

## APPENDIX H

### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TRANSITION PLAN

#### ADA Transition Plan

This ADA Transition Plan reflects Schuyler County's long-term commitment to ADA compliance, and details the stages of Schuyler County's plan and timeline for: (1) evaluating accessibility by identifying any structural barriers associated with public facilities; (2) identifying accommodations and/or modifications that can be provided to make programs and services accessible; and (3) prioritizing the remediation of any deficiencies and formulating a budget and schedule for those improvements.

This plan also incorporates by reference, Schuyler County's ADA Policy, per Schuyler County Policies and Procedures Manual, approved by the Schuyler County Legislature on June 12, 2006.

This Draft ADA Transition Plan will be revised and updated as the steps of the Plan are completed.

#### INTRODUCTION

ADA regulations prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability and require state and local governments to make their programs and services accessible to persons with disabilities. These requirements focus on providing accessibility by addressing and eliminating structural barriers associated with public facilities.

As detailed below, Schuyler County has made a significant and long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of its public facilities. The purpose of this Plan is to ensure that Schuyler County identifies prohibited structural barriers to its public facilities, and, where structurally feasible, schedules and implements ADA-required improvements in order to remove those barriers.

The ADA requires that the Transition Plan include the following components:

- 1) Identification of physical barriers in a public entity's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs, activities, or services to individuals with disabilities;
- 2) Identification of the methods to be used to remove any barriers limiting accessibility;
- 3) A schedule for completion of the necessary steps to achieve accessibility in public facilities; and
- 4) The name of the public entity's ADA Coordinator.

## **STEP 1: IDENTIFICATION OF PHYSICAL BARRIERS IN SCHUYLER COUNTY'S FACILITIES**

The first phase of the ADA Transition Plan is to evaluate Schuyler County's public facilities for accessibility. Officials from Planning, Buildings and Grounds, and Human Resources Departments will coordinate to conduct accessibility evaluations of the following facilities:

- Sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps
- Publicly accessible buildings
- Parking lots serving publicly accessible buildings

For each facility evaluated, a Survey of Schuyler County's Public Facilities ("the Survey") will be completed. Any deficiencies, suggested improvements, and observations relating to structural feasibility of improvements will be noted and recorded on the Survey.

An Inventory of Public Facilities ("the Inventory") will also be created, and will serve as the central database for identified structural barriers, suggested improvements, and comments relating to structural feasibility of improvements.

### Evaluation of Sidewalks, Crosswalks, and Curb Ramps

The Survey will contain the following ratings to assess the condition of each Schuyler County sidewalk, crosswalk, and curb ramp:

**Rating 1** – Not Applicable: A facility not considered to require accessibility, for example, limited-access highways.

**Rating 2** – Not Accessible: Significant discontinuity such as steps, no ramps, more than 100 feet of unpaved walkway, heaving, vertical displacement, other severe distress, flooding, etc.

**Rating 3** – Partially Accessible: Not designed to current standards, problems with geometry of sidewalks, ramps and landings, no detectable warnings, handrails, etc.

**Rating 4** – Accessible: May need additional improvements, for example circuitous routes, insufficient width, etc.

**Rating 5** – Fully Accessible: Designed to current standards, but reasonable accommodations may still be required for individual cases.

## Evaluation of Parking Lots and Publicly Accessible Buildings

For the evaluation of publicly accessible buildings and the parking lots serving those buildings, the Survey will incorporate relevant portions of the ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities (based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design), produced by the Institute for Human Centered Design.

### Schedule for Completion

Schuyler County officials from its Planning, Buildings and Grounds, and Human Resources Departments will be coordinating over the next several months to evaluate public buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, crosswalks, and curb ramps. Numerous facilities will be subject to this evaluation, and consequently this will be a substantial undertaking for the reviewing officials. The evaluations will be scheduled so as to evaluate all facilities and complete Step 1 by September 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

## **STEP 2: IDENTIFICATION OF METHODS TO REMOVE BARRIERS**

The second phase of Schuyler County's ADA Transition Plan is to develop a method to remove barriers. This includes identification of the nature of needed improvements and a determination regarding structural feasibility of improvements under the ADA standards, and prioritization of necessary improvements.

Once the necessary improvements have been identified and prioritized, this information, along with a list of any improvements determined to be physically unfeasible, will be presented at a public meeting of the Schuyler County Legislature's Public Works committee. It is Schuyler County's practice to provide public notice of the dates and agendas of these meetings on Schuyler County's website. This will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the formulation of the ADA Transition Plan.

### **A. Nature of Improvements and Structural Feasibility**

The nature of necessary improvements will be determined during Step 1 – the accessibility evaluation of Schuyler County's facilities – and will be incorporated into the ADA Transition Plan after completion of Step 1. Any improvements that Schuyler County officials determine are not structurally feasible, based on ADA regulations, will also be incorporated into the Plan.

### **B. Priority of Improvements**

#### Sidewalks; Crosswalks; Curb Ramps

With respect to sidewalks, crosswalks and curb ramps, the primary focus of this ADA Transition Plan is to address all ADA noncompliant facilities, defined as those locations that have a rating of "2" and "3" on the scale discussed above.

The priority of improvements to these facilities will be as follows:

- 1) Those serving publicly accessible Schuyler County facilities;
- 2) Those serving commercial and employment centers; and
- 3) Those serving other areas.

#### Parking Lots and Publicly Accessible Buildings

The priority of improvements to parking lots and publicly accessible spaces in Schuyler County buildings will be based on the severity of the accessibility barrier and the frequency of public presence at the facility. Notably, the general assessment of the Schuyler County Code Enforcement Officer is that Schuyler County facilities where public meetings take place are in substantial compliance with the ADA. All new construction or renovations to existing facilities have complied with ADA standards. As such, the Schuyler County does not expect that its publicly accessible buildings and parking lots will require major structural improvements.

### **STEP 3: SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS**

Once the Inventory of Public Facilities has been completed, and necessary improvements have been prioritized as provided above, Schuyler County will formulate an estimated budget for the improvements. The schedule for improvements will depend heavily upon the number and severity of the deficiencies identified during the accessibility evaluation, and the costs associated with the improvements. Schuyler County however, reiterates its commitment to making its public facilities accessible to all persons, regardless of disability. Schuyler County ADA Transition Plan will outline a specific schedule for improvements after Completion of Step 2, and this schedule will reflect Schuyler County commitment to ADA compliance.

#### **ADA COORDINATOR**

Schuyler County ADA Coordinator is:

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