

RESOLUTION

ADOPTION OF THE ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR COLQUITT COUNTY, GEORGIA

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Colquitt County, in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is required to address the subject of ensuring that Colquitt County services and facilities are accessible to those with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS, the governing authority of Colquitt County now desires to adopt the "ADA Transition Plan" attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and including any attachments thereto, said exhibit being by reference fully included in this resolution as if specifically set out herein;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the said ADA Transition Plan is hereby adopted by the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners.

RESOLVED, ADOPTED, AND EFFECTIVE, this 6th day of March, 2012.

John B. Alderman, Chairman
Board of Commissioners
Colquitt County, Georgia

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Deborah Murkerson, County Clerk
Colquitt County, Georgia

Exhibit "A"



Colquitt County, Georgia
Americans with Disabilities Act
Transition Plan
2012

Introduction.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. Title II of the ADA specifically addresses the subject of making Colquitt County services and County facilities accessible to those with disabilities. With the advent of the Act, designing and constructing facilities for public use that are not accessible by people with disabilities constitutes discrimination.

The Act applies to all facilities, including both facilities built before and after 1990. As a necessary step to a program access plan to provide accessibility under the ADA, state and local governments, public entities or agencies are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities, relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA. The agencies are then required to develop a Program Access Plan, which can be called a Transition Plan, to address any deficiencies. The Plan is intended to achieve the following:

- (1) Identify physical obstacles that limit the accessibility of facilities to individuals with disabilities;
- (2) Describe the methods to be used to make the facilities accessible;
- (3) Provide a schedule for making the access modifications; and,
- (4) Identify the public officials responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan.

The Plan is required to be updated periodically until all accessibility barriers are removed.

Purpose.

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the citizens of Colquitt County are provided full access to County programs and facilities in as timely manner as is

reasonably possible. Colquitt County elected officials and staff believe the ability to accommodate disabled persons is essential to good customer service, the quality of life Colquitt County residents seek to enjoy, and for effective government.

This Plan has been prepared after a careful study of Colquitt County's programs and facilities. The County, in preparing this document, has received input from individuals at a public meeting as well as from the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners and County Personnel. The responsibility for the implementation of this plan will be the County ADA Coordinator.

Statement of Accessibility.

Colquitt County shall make reasonable modifications in programs and facilities when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the County can demonstrate that making the modifications would fundamentally alter the nature of the service, program, or activity. Colquitt County will not place surcharges on individuals with disabilities to cover the cost involved in making programs accessible.

Identify Physical Obstacles.

All county facilities will be reviewed for "baseline" conditions, including:

1. Access to parking and entry into the facilities themselves;
2. Access to a clear and distinct path of travel;
3. Access to programs and services themselves;
4. Access to public areas and restrooms; and,
5. Access to related amenities.

Colquitt County maintains roads and bridges in the unincorporated areas of the county, which are largely rural areas. All intersections and bridges are designed and maintained as governed by the Georgia Department of Transportation's rules and regulations.

The following is a list of County property. An assessment of each of the County's physical facilities will be conducted in conjunction with the execution of this Plan. Deficiencies in the County's physical features of facilities that diminish the ability of disabled persons to benefit from the County's services and facilities will be identified. A correction plan or other course of action will be noted for each deficiency, along with a schedule for completion of the correction in the Action Log which also follows.

