



The University of Maryland, College Park

Americans With Disabilities Act

Transition Plan Update

**Prepared by
Department of Design and Construction
University of Maryland**

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AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of Maryland, College Park is the Flagship Institution of the University System of Maryland. The main campus has about 1,339 acres, with 20 miles of roads and 66 miles of sidewalks. There are 253 buildings which provide 14M GSF of space. The average age of facilities is 46 years. Many of the buildings in the Campus Core of campus were built in the 1930's and 1940's. The oldest building is Rossborough Inn, which was built in 1798. Most campus space was originally built before the advent of design requirements for accessibility.

Title II, Section 35.150 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required institutions to prepare a transition plan that identified structural barriers to program access and provide a plan to eliminate them. The university prepared its ADA Transition Plan in July 2000 and updated it in December 2010 and 2013. The Plans stated that over the years the university has corrected many physical obstacles in campus facilities and all programs have been made accessible to persons with disabilities, but there are many physical enhancements which should be undertaken to continue to enhance program access beyond the minimum requirements of the law. The last updated Plan in 2013 included a total of nearly \$22.4 million (in 2013 dollars) list of recommended enhancements.

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) requires institutions to provide an updated ADA Transition Plan every three years. This update is in response to that requirement.

Since the ADA Transition Plan was updated in 2013, the university has completed \$2.23M of the physical enhancements. The list is broken down as follows:

	State-Supported Facilities	Auxiliary Facilities	Total
Site Upgrades	\$0.00 M	\$0.01 M	\$0.01 M
Restroom Upgrades	\$1.92 M	\$0.00 M	\$1.92 M
Elevator Projects	\$0.00 M	\$0.00 M	\$0.00 M
Other Upgrades	\$0.29 M	\$0.01 M	\$0.30 M
Total	\$2.21 M	\$0.02 M	\$2.23 M

The 2016 updated list of physical enhancements totals \$43.2 M (in 2016 dollars), broken down as follows:

	State-Supported Facilities	Auxiliary Facilities	Total
Site Upgrades	\$0.7 M	\$1.8 M	\$2.4 M
Restroom Upgrades	\$16.7 M	\$4.0 M	\$20.7 M
Elevator Projects	\$15.1 M	\$1.2 M	\$16.3 M
Other Upgrades	\$3.1 M	\$0.7 M	\$3.8 M
Total	\$35.5 M	\$7.7 M	\$43.2 M

Individual accessibility enhancement projects for State-supported facilities will continue to be funded from the Access Maryland (State funded) and Access UMD (university funded) Programs. State or university funded renovations of State-supported facilities will continue to include accessibility enhancements. Auxiliary units fund and implement enhancement of their facilities with funds from fee revenues. Auxiliary units will continue to fund individual accessibility enhancement projects and include accessibility enhancements in their renovation projects as funding availability allows.

The priorities for the enhancements are similar to what was included in the 2013 ADA Transition Plan Update and are described below. These priorities will be used as a guide in the development of annual programs/funding requests for accessibility improvements as well as in the development of scopes of planned renovation projects. Deviations from these priorities are expected to occur due to funding availability and other specific circumstances as the annual programs/funding requests and scopes of renovation projects are developed.

A. Priorities by type of enhancement:

1. Access from public sidewalks, parking, or public transportation.
2. Access to areas of a place of public accommodation where goods and services are available to the public.
3. Access to toilet facilities.
4. Access by other means to provide access to goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations.

B. Priorities by type of building for the State-supported facilities:

1. Academic facilities
2. Library facilities
3. Administrative facilities
4. Academic support facilities (maintenance facilities, storage facilities, public safety facilities, and Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute facilities)

The ADA Transition Plan Update provides current information on the official responsible for ADA compliance. Dr. Sharon Kirkland-Gordon, Director of Counseling Center, is currently the ADA Compliance Officer. This position monitors the institution's efforts for compliance with ADA/Section 504, as well as represents the institution's interests with federal and state agencies. The ADA Transition Plan Update also provides current information on the university's robust organizational structure to monitor and support the institutions' efforts for ADA compliance and/or provide services for people with disabilities.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

I. INTRODUCTION

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) is the Flagship Institution of the University System of Maryland. The main campus has about 1,339 acres, with 20 miles of roads and 66 miles of sidewalks. There are 253 buildings which provide 14M GSF of space. The average age of facilities is 46 years. Many of the buildings in the Campus Core of campus were built in the 1930's and 1940's. The oldest building is Rossborough Inn, which was built in 1798. Most campus space was originally built before the advent of design requirements for accessibility.

Title II, Section 35.150 of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required institutions to prepare a transition plan that identified structural barriers to program access and provide a plan to eliminate them. The ADA required public entities such as the university to operate each service, program or activity so that the service, program or activity, when viewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities. This general non-discrimination principle is referred to as programmatic accessibility. As long as the university meets this standard, the university need not make each of its existing facilities accessible and useable by individuals with disabilities.

The university prepared its ADA Transition Plan in July 2000 and updated it in December 2010 and 2013. The updated Plans stated that over the past several years the university has corrected many physical obstacles in existing campus facilities, new facilities have been designed using current accessibility design guidelines, and the university continues to make accommodations for persons with disabilities as needed, and, over the course of time since the ADA went into effect, all programs of the university have been made accessible to individuals with disabilities. Further, the Plans stated that even though the university's programs are accessible, there are many physical enhancements which should be undertaken in order to accomplish our institutional commitment to meeting more than the minimum requirements of the law. The last updated Plan in 2013 included a total of nearly \$22.4 million (in 2013 dollars) list of recommended enhancements that would be addressed as funding availability allows. The current ADA Transition Plan Update also reached similar conclusions. The updated Plan identifies a total of nearly \$43.2 million (in 2016 dollars) in recommended enhancements. This total exclude projects funded and/or completed since the last update in 2013. The list of physical enhancement projects funded and/or completed since the 2013 update totals \$2.23M.

