

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

- **ADA Access Audit and Transition Plan**
 - **Community Engagement Presentation**
 - **November 30, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.**
 - **November 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

INTRODUCTIONS

- **Los Alamos County staff**
- **WT Group, LLC Accessibility Practice**
- **John McGovern, JD, Partner, Principal in Charge**

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY SCOPE OF WORK

- **Access audits of parks and facilities**
- **Community engagement to identify any access preferences and priorities, and community survey**
- **Phased retrofit schedule (transition plan)**

THE WT GROUP

- **Site evaluations and access audits**
- **Community engagement & Transition Plan**
- **Plan review**
- **Inclusion process and policy review**
- **Staff training**

WHAT IS THE ADA?

- **Effective January 26, 1992**
- **Provides comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of:**
 - **Employment**
 - **State and local government services**
 - **Privately owned places of public accommodation**
 - **Telecommunications**

TITLE II

- **Title II governs Los Alamos County services, parks, and facilities**
- **Design and construction of new sites**
- **Audit and retrofit at existing sites**
- **2010 Standards for Accessible Design, New Mexico Building Code 2015, smart practices**

TITLE II CONTINUED

- **County must make programs available in the most integrated setting**
- **County must make modifications to support participation by people with disabilities**
- **County must make contractors, concessionaires agree to not discriminate on the basis of disability**
- **County must ensure that processes for people with disabilities are not more difficult than for people without disabilities**

PROGRAM ACCESS

- **Per US DOJ, “programs” of the County are what must be accessible**
- **Programs are broadly defined...what is a program?**
- **Not necessarily every existing site, or every asset at a site, must be retrofit for access...we suggest a minimum of one-of-three of recurring assets**
- **County can stretch schedule to meet the mandate in a way that is consistent with its resources, but must act in good faith**

WHY AUDIT FACILITIES?

- **Where renovations are being planned, access must be in the plans...the County wants to know where the deficits are**
- **Many sites were planned before 1992, and access was not in the mindset of designers...the County will stay current**
- **It's the right thing to do!**

THE WTG PROCESS

- **Every aspect of every element at every site**
- **2010 Standards for Accessible Design, New Mexico requirements that are more stringent**
- **Simple tools**
- **Checklists for quality control**

WHAT IS A TRANSITION PLAN?

- **Have four components: cite deficit, recommend a solution, name responsible person, note when barrier will be removed, and we add cost references for planning**
- **Disperse access retrofits**
- **Unique sites and recurring sites**
- **Stretched out over...how many years?**

TRANSITION PLAN RETROFIT FACTORS

- Severity of the barrier
- Easy to do
- High-use site
- Public or employee space?

TRANSITION PLAN FACTORS

- **How recent is construction**
- **Repurposed site?**
- **Is there a partner?**
- **Complex or costly retrofits**

TRANSITION PLAN FACTORS

- **Sites not yet subject to design standard**
- **Compliance is technically infeasible**
- **Historic sites**
- **Sites with other protections**

OBSERVATIONS

PARKING



Parking stall/aisle slopes too steep



No accessible parking provided



Accessible surface in disrepair

Running slopes exceed 10%,
cross slopes exceed 2% along path

ACCESSIBLE ROUTES



**No accessible
routes provided**



**Loose gravel
along path**



PARKS

**Park amenities
lack accessible
features**



**Route fails to connect to park
amenities**

PARKS/PLAY AREAS

Transfer system installed incorrectly



Play surfaces have loose materials

RESTROOMS

Lavatory mounted too high



Pipes lack insulation



UNIQUE SITE: Mini Golf, Rodeo Stadium



Elements have
obstructions



Lacks accessible parking,
route, and seating



UNIQUE SITE: Dog Parks



Lack accessible route



ROLE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- **35.150(d) requires opportunity for community member feedback in transition plan process**
- **We can measure dimensions, but practical input from those affected by access issues is VERY helpful to us and the County**
- **“Nothing for us, without us.”**

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **We return in the winter and audit facilities, and continue to draft site reports**
- **More public feedback opportunities toward the end of the project**
- **RRC Associates will conduct a statistically valid and reliable survey**
- **We deliver Final Report and Transition Plan to the County in mid-2022**

WHAT ARE *YOUR* ACCESS PREFERENCES?

- Types of assets?
- Location?
- Busiest sites?
- Other factors?

***YOUR* ACCESS PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES**

- **Start with the basics (parking, entries, restrooms, etc.)?**
- **In what order should sites be retrofit?**
- **Dispersed retrofits or concentrated retrofits?**

**THANK
YOU**