

The review and evaluation will continue each January until all sidewalks and ramps are ADA compliant and the Transition Plan is completed.

Noble County ADA Transition Plan

Noble County, Indiana

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I. Statement/Mission

In 1990, the Federal Government enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA"). Noble County, Indiana recognizes its legal obligation to comply with Title II of the ADA and hereby establishes a transition plan to ensure compliance of this federal law, rules and regulations. Therefore, Noble County will identify barriers that exist and state how and when the barriers are to be removed by providing a means to address complaints of discrimination, by encouraging public input to assess, address and meet access needs, and by establishing periodic reviews of the plan to monitor progress and compliance. The purpose of the Plan is to ensure that the citizens of Noble County are provided full access to the County's programs, services and activities in a timely manner. The Noble County elected officials and staff believe the ability to accommodate disabled persons is essential to good customer service, the quality of life Noble County residents seek to enjoy and to effective governance. Title II of the ADA requires that each of the County's services, programs and activities, when viewed in their entirety, be readily accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities.

II. Non-Discrimination Notice

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), Noble County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: Noble County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: Noble County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Noble County's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: Noble County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in Noble County offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Noble County, should contact the of ADA Coordinator Zachary Smith at 260-636-2124, fax 260-636-2542 or e-mail to zack.smith@nobleco.gov as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Noble County to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of Noble County is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to ADA Coordinator Zachary Smith at 260-636-2124, fax 260-636-2542 or e-mailed to zack.smith@nobleco.gov.

Noble County will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

III. Designation of an ADA Coordinator

Pursuant to Resolution 2012-05 adopted on the 3rd day of December, 2012, by the Noble County Commissioners the position of ADA Coordinator for Noble County was created. The following individual is appointed to serve in such capacity:

Zachary Smith currently holds such position concurrently with his appointment as the Highway Engineer and is responsible for overseeing compliance with the ADA.

Zachary Smith	Phone (260)636-2124
ADA Coordinator	Fax (260)636-2542
1118 E. Main Street	E-mail zack.smith@nobleco.gov
Alboin, IN 46701	

IV. Grievance Procedure

Noble County Indiana Grievance Procedure under The Americans with Disabilities Act

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Noble County. The Noble County Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Zachary Smith	Phone (260)636-2124
ADA Coordinator	Fax (260)636-2542
1118 E. Main Street	E-mail zack.smith@nobleco.gov
Alboin, IN 46701	

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Zachary Smith or his designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days of the meeting Zachary Smith or his designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the County of Noble and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Zachary Smith or his designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the County Commissioners or their designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the County Commissioners or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the County Commissioners or their designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by Zachary Smith or his designee, appeals to the County Commissioners or their designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by the Noble County for at least three years.

IV. Design Standards

Sidewalks: Sidewalk curbs constructed as part of planned development, sidewalk curbs replaced by or for the Noble County, or sidewalk curbs replaced by or for a property owner through a Noble County match funding program shall be constructed in accordance with the PROWAG (Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way) regulations and standards.

Buildings: Any Noble County owned building that are constructed, remodeled or updated shall be constructed in accordance with the most current ADAAG (Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities) regulations and standards.

V. Public Involvement Opportunities

The general public is encouraged to participate in identifying needs or barriers to accessibility. This may be done by contacting the ADA Coordinator.

Zachary Smith
ADA Coordinator
1118 E. Main Street
Albion, in. 46701
Phone: (260) 636-2124
Fax: (260) 636-2542
zack.smith@nobleco.gov

A draft of the Noble County Transition Plan is available on the website from November 1, 2012 to March 30, 2013 for the public comment period. The Transition Plan will also be available in the following County offices for viewing Highway, South Complex and the First floor of the Courthouse. Anyone that would like to comment on the Transition Plan can submit their comments in these offices or can contact the ADA Coordinator.

After the Noble County's Transition Plan is now posted on the Noble County website. It will also be available in the following County offices for viewing: Highway, South Complex and the first floor of the Courthouse. A copy of the Transition Plan will also be available at the County's Public Library at 813 E. Main street Albion, IN and 221 S. Park Avenue Kendallville.

VI. Inventory

In an effort to remove barriers to streets and sidewalks, Noble County has inventoried all curbs and sidewalks within the Noble County's jurisdiction. The inventory procedure is intended to identify a comprehensive list or inventory of all curbs and sidewalks in the Noble County's jurisdiction that are not ADA compliant. This is composed of an effort to both fully inventory all of the infrastructure that is present and then to identify those items in the system which are not compliant with ADA requirements.

Noble County has developed its inventory of the existing system in five steps:

Step 1: Aerial Maps

Aerial maps of Noble County were used to map the locations on the system that include sidewalks and/or curbs. In addition, County staff assisted in this process to assure sidewalks and curbs were not missed.

Step 2: Field Evaluation and Inventory

Once the system of sidewalks and curbs had been mapped, a field investigation of each was completed to measure and/or evaluate the following characteristics of each segment of sidewalk and curb.

The following attributes were to be collected for sidewalks and ramps.

