



**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:

Jim Owen  
Dawnn Robinson  
Cheryl Everett  
Marlene Feuer  
Jennifer Flor  
David Bency

MAYOR:

Greggory D. Hull

CITY MANAGER:

Keith Riesberg

ADA COORDINATOR:

Mathew O'Grady

ADA Interim Transition Plan Adopted: 3/2012

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**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT  
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 has developed this Transition Plan. This document outlines the City's plan and milestone schedule of its roadway infrastructure, identifying accessibility issues that need to be addressed, and identifying a plan for bringing this infrastructure into compliance. The City will progressively remove physical barriers 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 ADA regulations and requirements.

The City's Final Transition Plan contains 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 description of the methods utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible;
- The Milestone Schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II;
- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation;

The City currently follows the New Mexico Department of Transportation's ADA Pedestrian Access Standard Drawings that conforms to ADA requirements. These Standard Drawings provide guidance for compliance with the Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian facilities in the Public Right-Of-Way (PROWAG); drawings for Curb Ramps, Median Curb Details, Pedestrian Islands, Driveways and Driveway Aprons, all aided by a Detectable Warning Surface where applicable. These standards are found on the City's website at: <http://rrnm.gov/539/Roads-Drainage-Traffic-Standard-Details>

**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.

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**B. Internal Review**

The City of Rio Rancho conducted an internal review of available ADA compliance documentation and items that was evaluated within its jurisdiction in February of 2012. A process and methodology for self-evaluation was then established and an interim transition plan was developed. This plan began the structured implementation of a corrective program for deficiencies identified in the self-evaluation process.

**C. Self-Evaluation**

As required by ADA legislation, the City conducted and completed a partial self-evaluation survey of all public roadway infrastructure within its jurisdiction in the summer of 2012. As part of this partial self-evaluation, the City of Rio Rancho equally divided all ADA infrastructure into 12 inspection zones. Categories of infrastructure being reviewed included: sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian push button stations at signals, and crosswalks.

An Action Plan was developed and will continue to be updated annually now that all inspections are completed. This action plan lists specific upcoming projects and/or facility modifications needed.

The City has and will continue to provide ADA training to City staff where applicable. In February 2015 the City held a training class as part of contract inspection work with our consultant, Sally Swanson Architects. This class was attended by several Departments within the City comprised of City project managers and inspectors, traffic personal, and Development Services staff. Please see Appendix B for the training coversheet and the attendance sheet.

**III. Transition Plan**

**A. Prioritization**

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

The City has limited funding available for infrastructure upgrades so a list to prioritize upgrades within each inspection zone has been 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.

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**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 were 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 were evaluated to determine if the 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. Detectable warnings not placed correctly or are not present.
2. Fire Hydrants and other Utilities. Location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may present a barrier to the public.
3. Group mailboxes and single mailbox installations. Incorrect or poor location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may make these facilities noncompliant.
4. Landscape obstructions within the sidewalk.
5. Pedestrian push buttons at signals and crossing locations set incorrectly, at the incorrect height, incorrect orientation or with noncompliant button type.

**C. Inventory**

The table below depicts the type of data the City collected to evaluate its roadway infrastructure during the self-survey (Appendix C).

	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				

**D. Infrastructure ADA Compliance Program**

The City has identified and prioritized all ADA noncompliant City infrastructure, and has implemented an ADA compliance program within the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP).

This program helps to establish a proposed annual budget to continue correcting ADA noncompliant infrastructure within the City. Priority projects are those deficiencies labeled HIGH as defined above. It is anticipated that the City will completely remediate all deficiencies by 2040.

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**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 resolve ADA noncompliance issues relating to deficient ramps and sidewalks on an annual basis by utilizing in-house maintenance staff, by on-call contracting services, or by seeking contractor bids.

**B. Utilities**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate to either remove or accommodate existing utilities that obstruct access. 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 resolve ADA noncompliance issues relating to existing deficient pedestrian push button stations/locations on an annual basis by utilizing in-house traffic staff, by 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 continue to construct public facilities that are in compliance with ADA guidelines and regulations.

