

Augusta ADA Self Evaluation And Transition Plan Public Meeting #2, December 16, 2015

Community Outreach Summary Report

The goal of community outreach for Augusta's ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan is to provide various forums for the public to find and provide feedback to information regarding the Plan. The community outreach effort for the Plan includes stakeholder meetings, public meetings and an ADA website portal for community input, and Plan updates and progress.

Public Meeting

The December 16, 2015 public meeting was held at the Linda Beazley Community Room at the Municipal Building, between 6:00 – 8:00 pm and attended by nine (9) community members.

Notification Methods

Notification for the public meetings consisted of, press releases, newspaper ads, flyers, emails to ADA affinity groups, City of Augusta website. Importantly, meeting notifications were compliant with ADA best practices in requesting and accommodating any special needs by attendees.

Meeting Format

All attendees were signed in and provided an ADA Self Evaluation and Transition Plan Fact Sheet and a Comment Form and website address for input/feedback on the Plan.

Mitchell Murchison via Power Point presented the following agenda:

- Project Team Introduction
- Project Overview
- Project Milestone Schedule
- Progress To Date
 - ADA Inventory And Analysis
 - Staff And Community Involvement/Stakeholder Workshop
- Barrier Ranking Overview
- Next Steps – Final Deliverable

The ADA project team members were available after the presentation to interact and answer attendee questions. Also, enlarged easel boards with project task, schedules maps of ADA evaluation project areas, and photo examples of before and after ADA compliant intersections/sidewalks were posted throughout the meeting room to assist project discussions.

Meeting Feedback

1. Attendee comment: A senior citizen and resident of a high-rise apartment building on Laney Walker Boulevard indicated the pedestrian crossing signal walk light duration is not long enough to cross the street. Response: The project team didn't look at walk light durations, however the City will adjust the duration and urged residents to email city engineering and/or use ADA online comment form.
2. Attendee comment: Were ADA self-evaluation forms sent to non-profit agencies? Response: Thirty (30) evaluation forms were sent internally to City Departments.
3. Attendee comment: The SETP communications should emphasize for residents the basis for decisions on priorities for ADA compliance work. This would help mitigate the question of "why isn't my sidewalk being fixed?"
4. Attendee comment: How much do trees contribute to broken sidewalks? Response: We believe up to 90% of downtown sidewalks have damage because of trees. How we manage our urban forest is important and needs to be addressed.
5. Comment by Steve Cassell, Engineering, City of Augusta: City engineering has actively engaged ADA issues and are working to think actively by; a) enhancing inspections training and procedures; b) fostering ADA awareness among City Departments.
6. Attendee comment: Are the absence of sidewalks in some older, long-established subdivisions that are remote from the City center part of the study? Response: No, but along their major corridors. Funding and volume of "repair work" limit the City, however, policies to be put in place or influenced by SETP will help to improve such conditions. ADA at this time does not dictate that you have to build sidewalks, but if a sidewalk is built, it should be ADA compliant.
7. Comment by Steve Cassell: City Engineering staff, Ron Lampkin and Glenn Bollinger, have taken on the role of temporary ADA coordinator for the City.

