

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TITLE II TRANSITION PLAN



### **Introduction:**

We are pleased to present the semi-final draft of ODOT's updated ADA Title II Transition Plan. This version will supersede the current version when adopted by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) at their July 2023 meeting.

The long-term goal for this plan is a universally accessible transportation system. We thank Oregonians and ODOT staff for their help and their valuable input and feedback!

### ***What is ODOT's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Transition Plan?***

The ADA requires accessible programs and transportation systems, specifically including the pedestrian right of way. ODOT's ADA Title II Transition Plan identifies physical barriers to access and improvement methods to ensure all users have access. Plan development included listening to people with lived experiences with disabilities, reviewing technical standards for accessible design, and following the priorities set by the Oregon Transportation Commission and federal requirements. The plan also reflects ODOT's commitment to prioritize curb ramp and pedestrian signal accessibility under the agency's settlement agreement with independent living advocates.

### ***When was the first plan adopted, and why is ODOT updating it now?***

ODOT developed its first ADA self-evaluation in 1993 and issued a preliminary transition plan in 1997. Updated plans were issued in 2004, 2011 and 2017. The Association of Oregon Centers for Independent Living filed a lawsuit in 2016, and ODOT agreed to a settlement in 2017. The settlement prioritized statewide improvements to curb ramps and pedestrian signals by 2032. Those requirements are included in the 2017 transition plan and in this 2023 update to the plan. Recognizing that six years have passed since the last plan update, this update reflects agency progress with ADA implementation. It describes ODOT's broader goals for universal accessibility to the state transportation system and aligns with the Equity Priority described in the strategic plan and new Oregon Transportation Plan.

### ***Why does the plan matter for all Oregonians?***

Ensuring access benefits everyone. Estimates say that around 20% of Oregon's population live with disabilities. ODOT's mission includes serving all Oregonians and all plans require ODOT's programs to promote equity. Equity is the effort to provide varying levels of support based on each individual's or group's needs in order to achieve fairness in outcomes. Despite strong progress across all of ODOT's systems since passage of the ADA, Oregonians can still experience barriers just trying to access their communities. Where infrastructure and programs are universally accessible, people living with disabilities have an equal opportunity for access and can thrive and participate in their communities.

### ***Who is ODOT engaging in the planning process, and who makes decisions?***

We used a multi-step approach to engage external partners in the transition planning process. ODOT staff networked with other agencies extensively involved in work to improve accessibility and launched an accessible ADA Survey resulting in over 500 completed surveys submitted. We also convened an Advisory Committee comprised of members with diverse lived experiences with disability across many Oregon locations. Then ODOT technical and program staff members worked to weave these inputs into the fabric of the plan you see today. The plan will be presented to the OTC for formal adoption following the public comment period.

### **What are the priorities for this update to the ADA-TP?**

Addressing Oregonians' requests and complaints regarding barriers is the top priority. This is the most comprehensive update of ODOT's Title II ADA Transition plan yet. It outlines desired progress toward universal accessibility. This is essential in high demand areas like city downtowns, as well as around critical community resources like medical facilities, shopping and other community centers. The highest priority elements for improving general access in these critical destinations are sidewalks; curb ramps; facilities and parking; ease of access to entire trip routes using personal mobility devices; and accessible stops for public transportation.

Besides ongoing accessibility maintenance, construction is an important means for improvements. Two primary factors drive ODOT's schedule of constructed accessibility improvements. The first is the progress milestones plan outlined in ODOT's Settlement Agreement covering ADA curb ramp-specific projects. The second is the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). ODOT's schedule includes ADA curb ramp specific projects and many other construction projects. Many projects also address curb ramps and other elements of accessibility.

### **I've reviewed ODOT's Transition Plan, now how can I provide comments?**

There are multiple opportunities for interested persons to review and comment on the updated ODOT Title II ADA Transition Plan.

- Visit our Virtual Open House from April 26 through June 2, 2023. Here you'll find links to the plan document, background information, and a survey to share your feedback.
- Join an online webinar and provide verbal comments. Webinars are scheduled for May 22 at 5:30 PM and May 24 at 10:00 AM. Links to join are available on the Virtual Open House website.
- Request an accommodation to review the plan, such as an alternate format. Review the plan, then provide feedback by calling 1-888-AskODOT or emailing [ODOT\\_ADA@ODOT.Oregon.Gov](mailto:ODOT_ADA@ODOT.Oregon.Gov).

### **Next Steps:**

ODOT must present the final updated plan to the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) soon. This formal public comment period is the next major step in the update process. All comments will be reviewed and considered for this update, then the final update goes to the OTC for adoption. Comments we can't yet incorporate will be saved for the next plan update along with any comments we receive after the public comment period.

### **Let ODOT know if you encounter a barrier:**

Anyone encountering a barrier can notify ODOT at their earliest convenience without waiting for this plan to be adopted. Complete the [accessibility concern form on ODOT's website](#) to notify ODOT staff about the barrier. You can also call 1-888-AskODOT or email [ODOT\\_ADA@ODOT.Oregon.Gov](mailto:ODOT_ADA@ODOT.Oregon.Gov) to notify us. We will review what you share to understand the barrier and develop possible solutions to improve accessibility.