- Measured width
- Cross slope observation (2% maximum)
- Heaving
- Continuity
- Joint condition
- Ramp width
- Ramp slope
- Ramp turning space
- Ramp clear space
- Detectable warnings

The above items were considered and a summary "Condition Rating" was given as follows:

- A – ADA Compliant, no concerns (green)
- B – Minor problem noted, but no immediate needs (orange)
- C – One major problem or multiple minor problems, needs some attention (yellow)
- D – Multiple major problems, possibly impassable for wheelchairs (pink)
- F – Broken, impassable by wheelchairs, difficult for pedestrians (red)

Examples of sidewalk and ramp ratings are provided on the following pages.

Currently there are 18 ramps in Noble County. The number of non-compliant ramps is 5. Of the 5 non-compliant ramps, 0 are rated a B, 0 are rated a C, 0 are rated a D, and 5 are rated a F.

Currently there are 13,450 feet of sidewalks in Noble County. The number of non-compliant sidewalks is 8,150 feet. Of the 8,150 feet of non-compliant sidewalks, 0 feet are rated a B, 0 feet are rated a C, 2,500 feet are rated a D, and 5,650 feet are rated a F.

Step 3: Preparation of a Map of Compliant and Non-Compliant features

A map has been produced that identifies all the sidewalks and ramps and their rating. The map can sort by sidewalks or ramps.

Step 4: Request for Review and Public Input

As part of the Transition Planning process, the map prepared in Step 3 will be made available for comment. The map will be posted on the County's website and on display at the following locations Highway and the Courthouse. The comment period was between February 4, 2013 and April 26, 2013.

Step 5: Update of the Inventory

After receiving input from the public review and staff the inventory will be updated as needed. This will provide a comprehensive list of the needs that exist in the system.

VII. Assessment Procedures

The assessment procedure is intended to establish the relative importance or priority of the various obstacles that are identified in the Inventory Phase.

This procedure will use four different evaluation factors. Each factor will have a score, with higher values indicating greater importance. Scores are then to be totaled to assist in the identification of which facilities are highest in priority.

Condition of Sidewalk or Ramp

- 1 point = Rating of B
- 2 points = Rating of C
- 3 points = Rating of D or F

Vicinity of Pedestrian Destinations

Pedestrian Destination includes commercial businesses, schools, parks, government buildings/offices, libraries, churches

- 0 point = nothing nearby
- 1 point = within 1 block of pedestrian destination
- 2 points = within 1 block of multiple pedestrian destination
- 3 points = adjacent to a park, school, government building or library

Public Interest

- 0 point = no comments
- 1 point = multiple public comments received
- 2 points = subject of a formal ADA grievance filing

Local Priority

This is intended to be a local decision-makers tool to provide emphasis to a specific need based on a special concern, especially one of public safety, anticipated heavy pedestrian traffic, or special site condition.

- 0 point = no special concerns noted at or near location
- 1 point = some special concern exists at or near location
- 2 points = special local emphasis exists at or near location

By totaling these factors, the highest score achievable would be 10, with the lowest being at least a 1. Each obstacle identified in the Inventory phase will be evaluated under this procedure. A total score for each need can thus be provided, with higher scores revealing higher priority repairs and improvements.

Appendix A contains the results of the evaluation of the sidewalks and ramps.

Buildings: Noble County owns a limited number of properties. A self-evaluation/assessment of each of the Noble County's physical facilities will be conducted by December 31, 2013, if not sooner. The ADAAG standards will be used to evaluate and collect the data on the buildings. The data that is collected will be included in the update of the Transition Plan.

VIII. Funding & Scheduling

Noble County will use the following funding source Highway Maintenance Fund 1135 (Cum. Cap. Dev.) to repair, modify or reconstruct sidewalk and ramps. Noble County has budgeted up local funds annually to repair, modify or reconstruct sidewalk and ramps to meet current ADA standards. The focus of the 2016 plan was to complete sidewalk improvements in the town of Wawaka. The focus of the 2017 plan was to complete sidewalk improvements in the town of Wolf Lake. The focus of the 2018 plan was to complete sidewalk improvements in the town of LaOtto. The focus of the 2019 plan was to complete preventative maintenance on the sidewalks on CR 1000 East. The focus of the 2020 and 2022 plan was to install ADA compliant ramps at the Cobblestone Subdivision. Please see Appendix B for more details. Planning for a sidewalk extension near the Avilla Cemetery was the focus of the 2021 plan, but it did not come to fruition due to numerous design challenges. The focus of the 2023 plan was a return to continue sidewalk improvements to the south side of LaOtto

IX. Review & Evaluation

Annually, the County Commissioners and County Council will meet with the ADA Coordinator to review the County's efforts put forth the previous year to comply with the ADA and the implementation of the Transition Plan. At this time an update to the Transition Plan will be done. This shall include any adjustment to the number of sidewalks and ramps that are non-compliant, any changes to funding sources and changes to the schedule, if needed. The County Commissioners, County Council and ADA Coordinator shall review the prioritization of repairs, modifications or replacement of sidewalks and curbs for the upcoming year. At this time, they will also determine the number of sidewalks and curbs that can be brought into compliance with ADA standards (if different than previously stated in Transition Plan).