**VI. Public Involvement**

The City of Rio Rancho held a public meeting on February 20, 2013 to solicit input on the ADA Transition Plan, grievance procedure, compliance inspections, and the ADA noncompliance remediation process. The City plans to continue public involvement throughout the remediation process. The City has also developed an online grievance procedure for residents to inform the Public Works Department of ADA issues (Appendix A).

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VII. Self-Evaluation

At this point, an Action Plan has been developed and is updated annually by the City, listing specific upcoming projects and/or facilities modifications needed. The City has completed compliance inspection of all 12 zones of the City. Listed below are the methods and procedures that were followed.

A. Methods

1. Field Inspections/Survey
2. GIS (recording locations/measurements)
3. Push Cart (profiler for reading slopes)
4. Provide training to City staff on the current guidelines and specifications

B. Critical Areas to Evaluate

1. Public right-of-way, access to government offices, medical facilities, downtown core areas, School zones, residential areas, etc.

D. City Records

1. As City projects that remediate deficient infrastructure is completed City Inspectors verify compliance and submit the City data collection form to the Project Manager for review and to be submitted with all of the final close out documents.
2. After a construction project is completed, the City's Records & GIS Section receive the City data collection form that provides the location and details of all new sidewalks, pedestrian push buttons, and wheel chair ramps. The information on these forms is input into GIS, which serves both to maintain an inventory of this infrastructure, and to keep track of what is or is not ADA compliant.

C. End Result

1. Inventory (and details) of facilities where structural modifications are needed to make facilities accessible to persons with disabilities
2. Foundation for Transportation Plan
3. Maintain in file/available for public inspection for 3 years of date of completion

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VIII. Policy Overview

The primary purpose of the City of Rio Rancho's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) program is to ensure that pedestrians with disabilities have opportunity to use the transportation system in an accessible and safe manner. As part of its responsibility under Title II of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (504), The City of Rio Rancho shall not discriminate on the basis of disability in any roadway transportation program, activity, service or benefit it provides to the general public; and shall ensure that people with disabilities have equitable opportunities to use the public rights-of-way system.

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (*Public Law 93-112*) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in Federally assisted programs. Section 504 requirements for USDOT administrations are covered under *49 CFR Part 27* (USDOT), Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Financial Assistance. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, 1990, *Public Law 101-336, each as amended*) is a broader civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in all areas of public life.

The ADA addresses State and local government services, activities and policy making under the Department of Justice's ADA Title II implementing regulations. The ADA, under Title II, Subpart A, covers public rights-of-way. The Department of Justice (DOJ) has rulemaking authority and enforcement responsibility for Title II, while USDOT is legally obligated to implement compliance procedures relating to transportation, including those for highways, streets, and traffic management.

The City of Rio Rancho's Public Works Department administers the City's ADA Program for our streets and right of way and has an ADA Coordinator on staff. The ADA Coordinator advises planners, designers, contractors, inspectors, project managers and others to help ensure that pedestrian facilities in the public right of way are readily accessible to and usable by pedestrians with disabilities.

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IX. City of Rio Rancho Construction Projects

Table 2 lists those projects that will be considered to enhance the ADA compliance within the City,

CORR Project #	Termini	Funding Source				
		FY	Federal Funding	State Grant	City Funded	Completed Projects
PW11736	Meadowlark Lane ADA Ramp Improvement Project	2017		✓	✓	
N/A	Foxwood Trail CDBG ADA Ramp Improvement Project	2017	✓		✓	
PW1744	Westside Court Ramp Improvement/Mid-Block Crossing Cabezon Blvd.	2017	✓	✓	✓	✓
PW1612	Sara Rd. Rehabilitation Project-NM 528 to Southern Blvd.	2016			✓	✓
PW1611	High Resort Blvd. Reconstruction- NM 528 to Broadmoor Blvd.	2016			✓	✓
PW0909	Idalia Rd. Reconstruction-NM 528 to Iris Rd.	2016	✓		✓	✓
PW1623	Grande Blvd. Ramp Improvement Project-Sara Rd. to Nm 528	2016		✓	✓	✓
PW0906	Broadmoor Blvd.-NM347 to Idalia Rd	2016	✓		✓	✓
PW1625	Southern Blvd. Reconstruction NM528 to Golf Course Rd.	2018		✓	✓	

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# **Appendix A**

## REPORT RIO RANCHO

Report Rio Rancho is an online and mobile service request system for the City of Rio Rancho. Report Rio Rancho allows residents and businesses to identify issues and report those service requests directly to the City.

