

Salt Lake City ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Executive Summary

Background

The 1990 ADA regulations required local governments to:

- evaluate all their services, policies, practices, and facilities,
- modify any that did not meet ADA requirements, and
- develop a transition plan detailing barrier removal to achieve program access that specified a completion time (entities with 50+ employees).

A **self-evaluation** is a comprehensive report of the assessment of a city's programs, services, activities; facilities; and current policies, practices and procedures. The self-evaluation **identifies and corrects barriers to program access** that are inconsistent with its [Title II requirements](#). Per regulations, this was to be completed by January 26, 1993. *Salt Lake City Corporation completed a self-evaluation on July 1, 1992.*

A **transition plan** identifies architectural barriers found in the self-evaluation. It outlines how and when in the following three years (from the time of the self-evaluation) programmatic barriers will be eliminated. This was to be initiated and accomplished by July 26, 1995. *No historical files were found showing this was initiated or accomplished by Salt Lake City Corporation, with the exception being a Transition Plan for City public way assets by Engineering every 2 years.*

The Department of Justice (DOJ) urges local governments to establish procedures for an ongoing assessment of their compliance with the ADA's barrier removal requirements. If a complaint is filed with the DOJ, any consent decree initiated by the DOJ will require a self-evaluation to be done within a certain timeframe. **It is the first document the DOJ asks for during an investigation.**

Methodology

The evaluation of the City's services, programs, and activities required participation by every City department. Departments, through their ADA liaison, completed the evaluation process under the ADA Coordinator's guidance. Appendix A lists all participating ADA liaisons.

To complete the Existing Facilities evaluation for priority buildings, parks, and golf courses, an ArcGIS survey was created using the ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

For each location, the survey evaluated:

- Priority 1: Accessible approach and entrance
 - Parking, Exterior Accessible Route, Curb Ramps, Exterior Ramps, Entrance
- Priority 2: Access to goods and services
 - Interior Accessible Route, Interior Ramps, Elevators, Signs, Interior Doors (to conference rooms, etc.), Rooms and Spaces, Seating (Assembly Areas, Non-employee work surfaces, General), Sales and Service Counters
- Priority 3: Access to public toilet rooms
 - Accessible Route, Signs, Entrance, Lavatories (The 2010 Standards refer to sinks in toilet rooms as lavatories.), Soap Dispensers and Hand Dryers, Toilet Stalls
- Priority 4: Access to other items such as water fountains and public telephones

- Drinking Fountains, Telephones, Fire Alarm Systems

For each park location, the survey also evaluated:

- Play Areas, Sports Courts and Athletic Fields, and Other Available Amenities

Key Findings

1. **Building Facilities:** 15 City-owned buildings were evaluated, and barriers found include: inadequate signage, non-compliant restrooms, inaccessible entrances, and pathways.
2. **Public Rights of Way (PROW):** An inventory of sidewalks and curb ramps revealed significant areas that do not meet ADA standards. Approximately 40.1% of sidewalks require grinding, and 24.44% of curb ramps need upgrades to meet current ADA criteria.
3. **City Parks and Golf Courses:** The evaluation of all City-owned parks (79) and golf courses (6) identified numerous areas requiring improvements. These include the need for accessible play structures, compliant ground surfacing, and proper signage.
4. **Communications and Signage:** There is a need for improved signage and communication aids to ensure that individuals with disabilities can easily access information and navigate City facilities.

Recommendations

To address the identified issues, the following recommendations are proposed for the City Council's consideration and support. Some recommendations are administrative in nature, while some are legislative or require the cooperation of both branches of government:

- Continually evaluating all programs, services, and policies.
- The implementation of WCAG standards to all digital content on websites, social media, and apps.
- Communicating the City's ADA compliance initiatives through timely updates and staff training.
- Working with disability stakeholders, including the City's Accessibility and Disability Commission, to improve or implement accessibility measures.
- The development of a robust Transition Plan management dashboard for data collection.
- The development of an evidence-based Design Best Practices Guide for the public right of way, facilities, signage, and parks to improve long-term accessibility outcomes.
- The development of a city-wide policy that mandates all new construction and major renovations to comply with the latest ADA standards and the City's best practices.
- The allocation of funding for the removal of high-priority barriers in buildings and parks.
- Increasing budget allocations for the repair and upgrade of sidewalks, curb ramps, and pedestrian pathways.
- Funding an assessment and design plan for signage citywide to ensure all City facilities have clear, compliant, and unified signage that aligns with the City's branding.

Conclusion

Salt Lake City's commitment to ADA compliance is crucial for fostering an inclusive community. By supporting these recommendations, the City can ensure that all individuals, regardless of their abilities, have equal access to public services and facilities. The City Council's support and action are vital in driving accessibility initiatives forward, ensuring a more accessible and equitable city for all.

This executive summary provides a strategic overview and actionable policy recommendations aimed at enhancing Salt Lake City's compliance with ADA standards. For further details and specific findings, please refer to the complete ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan.