

# **CITY OF EVANSVILLE INDIANA**



## **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN FOR LOCAL SIDEWALK ACCESSIBILITY**

In Connection With:  
Voluntary Compliance Agreement  
DOT # 2002-0026  
DOJ # 204-265-143

**MAYOR**  
Russell Lloyd, Jr.

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
John Schultz PRESIDENT  
Tom Shetler, Jr. VICE PRESIDENT  
Edgar Kuhlenschmidt MEMBER

## **I. Assessment/Inventory**

Presently, ADA curb ramps have been installed with new construction projects. The following paragraphs describe programs in place, and the process of analysis to determine the plan for moving the City of Evansville into compliance with ADA requirements for Sidewalks.

### **A. Current Programs**

#### **1. Sidewalk Repair**

Repair of sidewalks by the City of Evansville has been undertaken in the last ten years because of claims being brought against the City. Historically, city ordinances have placed the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance on the adjacent property owners. The City has been spending approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year replacing sidewalks. Because of the expense in maintaining the current sidewalk inventory, the City is not seeking to build additional sidewalk. Sidewalk repair performed by the City of Evansville is required to be ADA compliant.

#### **2. Road Reconstruction and Drainage Projects**

Road reconstruction projects that take place on local streets are another means by which ADA curb ramps have been installed. These projects have resulted in roads such as Fulton Avenue and portions of Weinbach Avenue among others being upgraded to ADA standards. Drainage projects such as the "Walnut Road Drainage Improvements" have also resulted in placement of ADA curb ramps.

#### **3. Private Development**

Private developments that build roads and other infrastructure that are intended to be granted to the City for maintenance must meet ADA requirements prior to acceptance by the City.

#### **4. Ramp Installation (New)**

In association with the voluntary compliance agreement, the City has budgeted money to begin installation of ADA curb ramps for sidewalks at intersections and in alleyways. This money has been budgeted initially to help determine costs for compliance. Once the sidewalk and curb ramp inventories are completed, this program shall become the primary means for achieving ADA compliance. The programs of Road, Drainage, and Sidewalk repair/reconstruction will be the means for maintaining ADA compliance once the ramp installation projects are complete.

### **B. Inventory**

Completion of an up-to-date inventory is a critical task in determination of a transition plan. The City's new GIS database is being used to populate a layer of data for sidewalks and curb ramps. This tool will allow for interface between graphical and tabular data that will aid planning during transition and in future compliance activities.

#### **1. Sidewalks**

An inventory of existing sidewalks is compiled in a GIS database to assist in determining intersections where ramps will be needed or not. This inventory was conducted using GIS based aerial photographs and worked from the City Limits inward. From aerial photographs, visible sidewalk was traced in one line format, while roadsides without sidewalks were traced in a separate line format. The inventory process measured **495 miles of sidewalks** in the City Limits of



Evansville. Areas that clearly have no sidewalk will not be inspected during the curb ramp inventory, which should speed that process.

## **2. Curb Ramps**

An inventory of existing conditions at intersections was performed in the field and transferred to the GIS database. This intersection inventory started in central portions of the City, since the sidewalk density is greater in the center of the City. As the inventory proceeded outward, inspectors used the sidewalk inventory maps to focus their efforts on intersections with sidewalk and manage their time better.

The inventory notes the presence or absence of ramps. The condition of existing ramps is noted along with any corrective actions that may be needed. Where ramps have not been installed, the needed ramp type is noted in addition to locations of obstructions such as fire hydrants, inlets, light poles, traffic signal poles, etc.

The inventory has identified **6,243 ramp locations** in the City Limits of Evansville.

## **II. Compliance Plan**

The compliance plan depends on the availability of funding for this project. Based on the results of the inventory and initial curb ramp replacement project, approximately **\$7,000,000** will be required to install all needed ramps.

### **A. Procedure**

Final procedures for achieving compliance will be based on the geographical distribution of ramps needing to be installed. Areas with high concentrations of non-compliant intersections will be targeted for curb ramp installation projects. The City will continue to install compliant ramps with its road reconstruction, drainage, and sidewalk projects where applicable. Coordination with curb ramp installation projects and these other projects will be undertaken. Efforts will be undertaken to accommodate areas near schools, hospitals, parks, and areas where higher pedestrian concentrations are expected.

As compliant ramps are installed, the locations will be input to the GIS Database to aid in planning and future maintenance.

### **B. Timeframe**

The anticipated timeframe to achieve compliance will be ten years based on estimates of ramps needed and budgetary requirements. Therefore, compliance should be achieved by 2013. This timeframe will be updated over time as budget requests are approved and progress is made. This timeframe will also be updated based on any new requirements that may affect budgets.

### **C. New Developments**

New curb ramp standards have been implemented based on making curb ramps more accessible to vision impaired pedestrians.

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**(ADDENDUM)**

**III. Schedule**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Target Number of Ramps</u>
2004	100
2005	200
2006	300
2007	300
2008	500
2009	750
2010	750
2011	1000
2012	1100
2013	1243

**IV. Responsible Official**

As identified in the Voluntary Compliance Agreement, the individual responsible for carrying out the program is:

Mr. George Fithian  
Executive Director of Administrative Services  
Civic Center Complex – Room 203  
1 N.W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Evansville, Indiana 47708  
Telephone (812) 436-4934.