FACILITY	YEAR BUILT	SQUARE FOOTAGE	ADDRESS
County Courthouse	2001 ^{R*}	17,568	9 South Main Street
Museum of History	1962	6,593	500 Fourth Ave., Southeast
Library	1964	20,603	204 Fifth St., Southeast
Chamber/EDC	1915	7,110	116 First Ave., Southeast
Roads & Bridges Offices	1970	2,728	210 Veterans Parkway NE
Technical & Maintenance	1984	2,340	220 Veterans Parkway NE
County Prison	1954	16,112	2010 County Farm Road
Purchasing Office	1985	3,535	2020 County Farm Road
Maintenance Shop	1980	8,400	2020 County Farm Road
Prison Visitation Bldg.	1996	2,400	2010 County Farm Road
Green Oaks Vocational Center	1990	13,500	2443 Hwy. 133 South
Hamilton Vol. Fire Dept.	1980	2,100	1273 GA Hwy. 202 South
Landfill Offices	1976	960	1816 Shade Murphy Road
Justice Center	1990	56,490	200 Veterans Parkway NE
Health Department	1994	10,152	214 West Central Ave.
Livestock Building	1992	9,750	350 Veterans Parkway NE
Agricultural Center	1995	19,360	350 Veterans Parkway NE
Transfer/Recycling Center	1996	12,450	1816 Shade Murphy Road
E911 Operations Center	1998	3,477	160 Veterans Parkway NE
EMA/EOC Building	2002	3,000	160 Veterans Parkway NE
Courthouse Annex	2003	41,335	101 East Central Avenue
DHR Building	2004	37,896	449 North Main Street
Ag Restroom Facilities	2002	1,040	350 Veterans Parkway NE
Ag Auction Barn	1940	10,431	350 Veterans Parkway NE
DET Offices/Training	2004	3,000	1816 Shade Murphy Road
Justice Center Admin Add.	2009	13,251	200 Veterans Parkway NE

R* - The Courthouse was completed renovated in 2001 and meets ADA requirements as of the time of renovation.

Also, listed below are the county-owned voting precincts in Colquitt County:

1. Bridge Creek (block building)
2. Crosland (wood-frame building)
3. Hartsfield (block building)
4. Lee (block building)
5. Monk (block building)
6. Murphy (block building)
7. Thigpen (block building)

All voting precincts have been renovated to meet basic ADA requirements with the assistance of grant funding. However, no permanent restroom facilities are feasible at these locations and other accommodations are offered on election days.



Notice Under the Americans with Disabilities Act ADA POLICY STATEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners, as governing authority for Colquitt County, Georgia will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: Colquitt County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title I of the ADA.

Effective Communications: Colquitt County will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Colquitt County's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: Colquitt County will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcome in Colquitt County offices where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Colquitt County, should contact John C. Peters, who serves as the Colquitt County ADA Coordinator, as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require that Colquitt County take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service or activity of Colquitt County is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the ADA Coordinator.

Colquitt County will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”). It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of service, activities, programs, or benefits by the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners. The Colquitt County Rules and Regulations and Personnel Policies govern employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem. Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint will be made available for persons with disabilities, upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible, but no later than 60 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

John C. Peters, Zoning Official
ADA and Safety Coordinator
Post Office Box 1835
Moultrie, Georgia 31776-1835

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, the ADA Coordinator of Colquitt County or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolution(s). Within 15 calendar days of the meeting, the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by the ADA Coordinator does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the County Administrator or his/her designee.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the County Administrator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within 15 calendar days after the meeting, the County Administrator or his/her designee will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

All written complaints received by the ADA Coordinator or his/her designee, appeals to the County Administrator or his/her designee, and responses from these two offices will be retained by Colquitt County for at least three (3) years. The written complaint and responses will be retained in the County Clerk/Human Resources Office.

ADA PLAN OF ACTION

Through this transition plan, the following will be addressed:

- a. identify physical obstacles in facilities that limit the accessibility of Colquitt County's programs, services, or activities to people with disabilities;
- b. describe in detail the methods Colquitt County will use to make the facilities accessible;
- c. provide a schedule for making the access modifications;
- d. provide a yearly schedule for making the modifications if the transition plan is more than one year long; and,
- e. indicate the name of the official who is responsible for implementing the transition plan.

