



**The City of Rio Rancho  
3200 Civic Center Circle NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144**

**GOVERNING BODY**

COUNCILOR DISTRICT ONE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT TWO:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT THREE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT FOUR:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT FIVE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT SIX:

Chuck Wilkins  
Patricia A. Thomas  
Tamara L. Gutierrez  
Mark Scott  
Timothy C. Crum  
Lonnie Clayton

MAYOR:

Thomas Swisstack

ACTING CITY MANAGER:

James Babin

ADA COORDINATOR:

Scott Sensanbaugher

ADA Interim Transition Plan Adopted: (date)

## AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT INTERIM TRANSITION PLAN

### I. Background

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a Federal Civil Rights Legislation which mandates non-discrimination to persons with disabilities. The ADA, Title II prohibits discrimination by public entities on the basis of disability. Therefore, it is important that the City of Rio Rancho comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those protecting persons with disabilities.

In order to accomplish this, the City of Rio Rancho is developing this Transition Plan. The document will outline the City's plan and schedule for conducting a self-evaluation of its roadway infrastructure, identify issues of accessibility that need to be addressed, and identify a plan for bringing this infrastructure into compliance. The City will progressively remove physical barriers to accessibility within its right of way to ensure access to persons with disabilities and the public as a whole.

Currently all newly-built City infrastructure projects and developer-initiated projects with public facilities are required to be compliant with all ADA regulations and requirements.

The City's Final Transition Plan will contain the following elements:

- A description of the type and list of physical barriers in the public entity's roadway facilities that limit accessibility of its programs, services, or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- A detailed description of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible;
- The Schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II;
- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation;
- A schedule for providing ADA compliant pedestrian facilities, where pedestrian walkways cross the streets.

The City currently follows roadway standards that conform to ADA requirements. Some of these standards are published by the NMDOT and include Standard Drawings for Pedestrian Access Details for Curb Ramps, Types A through D; Median Curb Details, Pedestrian Islands, Driveways and Driveway Aprons, Stairway and Handrail requirements, Accessible Parking, Passenger loading bus stop and ramp requirements; all aided by a Detectable Warning Surface where applicable. These standards are found on the city's website at: <http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/index.aspx?nid=539>

### II. ADA Program

#### A. Responsible Official

An ADA Program Coordinator has been designated by the City as the person responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the City of Rio Rancho's ADA Transition Plan. Currently this function is performed by the Director of Public Works.

#### B. Internal Review

The City of Rio Rancho conducted an internal review of available ADA compliance documentation and items that should be evaluated within its jurisdiction in February of 2012. A process and methodology for self-evaluation was established and an interim transition plan developed to begin

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the structured implementation of a corrective program for deficiencies identified in the self-evaluation process outlined in this interim plan.

C. Self-Evaluation

As required by ADA legislation, the City will conduct a self-evaluation survey of all public roadway infrastructures within its jurisdiction beginning by the summer of 2012; identifying any physical barriers to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities. Categories of infrastructure being reviewed include: sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian push button stations at signals and crosswalks and mailbox locations adjacent to public facilities and utilities located within and/or adjacent to public facilities.

An Action Plan will be subsequently developed and updated annually by the City, listing specific upcoming projects and/or facilities modifications needed. The target dates by which the City will make the necessary changes will be consistent to those projects identified and listed in the Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) and approved by the Governing Body in its annual City Budget.

III. Transition Plan

A. Prioritization

The City has the responsibility of identifying barriers and implementing a corrective program. The City's self-evaluation survey will identify inventory requiring modifications to comply with ADA requirements.

The City has limited funding available for infrastructure upgrades so a list to prioritize upgrades will be developed with the following criteria:

1. **Land Use.** Specific land uses (schools, hospitals, retirement communities, commercial districts) will be used to prioritize improvements. This would be a "**High**" priority.
2. **Population.** Large population concentrations have the possibility of higher impact. This is considered a "**Medium**" priority.
3. **Already Identified Projects.** The City will ensure that upcoming capital or maintenance projects that can correct ADA deficiencies identified within its project area will do so. This is considered a "**Low**" priority only in the sense that a project has already been identified to correct the deficiencies.
4. **Others.** Projects not falling into any of these categories will be listed but not given priority in funding. These locations will be reviewed periodically to ensure that they do not move into one of the three categories listed above, therefore changing its prioritization and ranking.

B. Facility Classification

Access to and utilization of the City's facilities by individuals with disabilities can be compromised by the barriers described below. Barrier descriptions are not necessarily complete, but they represent the potential type of barriers that may be identified by the City during the self-evaluation.

The City of Rio Rancho's roadway system provides the traveling public with routes throughout the city limits that can be accessed via motorized vehicle and by pedestrians. Sidewalks and multi-use paths are the public facilities with potential barriers that need to be evaluated to determine if the

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facility (sidewalks, ramps, and associated infrastructure) meets current ADA requirements. Potential barriers may include:

1. Ramps. May not be present where needed or may not meet ADA requirements. Tactile warnings not placed correctly or are not present.
2. Fire Hydrants and Utilities. Location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may present a barrier to the public.
3. Group mailboxes and single mail box installations. Incorrect or poor location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may make these facilities non-compliant.
4. Landscape obstructions within the sidewalk.
5. Pedestrian push buttons at signals and crossing locations set incorrectly, at the incorrect height or with non-compliant button type.

**C. Inventory**

The table below depicts the type of data the City intends to collect to evaluate its roadway infrastructure during the self-survey.

	Material Type	Width	Compliant	Deficiency	Obstruction Type	Obstruction Owner	Ramp Type	X-Slope	Down Slope	Tactile Warning
Sidewalks	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Ramps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utilities	X		X	X	X	X				
Ped Push Buttons			X	X	X	X				
Mailboxes			X	X						

**D. Infrastructure ADA Compliance Program**

Upon identification and prioritization of ADA non-compliant City infrastructure, the City will implement an ADA compliance program within the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP).

This program will help to establish a proposed annual budget to begin correcting ADA non-compliant infrastructure within the City of Rio Rancho with the priority being given to those deficiencies with a high priority.

**IV. Strategy**

The following strategy is recommended to assist the City of Rio Rancho in meeting ADA requirements.

**A. Accessible Ramps and Sidewalks**

The Department of Public Works will contract for upgrading existing deficient ramps on an annual basis, via its roadway maintenance program utilizing in-house maintenance staff, on-call contracting services or by seeking contractor bids.

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**B. Utilities**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient utilities with the utility owner. Some utilities may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects, during planned roadway maintenance projects or as stand-alone projects.

**C. Pedestrian Push Buttons**

The Department of Public Works will contract for upgrading existing deficient pedestrian push button stations/locations on an annual basis, via its traffic signal maintenance program utilizing in-house maintenance staff, on-call contracting services or by seeking contractor bids.

**D. Group Mailboxes and Single Mailboxes**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient group mailboxes with the United States Postal Service. Some areas may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects adjacent to the mailbox facilities, during planned roadway maintenance projects affecting the full prism of the roadway section or as a stand-alone project.

**V. Funding**

The City will commit, upon funding availability, budget for City maintenance projects identified for ADA compliance. The City will also continue to ensure that all new developer projects or City funded projects will continue to construct public facilities that are in compliance with ADA guidelines and regulations.