

DATE: XXX, 2026

TO: Mayor Dennis McBride and the Wauwatosa Common Council

FROM: Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Committee
Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Equity and Inclusion Commission
Senior Commission

RE: SUPPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE CITY-WIDE ADA TRANSITION PLAN

Dear Mayor McBride and Members of the Common Council,

As representatives of four City commissions dedicated to the safety, mobility, and dignity of our residents, we are writing to collectively urge your support for the attached resolution. This resolution calls for the immediate initiation and adoption of a **Comprehensive ADA Transition Plan** for the City of Wauwatosa.

While our individual commissions focus on different aspects of civic life, we have identified a shared, critical gap: the lack of a modern, holistic roadmap for accessibility. Our current infrastructure and digital environment present daily barriers to residents with disabilities, our aging population, and anyone navigating our streets with strollers or mobility aids.

This resolution seeks your commitment to a plan that goes beyond "bricks and mortar" to include:

- **Physical Infrastructure:** A full audit of the public right-of-way, including street parking and all City-owned or leased facilities.
- **Digital Equity:** We must bring the City's website, mobile applications, and digital content into alignment with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards. Under the DOJ's recently updated ADA Title II rule, Wauwatosa is legally mandated to achieve full digital accessibility by the April 26, 2027 deadline.
- **Safety & Enforcement:** Ensuring construction zones remain navigable and safe for all users.
- **Staff Excellence:** Empowering our ADA Coordinator through professional certification and providing ADA training for all City staff, especially communicating and interacting with people with disabilities.

We believe that accessibility is not a "special project," but a fundamental civil right and a prerequisite for an equitable city. By adopting this resolution and allocating the necessary resources, Wauwatosa can move from reactive compliance to proactive leadership.

Our commissions offer a wealth of expertise across our respective specialties and the areas where our missions intersect. This collaborative spirit is central to our charters, and we are eager to fulfill that mandate through this project. We look forward to discussing this vital initiative with you and the relevant subcommittees, and we thank you for your commitment to ensuring every resident can move freely and participate fully in Wauwatosa.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Wallace, Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Committee
Elizabeth Ermenc, Mary Callen, Mary Walz-Chojnacki, Co-Chairs, Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Chris Due, Chair, Equity and Inclusion Commission
Kathy Causier, Chair, Senior Commission