County-owned facilities:

1. County Courthouse: replacement of some signage which goes missing due to vandalism – will replace within 6 months
2. Museum of History: none
3. Library: none
4. Chamber/EDC: none
5. Roads & Bridges Office: front door and threshold are not easily accessible assessment will be made within 6 months and plan of action made
6. Technical & Maintenance: threshold needs replacing – will replace within 6 months
7. County Prison: in process of moving to a new facility within two months which is ADA compliant
8. Purchasing Office: needs parking space allocated for handicapped
9. Maintenance Shop: needs parking space allocated for handicapped – will construct within 6 months
10. Prison Visitation Building: will not be in use when prison facility moves within the next two months
11. Green Oaks Vocational Center: none
12. Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department: none
13. Landfill Offices: not accessible, but this building is not for public use – there are no employees that require special accommodations
14. Justice Center: none

15. Health Department: none
-
16. Livestock Building: needs designated parking for handicapped-will construct within 6 months
-
17. Agricultural Center: none
-
18. Transfer/Recycling Center: none
-
19. E911 Operations Center: none
-
20. EMA/EOC Building: none
-
21. Courthouse Annex: none
-
22. DHR Building: none
-
23. Ag Restroom Facilities: none
-
24. Ag Auction Barn: needs walkways and signage – will construct within 6 months
-
25. DET Training Offices: none
-
26. Justice Center Administration Addition: none
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County-owned Voting Precincts:

1. Bridge Creek: none
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2. Crosland: threshold is slightly elevated – will further assess needs in as much as a new voting precinct is currently being considered
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3. Hartsfield: walkway has a dip that is too steep - will further assess needs in as much as a new voting precinct may be considered
-
4. Lee: none
-
5. Monk: none
-
6. Murphy: none
-
7. Thigpen: none
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Title II of the ADA at 28 CFR Section 35.150Id)(2) provides that, if a public entity has responsibility or authority over streets, roads, or walkways, its transition plan shall include a schedule for providing curb ramps or other sloped areas where pedestrian walks cross curbs, 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.

Action Steps for Transition Plan

The action plan shall be executed as follows:

1. Identify staff and/or consultants to review each facility for compliance. The ADA/504 Coordinator should be the lead staff member in the development and implementation of the transition plan so that efforts to achieve and maintain accessibility can be effectively coordinated so that there is balance in the transition plan between programs and services, buildings and facilities, as well as pedestrian right-of-way facilities. An advisory group will assist the ADA coordinator in the development and implementation of the transition plan. Colquitt County may retain a consultant to assist with the transition plan, if deemed necessary.
2. Establish the public involvement process by which the disability community and others will participate. The advisory group/task force should also include private citizens or representatives of other agencies with various forms of disabilities, or who will be impacted by the transition plan to make sure all needs are considered.
3. Identify all facilities used by each of Colquitt County's programs and services. With respect to pedestrian right-of-way facilities in particular, include an inventory and/or map of roads/streets, sidewalks, intersections that would need to be made accessible.
4. Map out the usage and specialized features of each county facility. This includes walkways and approaches to each facility from parking lots, bus stops and other transportation, doors and entrances, restrooms, vertical access (elevators and stairways), drinking fountains, play and picnic areas in parks, etc.
5. Choose a survey "tool" or list of standards. This must include evaluating for access by wheelchair users and other mobility-impaired people who would require the use of curb ramps. The recipient can also evaluate for access for visually, hearing and cognitively impaired people, if the transition plan also incorporates sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other pedestrian facilities besides curb ramps.
6. Incorporate the Colquitt County's capital improvement plans since new construction and planned alternations to pedestrian facilities may result in the incorporation of accessible features more easily and less expensively.
7. Identify funding and time frames.

Elements of the Transition Plan

Name, title, office address, phone number, and email address of Colquitt County official responsible for the coordination, development, and implementation of the Transition Plan:

John C. Peters, Zoning Official, ADA and Safety Coordinator
Post Office Box 1835, Moultrie, GA 31776-1835
colquittzoning@yahoo.com

Advisory committee members' names, titles, and addresses:

Bryan Shuler, Administrator, P. O. Box 517, Moultrie, GA 31776
Al Daniels, Buildings & Grounds Supervisor – P. O. Box 517, Moultrie, GA
Deborah Murkerson, County Clerk/HR – P. O. Box 517, Moultrie, GA 31776

Schedule or work plan for steps to be taken to develop and implement Colquitt County's Transition Plan:

In as much as all areas are relatively minor, the implementation should be completed within 6 months.