- For a public safety emergency: 911.
- For a water or sewer emergency: (505) 975-1581.
- For traffic signal emergency: (505) 896-7300.
- For a non-emergency police issue: (505) 891-7226.

The City will work to resolve the issue, on all report types, as soon as possible. Please follow the directions below to submit your service request.

Please note that Microsoft is no longer providing security updates for older versions of Internet Explorer; therefore, Report Rio Rancho will not run securely on Internet Explorer 8 as of January 1, 2017.

### Make a Service Request:

A.D.A Issue	▼
Street	▼
Street Issue:	▼
Street Issue:	
Ped Push Button	
Sidewalk	
Wheel Chair Ramp	
First Name:	
Last Name:	

## ADA Public Meeting Packet

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The online version of the hardcopy Comment Form can be found at:  
<http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/ADAPlan> for your convenience.

**Note:** All comments relating to the ADA Public Meeting and the forms contained in this packet must be submitted via the web or using the hardcopy Comment Form no later than March 22, 2013.

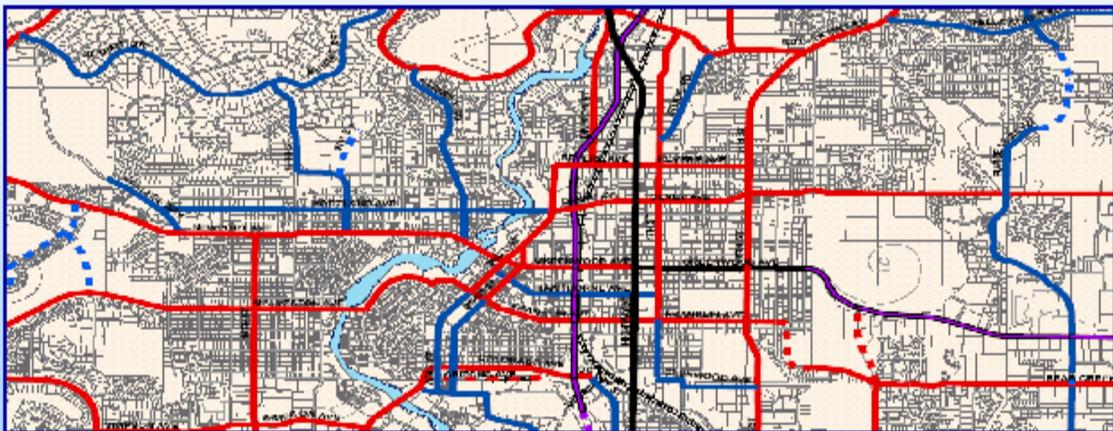


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## **Appendix B**

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# **Access Compliance in the Public Rights-of-Way**



**CITY OF RIO RANCHO**

**January 2015**

The City of Rio Rancho  
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ADA Training - Rio Rancho

January 23, 2015: 8:30am - 12:30pm

City Hall

Attendees

1. BJ Cottlieb 22.
2. BILL LEED
3. Leila Nomenzadeh
4. Jamil Marwaf
5. Cherie D. Barker
6. Leonard Rivera
7. Mark A. Aragon
8. Martin A. Martinez
9. Robert Barales
10. Gillie Lopez
11. Mark Rios
12. ANDRES SAENZ JR.
13. Joseph Noday
14. Jim Archuleta
15. John Martineau
16. Brian Kent
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.

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## Appendix C

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# RIO RANCHO ADA INVENTORY IN GIS

