

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	June 5, 2023
Action Required:	None.
Presenter:	Paul Rudacille
Staff Contacts:	Paul Rudacille Ashley Marshall, Deputy City Manager
Title:	ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Transition Plan Introduction

Background

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II state and local governments are required to engage in self-evaluation and transition plan creation. In April 2023, the City of Charlottesville awarded a professional services contract to PIM to engage in a self-evaluation and to deliver an updated ADA transition plan to move towards current and full ADA compliance by the City under Title II.

Discussion

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II state and local governments are required to engage in self-evaluation and transition plan creation. Specific to a self-evaluation, the self-evaluation is a comprehensive review of all programs, activities, and services operated by the public entity. While the self-evaluation was required to be completed by January 26, 1993, due to changes made to Title II regulations and the ADA Standards for Accessible Design in 2010, an updated self-evaluation is recommended. The Title II regulations and ADA Standards were changed to include recreation areas from play areas to swimming pools, residential facilities, event ticketing policies, policies concerning other power-driven mobility devices, miniature horses as service animals, and specifications for video-remote-interpreting. Further, as all state and local governments now have websites that need to be accessible to people with disabilities, websites need to be evaluated. After conducting a self-evaluation, a public entity can develop a transition plan for structural changes and work with the public entity's departments and agencies to modify policies and procedures. While the City of Charlottesville engaged in a transition plan process and creation in 2013, the plan is due for a much-needed update to ensure that all of our indoor and outdoor city infrastructure is evaluated for ADA deficiencies. A transition plan includes (1) a list of the physical barriers that limit the accessibility of programs, activities, or services; (2) the methods to remove the barriers and make the facilities accessible; (3) the schedule to get the work completed; and (4) the name of the official(s) responsible for the plan's implementation. A transition plan must also include a schedule for providing curb ramps giving priority to walkways serving entities covered by the ADA, including state and local government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, and employers, followed by walkways serving other areas.

The City of Charlottesville began a Request for Proposals process to enter into a professional services agreement with a qualified, experienced firm to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the ADA accessibility compliance of public rights-of-way, parks, City-owned open spaces, and City buildings. The RFP sought a firm that would provide a comprehensive review of the City's website, social media, and online information resources for ADA compliance, including but not limited to digital ordinances, GIS viewer, and Assessor's database, and provide recommendations for changes. Specifically, the City was seeking a firm that would both conduct a self-evaluation and produce the end product of a new formal ADA Transition Plan, including estimated costs for addressing identified barriers, that will be presented to the City for review. After a proper search using procurement standards, in April 2023 the contract was awarded to Precision Infrastructure Management (PIM). PIM's team members have more than a decade of experience in performing components of this self-assessment and have a demonstrated history of delivering accurate and timely data. They come before council and the public today to introduce themselves and quickly review the work the plan to achieve over the next roughly nine (9) months. This project will be managed by the City's ADA Coordinator, Mr. Paul Rudacille, whose office is now housed as a part of the City Manager's Office of Equity and Inclusion.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

Community Engagement

N/A at this time.

Budgetary Impact

This professional contract costs will be covered through existing funding.

Recommendation

N/A

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

None