



DRAFT

Hernando County Department of Public Works

ADA Maintained Right-of-Way Transition Plan



INTRODUCTION:

This document describes the actions of the Hernando County Department of Public Works to provide accessibility to its programs, services, activities and facilities for Hernando County travelers with disabilities, in compliance with [28 CFR 35](#), [49 CFR 27](#) and [49 CFR 37](#), and other applicable regulations and authorities. It is intended to be a living document, updated annually to reflect the current state of the Department's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 (504) Accessibility program.

The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining a safe, quality transportation infrastructure for the citizens and visitors who live, work and travel throughout Hernando County. The Public Works Department is comprised of County Engineering, Roads Maintenance/Operations, Stormwater Management, Traffic Operations, Facilities Maintenance and Support Services.

The services provided include, but are not limited to, right-of-way maintenance, road grading, pothole repair, drainage repair and maintenance, traffic sign and signal maintenance, pavement marking replacement, traffic engineering, roadway design, construction inspection, project management, and emergency response.

BACKGROUND:

Adopted on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal civil rights law that provides protections for persons with disabilities against discrimination by public and private entities. The ADA extends similar protections provided by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

- Section 504 requires entities that receive federal financial assistance to ensure they do not discriminate against persons with disabilities when providing their services, programs, and activities.
- The ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability for operations conducted by State and local governments and for facilities owned by private businesses, even if they do not receive federal financial assistance.
- Title II of the ADA requires State and local governments to ensure their services, programs and activities are accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities.
- Title III requires public accommodations and commercial facilities to ensure their buildings and sites are designed, constructed, and altered in compliance with accessibility standards.

ADA PROGRAM:

ACCESSIBILITY ON ROADWAY and BRIDGE FACILITIES:

The County manages some 1,580 centerline miles of roadways, including about 230 miles of public sidewalks. As a Local Agency Program (LAP) certified Agency, Hernando County continues to install sidewalks as funding permits per the Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organization Priority List through the Florida Department of Transportation Local Agency Program. Hernando County has an ongoing program for inspection and remediation of sidewalks and increases funding as necessary and available.

Hernando County Public Works Department continues to prioritize sidewalk installations based on vicinity to schools and inspection and repair of previously installed sidewalks.

Concurrent with the activities for building facilities, and in conformance with FHWA direction, the County began to include the identification of inaccessible pedestrian features through the roadway network.

The County includes in the scope of services for each roadway project, the requirement to identify and correct all inaccessible features and elements on pedestrian facilities within project areas whose absence or condition would present a barrier to access for persons with disabilities: sidewalks, curb ramps, detectable warnings, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals.

Accessibility deficiencies are continually identified and addressed during routine maintenance.

ON-GOING PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

Hernando County ADA Program Plan

Each October, the County's Department of Public Works reviews the programs plan this review is composed of:

- Establishing a procedure to identify physical obstacles on sidewalks that limit the accessibility of programs or activities to individuals with disabilities.
 - Hernando County has an existing inventory of the location and length of the sidewalks within County maintained rights-of-way.
 - Currently, the County has developed a budget line item and established a contract for inspection to determine ADA compliance and identify changes in elevation which need correction between panels.
 - The Public Works Department addresses requests from the public via the Customer Service Request system.
 - New sidewalk designs are completed using current standards and specifications to meet ADA Compliance
- Describing the methods that will be used to ensure the sidewalks are accessible.
 - Access issues and complaints are addressed by maintenance staff to inspect, repair, or modify the installed facility in correction of any validated complaints.
 - Citizen complaints are assigned a Priority 1 status to be reviewed and repaired.
 - The Inspection Contractor on an annual basis report to the Public Works Department any noted deficiencies during the inspections to be reviewed by staff and scheduled for repairs to bring the deficient sidewalk into compliance with ADA Standards.
 - Resurfacing/Roadway repairs contracted out are inspected and reviewed during the design process to ensure ADA Standards are met and repairs are completed as part of the project during construction.

- New sidewalk designs are prepared using current ADA Standards and Project Managers and Inspectors are utilized to ensure sidewalks are built to specifications in plans.
- Specifying the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance.
 - Currently, Hernando County Public Works Department is budgeting \$100,000 per year for ADA Compliance inspection and repairs.
 - There are varying budgeted amounts for unspecified contract projects which can be utilized for repairs and/or alterations as needed.
- Indicating the official responsible for implementation and review of the plan.
 - Hernando County Department of Public Works/County Engineer has delegated the responsibility of monitoring the plan to the Traffic Engineer for the purpose of compliance with the Local Agency Program.
- Reviewing submitted development plans for ADA compliance to County's Road network.
- Listing of any changes, emerging issues, or accomplishments in the program during the past fiscal year, and any proposed innovation, activities or goals for the upcoming year.
- An accounting of transition plan activities, including features surveyed during the year, those identified as needing repair or upgrade and those programmed for work.

Training

Hernando County use Training Courses that are presented through the Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). These courses cover the scoping and technical requirements of ADA.

The current courses are:

- ADA Accessible Design Virtual Lite 3.5 hour computer-based training
This webinar covers the essentials of accessible design for transportation professionals. This brand-new course represents a substantial departure from more traditional ADA training events. Not only significantly shorter, it foregoes complicated legal discussion to focus on plain description of the minimum accessibility requirements for planners, engineers, risk managers and other transportation specialists working in Florida and Puerto Rico.
- ADA Design & Construction and Maintenance 4 hour computer-based training
This course provides a guided walkthrough of the requirements for accessibility for projects on the State highway system in Florida. Course material covers criteria found in the FDM 222 – Pedestrian Facilities, as well as application of accessibility requirements during Temporary Traffic Control (formerly MOT) found in the FDM 240 – Transportation Management Plan and Standard Plans, Index 102-660.

- ADA for Local Agency Programs (LAP) – 3 hours instructor-led (3 PDHs)
This course focuses on pedestrian facilities along roadways, including sidewalks, curb ramps and detectable warnings – it is targeted toward city and county government staff involved in the planning, design, construction and inspection of roadway and bridge facilities. This course is conducted in coordination with the FDOT LAP program administrator and FDOT district LAP coordinators.

Local Agency Program

Hernando County work directly with the FDOT Local Agency Program (LAP) Administrator to receive support from the Department. These activities include providing ADA/504 training, technical support and sub-recipient compliance reviews. The FDOT works with public works, engineering and risk-management staff and local agency administrators to provide the information they need to comply with the ADA, 504, Title VI and other nondiscrimination regulations, in accordance with the FDOT's [LAP Manual](#).

Planning Agencies

The Hernando/Citrus Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) assist the County with determining the transportation needs of the County and help determine the priorities for future transportation projects. These include transportation system condition, capacity, safety and accessibility considerations. The MPO coordinate with FDOT on the development of goals, objectives and performance measures for transportation projects; the collection of safety- and accessibility-related data from state and local resources; prioritizing and coordinating funding for projects; participating in education and training of staff and stakeholders; and conducting transportation research.

Customer Comments/Complaints

Through a positive interactive process, the County can quickly respond to customer comments, requests and complaints about the accessibility of County facilities.

Customers who bring accessibility concerns and issues to the County's attention receive an immediate response. In most cases, the County can answer a customer's request within a few days.

TRANSITION PLAN ACTIVITIES:

Through the implementation, development and maintenance of policies, procedures and practices, the County has *institutionalized* the provision of accessible services, programs and facilities into the County's operations. Essentially, the County's operations have included the elements of an ADA Transition Plan. Having included accessible features in all projects, the County is transitioning to having pedestrian facilities to meet the requirement, of being, "accessible to and useable by" everyone.