downing, Director of Planning
Kellee J. Hopper, Deputy General Manager, Administration and Development
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **ADOPT THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT'S DRAFT 2024 AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN**

Recommendation

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors (Board) adopt the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District's (District) Draft 2024 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan (Plan) for District-owned facilities.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its June 28, 2024, meeting for appropriate action.

Background

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990. Under Title II, a public entity may not deny the benefits of its programs, services, and/or activities to individuals with disabilities by maintaining inaccessible facilities, which house these programs, services, and activities.

Title II of the ADA requires the District to make its programs, services, and activities accessible in all cases, except where doing so would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of the program, pose an undue financial and administrative burden, or threaten or destroy the significance of a historic property.

As part of Title II, the District is required to have a comprehensive, up-to-date ADA Transition Plan for bringing its facilities into full compliance with the regulations set forth by the United States Access Board. The Access Board is an independent federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards. This includes the built environment, transit vehicles and public right-of-way.

In 2020, a Request for Proposals was released to perform a complete detailed ADA Transition Plan for District-owned facilities. Sally Swanson Architects was selected to perform the work, which included a Draft Transition Plan along with a searchable database of all barriers that can be updated as projects are completed or as completion dates change. This document covers the following District facilities:

- 1) The San Rafael Transit Center (3rd Street and Hetherton Street, San Rafael)
- 2) Division 1 – San Rafael (1011 Andersen Drive, San Rafael)
- 3) Division 2 – Novato (1 Golden Gate Place, Novato)
- 4) Division 3 – Santa Rosa (1200 Piner Road, Santa Rosa)
- 5) Division 4 – San Francisco Bus Facility (1210-125 Perry Street, San Francisco)
- 6) The Golden Gate Bridge Offices (Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza, San Francisco)
- 7) The Larkspur Ferry Terminal (101 East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Larkspur)

The Scope of Work did not include the Golden Gate Bridge itself, the Welcome Center, Round House, or other areas designated for visitors to the Golden Gate Bridge, nor did it include a Bus Stop analysis for stops in use by the District. The San Francisco Ferry Terminal, as well as the Sausalito, Tiburon, and Angel Island Ferry Landings were also not reviewed as part of this project.

A key component of the ADA Transition Plan is an estimate of the total cost to the District to mitigate barriers that exist. This ADA Transition Plan identified 1,086 total barriers (796 in staff-only areas and 290 in public-facing areas); the total cost to eliminate these barriers is estimated at \$7.5 million dollars (\$5.4 million for staff-only areas and \$2.1 million for public-facing areas) in current dollars. The projects that address these barriers will occur and be completed over time. The ADA Transition Plan includes estimated dates of completion for individual items that are spread out over the next four fiscal years. These dates are subject to change based on available funds and staff time and will be reviewed annually.

To comply with the Title II requirements for accessibility to District programs, services, and activities, the Draft ADA Transition Plan:

- Evaluates existing policies, procedures, and practices as they pertain to the District's programs, services, and activities;
- Provides findings and recommendations with regard to policies, procedures and practices;
- Identifies physical obstacles in the public entity's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- Assesses the extent of architectural barriers to program accessibility in the public rights-of-way and within the buildings and other facilities operated by the District;
- Describes in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible;
- Estimates costs for mitigation solutions;
- Specifies the steps necessary to achieve compliance;
- Provides a schedule for barrier removal/mitigation;
- Sets priorities for barrier elimination; and,
- Indicates the official responsible for implementation of the ADA Transition Plan.

All public-facing barriers have been reviewed by our maintenance teams at Bridge, Bus and Ferry, and dates for completion are included in the Draft ADA Transition Plan. To ensure meaningful access to the public – the Bridge District's customers, staff prioritized the elimination of public-

facing barriers; those barriers that only are encountered by District staff will be addressed after the public-facing barriers.

Public Comment

Public outreach was conducted during the month of May. Public notification activities included:

- A public workshop held virtually on May 16, 2024.
- A Public Hearing held on May 23, 2024.
- Advertisements and notices in the *Marin Independent Journal*, *Press Democrat* and *San Francisco Chronicle* announcing the public hearing, as well as posting on the *La Voz* website.
- Postings at District-owned facilities open to the public.
- Social media postings on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter).
- E-mail blast to customers and community-based organizations.
- E-mail notifications to Disability Organizations in San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma Counties.
- E-mail notification to organizations serving older adults in San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma Counties.

The District's practice is to treat all comments equally without regard to the manner in which they are submitted or received. Therefore, individuals did not have to attend the public hearing and provide input in person. Comments needed to be submitted by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 24, 2024. While one member of the public testified in person regarding a toll issue, after the close of the public comment period and despite the extensive outreach, no public comments were received regarding the Draft ADA Transition Plan. As a result, there are no modifications made to the Draft 2024 ADA Transition Plan as part of this recommendation to adopt the plan as final.

Actions Following Adoption

Following adoption, the District will review the ADA Transition Plan annually at the direction of the District's ADA Compliance and Program Manager. During this review the database of barriers will be updated to show completed barrier mitigations and to determine if adjustments to completion dates need to be made given financial and/or staff availability constraints.

Fiscal Impact

The ADA Transition Plan identified 1,086 barriers for mitigation. The total cost for mitigation was estimated at \$7.5 million in 2020. This is comprised of \$2.1 million to mitigate public-facing areas and \$5.4 million to mitigate staff-only areas. The District will focus on public-facing areas first. The timeline to complete the barrier mitigation will take place over the next four fiscal years with the staff-only areas to follow. This timeline is subject to change during annual review.

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