# ADA Transition Plan/Program Access Plan Responsibilities

Patrick Gomez, FHWA Resource Center



### Objectives

At the end of this short overview you should be able to:

- List the six basic requirements of Title II entities
- List the requirements for a State or LPA transition plan/program access plan



Question 1
According to the 2010 Census, what percent of the U.S. population over the age of 15 has a disability?







### Answer to Question 1

- 21 percent (or approximately 52 million) of the U.S. population over the age of 15 has a disability (2010 Census)
- 7.5 million Americans have hearing disabilities (2010 Census)







### Question 2

How many Americans would you guess have vision disabilities?





### Answer to Question 2

- 8 million Americans have vision disability (2010 Census)
- Visual disability can range from total blindness to low vision.
- The National Council on Disabilities estimates that 70 percent of our country's population will eventually have a temporary or permanent disability that makes climbing stairs impossible.





## Title II – State and Local Governments

#### Basic Requirements:

 Must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs, services, and activities (pedestrian facilities are an example of a program)





## Title II – State and Local Governments

#### Basic Requirements:

- Designate an ADA Coordinator
- Development & postings of an ADA Policy Statement
- Development & postings of Grievance Procedures/Complaint Procedures
- Complete a self-evaluation
- Development of a Transition Plan



## Transition Plan Minimum Attributes

- Identify/list physical obstacles and their location
- Describe in detail the methods the entity will use to make the facilities accessible
- Provide a schedule for making the access modifications
- Provide a yearly schedule if the transition plan is more than one year long
- Name/position of the official who is responsible for implementing the Transition Plan



## ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans

- The Inventory (your baseline) Self Evaluation
- The "most daunting part" of your requirements due to lack of budget and staffing
- Potential "stall" of Transition Plan, waiting for selfevaluation or moving inventory into priorities
- Requires executive support (staff, budget, time, authority...)



# **Keys to Success for Your Inventory/Self-Evaluation**

- Ideally have budget and staff identified through the entire Transition Plan phase
- Use of "interns"
- Prioritize "high pedestrian" areas first, thus being able to make impacts prior to completing the full inventory
- Prioritize use of a scale (1-5) or colors (Red, Yellow, Green) - do not duplicate work



U.S. Department of Transportation

**Federal Highway Administration** 

### **Inventory Continued**

- Additional Considerations:
  - Inventory should note who is responsible for the facilities' compliance (STA or LPA)
  - Sidewalks along/on state roads are noted as "problematic"
  - <u>COORDINATION IS CRITICAL</u> (who is responsible?)
     Transit facilities owned by a DOT but operated by others were also noted as "problematic"



## **Monitoring Progress**

- Track progress from Initial Inventory (baseline)
- Transition Plan is a "Living Document"
- UPDATE Regularly: whenever changes are made to the plan - preferred; annually; semi-annually (take credit for achievements)
- Remember: all changes in the pedestrian environment (i.e., adding street furniture, landscaping, path of travel) have impacts on your current and future transition plan.
- Doing nothing is not acceptable



### **Points of Contact**

- FHWA Division Office, <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/about/field.cfm</a>
- Patrick Gomez Civil Rights Specialist, FHWA Resource Center (RC), <u>patrick.gomez@dot.gov</u> 720-963-3269
- Candace Groudine Senior Policy and Regulatory Specialist, FHWA Office of Civil Rights (HCR), <a href="mailto:candace.groudine@dot.gov">candace.groudine@dot.gov</a> 202-366-4634
- Nichole McWhorter Director, Coordination & Compliance, FHWA Office of Civil Rights (HCR), <a href="mailto:nichole.mcwhorter@dot.gov">nichole.mcwhorter@dot.gov</a> 202-366-1396