

January 22, 1993

TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF HELENA

The Transition Plan for the City of Helena is designed to set forth the steps necessary to complete structural changes to facilities to achieve program accessibility. The City of Helena encourages interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the on-going development of the plan by submitting comments to ADA Coordinator, City of Helena, 316 N. Park Ave., Helena MT 59623. A copy of the current Transition Plan is available for inspection during regular business hours in Room 322, City-County Building.

The City of Helena's ADA Compliance Committee (the Committee) comprised of ADA Coordinator, Lynn Moon, Asst. ADA Coordinator and Human Resource Manager, Harry Payne, Health Field Representative, Roy Kemp, Business Owner Representative, Connie Hutch, Architectural Field Representative, Jim Whaley, and Disabled Community Representative, (position currently vacant) were charged with recommending priorities for making structural changes to city-owned facilities, together with other aspects of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Following are the Committee's recommendations:

The City Manager direct staff to develop a time schedule to address all of the structural modifications necessary to provide accessibility. It is realized that the ADA regulations require such modifications to be completed no later than July 1995. It is also realized that the City of Helena has an obligation, within its limited financial resources, to accomplish such modifications. The City shall seek any and all alternate funding sources available to accomplish accessibility to its programs, services and activities. The City shall develop a time schedule following the policies established for providing accessibility and the priority for facilities to be made accessible; and that this time schedule will be delivered to the Committee no later than May 1, 1993 from the adoption of this Plan for those facilities that have been evaluated as of this date. This time schedule will become an amendment to the Plan.

Priority for accessibility will be addressed in the following order:

An accessible route established, including providing an adequate number of handicapped parking spaces, curbcuts, and an accessible path of travel into the facility.

An accessible route to basic services, programs, and activities within the facilities and accessible restrooms within the facility will be provided.

An accessible route to provide, services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting possible will be provided.

The City of Helena shall provide signage at all inaccessible entrances to each of its facilities, directing users to an accessible entrance or to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each accessible entrance to a facility.

Modifications to city-owned facilities, including recreational facilities will be prioritized as follows:

A facility that provides an essential public service or program that is not provided at any other location.

Volume of members of the public using the facility and the capacity of the facility.

A facility that provides a particular program, service, or activity that cannot be provided by any other city-owned facility, e.g., Memorial Park swimming pool.

A facility that has historically served, or due to recent development will serve, a significant segment of the population due to its location and/or amenities, e.g., Memorial Park, Stewart Homes Park or Barney Park.

A facility that can meet accessibility standards at a minimum cost.

Accessibility evaluations of the Neighborhood Center and all City-owned recreational facilities are attached to the Plan and made a part thereof. The Committee's recommendations for modifications are attached to this Plan and are made a part thereof.

The City Manager will direct staff to provide summary evaluations to the Committee for all of the remaining City-owned facilities no later than June 1, 1993. Upon receipt, the Committee will prepare its recommendations for modifications, which will become an amendment to this Plan.

TRANSPORTATION

The City Manager will direct the Public Works Director to provide, for those streets, roads, or walkways over which he has the responsibility or authority, a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs, giving priority to walkways serving the entities covered by the Act, including State and City government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, and employers, followed by walkways serving other areas. This schedule shall be completed no later than June 1, 1993 and will become an amendment to this Plan.

The City Manager will direct staff to provide a schedule identifying how the City will provide an adequate number of accessible parking spaces in existing parking district(s), lots or garages over which it has jurisdiction. This schedule shall be completed no later than May 1, 1993 and will become an amendment to this Plan.

PROGRAM ACCESS

The City of Helena will give priority to the method that results in the most integrated setting appropriate to encourage interaction among all users, including individuals with disabilities.

1. Those modifications which require nonstructural methods including acquisition or redesign of equipment, assignment of aides to beneficiaries, and provision of services at alternate accessible sites.
2. Those structural modifications, such as alteration of existing facilities and acquisition or construction of additional facilities.
3. A separate or special program when necessary to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from the program. The program will be specifically designed to meet the needs of the individuals with disabilities for whom they are provided. This action will not preclude an individual with a disability the right to choose to participate in the regular program.

The City Manager will direct staff to provide the Committee a detailed accessibility evaluation of its services, programs, and activities no later than June 1, 1993. Upon receipt, the Committee will prepare its recommendations for modifications, which will become an amendment to this Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

When necessary to ensure that communications with individuals with hearing, vision, or speech impairments are effective as communications with others, the City of Helena will provide appropriate auxiliary aids. When determining what type of auxiliary aid and service is necessary, the City shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with disabilities.

Telephone emergency services, including 911 services, will provide direct access to individuals with speech or hearing impairments.

INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENTS

The City of Helena will enter into such agreements with other agencies, including Lewis and Clark County, which will promote the availability of accessible facilities for the citizens of Helena, and, at the same time, lessen the financial burden for all concerned, e.g., agreement with the County to allow use by the City Judge of the accessible Court Room in the Courthouse.