

ADA TRANSITION PLAN RESOLUTION

A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE IMMEDIATE COMPLETION AND ADOPTION OF A HOLISTIC AND COMPREHENSIVE ADA TRANSITION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF WAUWATOSA

WHEREAS, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 mandate that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, the services, programs, or activities of a public entity; and

WHEREAS, Title II of the ADA specifically requires local governments to ensure that their programs, services, and activities are accessible to individuals with disabilities, including the maintenance of an ADA Transition Plan for public entities with 50 or more employees; and

WHEREAS, a holistic plan must evaluate and address barriers within:

- **Public Right-of-way:** Addresses physical barriers such as sidewalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian crossings
- **City-Owned Buildings and Facilities:** Ensuring all municipal offices, community centers, and polling places meet or exceed ADA Standards for Accessible Design;
- **Program Access:** Reviewing City services, events, and recreational programs to ensure they are inclusive and offer reasonable accommodations;
- **Digital and Web Accessibility:** Ensuring the City's website, mobile applications, and digital documents are accessible to those with visual, auditory, or cognitive impairments;
- **Communications:** Providing effective communication through auxiliary aids, signage, and accessible public notices; and

WHEREAS, the **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Committee** emphasizes that the public right-of-way is the primary artery for mobility and must be seamlessly connected to accessible destinations; and

WHEREAS, the **Commission for Persons with Disabilities** asserts that "access" includes the right to independently navigate both the physical and digital environments of the City; and

WHEREAS, the **Equity and Inclusion Commission** recognizes that failing to provide accessible digital and programmatic content creates a systemic barrier for residents with disabilities, hindering their ability to engage with local government; and

WHEREAS, the **Senior Commission** notes that as the City's population ages, the need for accessible buildings and clear, multi-channel communication becomes a matter of public health and safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Committee, the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Equity and Inclusion Commission, and the Senior Commission hereby jointly recommend that the Wauwatosa Common Council and City Staff:

1. **Develop a Holistic Scope:** Immediately initiate a city-wide, comprehensive ADA Transition Plan that encompasses the **Public Right-of-Way, City Buildings, Program Access, and Digital Communications**.
2. **Audit and Inventory:** Conduct a thorough self-evaluation of all City-owned facilities and digital assets to identify barriers to access.
3. **Remediation Schedule:** Establish a clear, multi-year budget and timeline for the removal of identified barriers, ensuring that progress is measurable and transparent.
4. **Designated Oversight:** Ensure the City's ADA Coordinator is empowered and resourced to oversee the implementation of this plan across all departments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be formally transmitted to the Mayor, the Common Council, and the City Administrator to signal a unified commitment to making Wauwatosa a leader in universal accessibility.