The Maryland Department of Disabilities requires institutions to provide an updated ADA Transition Plan every three years, and UMD updated Plan is due on January 1, 2017. The updated Plans will remain on file for three years, after which they should be updated. The updated Plan is required for eligibility to request funds for the Fiscal Years 2019, 2020 and 2021. This document has been prepared in response to this requirement.

The 2013 ADA Transition Plan Update addressed the four Transition Plan requirements as follows:

- 1. Identify physical obstacles in the public entity's facilities that limit the accessibility of its programs or activities to individuals with disabilities.**

The Plan noted that the university's programs are accessible, but identified nearly \$22.4 million (in 2013 dollars) in recommended enhancements that would be addressed as funding allows.

- 2. Describe in detail the methods that will be used to make the facilities accessible.**

Since there is no list of physical obstacles to programmatic accessibility, the Plan did not include proposed methods for their removal.

- 3. Specify the schedule for taking the steps necessary to achieve compliance with this section and, if the time period of the transition plan is longer than one year, identify steps that will be taken during each year of the transition period.**

Since the university's programs are accessible to persons with disabilities, the Plan did not include a schedule for achieving programmatic accessibility.

- 4. Indicate the official responsible for implementation of the plan.**

The Plan included this information.

The university's programs continue to be accessible to persons with disabilities, although there continue to be physical enhancements that can be undertaken to improve access. Since the 2013 ADA Transition Plan Update, the university has undertaken some of the proposed physical enhancements and new physical enhancements have been identified. Therefore, this document will update item 1.

Priorities for Enhancements

The priorities for the enhancements are similar to what was included in the 2013 ADA Transition Plan Update and are described below. These priorities will be used as a guide in the development of annual programs/funding requests for accessibility improvements as well as in the development of scopes of planned renovation projects. Deviations from these priorities are expected to occur due to funding availability and other specific circumstances as the annual programs/funding requests and scopes of renovation projects are developed.

A. Priorities by type of enhancement.

Title II of ADA addresses non-discrimination on the basis of disability in state and local government entities but does not suggest a system of priorities for removal of physical obstacles. Title III, however, does establish a system of priorities for obstacle removal in public accommodations. The logic that defines a system of priorities regarding public accommodations can be applied also to state and local government entities. Briefly, the order of priority is as follows:

1. Access from public sidewalks, parking, or public transportation.
2. Access to areas of a place of public accommodation where goods and services are available to the public.
3. Access to toilet facilities.
4. Access by other means to provide access to goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations.

B. Priorities by type of facility.

There are different fund sources for State-supported facilities and auxiliary facilities:

State-supported Facilities (\$35.5M of enhancements). These facilities, which generally include the academic and administrative facilities, are funded from the Access Maryland and Access UMD Programs. The State of Maryland currently allocates \$1.6M per year for accessibility modifications to State-supported facilities, and the university annually requests a portion of these funds and receives in the range of \$0.2M to \$0.5M per year. In addition, the university allocates about \$0.1M per year from its operating budget for accessibility improvements in a program called Access UMD Program. The Access Maryland and Access UMD Program funds are for specific accessibility improvement projects in State-supported facilities. In addition, accessibility improvements are also made when buildings undergo either whole or partial renovations.

The priorities of the listed enhancements for State-supported facilities are as follows:

1. Academic facilities
2. Library facilities

3. Administrative facilities
4. Academic support facilities (maintenance facilities, storage facilities, public safety facilities, and Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute facilities)

The university will continue to develop annual funding requests for the enhancement of access for persons with disabilities. In addition, the university will continue to include physical enhancements, to the extent project funding allows, in the scope of planned renovation projects.

Auxiliary Facilities (\$7.7M of enhancements). These facilities are for self-support functions of the university such as residence halls, dining facilities, recreational facilities, inter-collegiate athletic facilities, parking facilities, and the Stamp Student Union. Auxiliary units fund and implement enhancement of their facilities independently, with funds from revenues of their operations. Like the State-owned facilities, the auxiliary units address accessibility needs via specific, stand-alone physical modifications required to address an access need and via whole or partial building renovations that include such physical modifications. Completion of all listed enhancements of program accessibility will be influenced to a significant degree by funding availability.

III OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The Department of Justice specifically requires that the institution name an individual who is assigned the task of implementing a plan for compliance with the ADA.

The university has assigned responsibility for ensuring the institution's compliance with ADA, with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), and other applicable federal and State laws regarding discrimination on the basis of disability to the ADA Compliance Officer. Dr. Sharon Kirkland-Gordon, Director of Counseling Center, is currently assigned this responsibility. The officer holding this administrative position monitors the institution's efforts for compliance with ADA/Section 504, as well as represents the institution's interests with federal and state agencies.

In addition, the university has a robust organizational structure to monitor and support the institutions' efforts for ADA compliance and/or provide services for people with disabilities. Following is information on the individuals, groups or units involved and their responsibilities:

ADA Coordinator: This individual coordinates the university's responsibilities in complying with and fulfilling its obligations under ADA and other federal and state laws that protect persons with disabilities. The ADA Coordinator's key duties are: monitor and coordinate reviews of policies/practices; develop, conduct, and evaluate educational materials and programs to faculty, staff, and students; and act as liaison to units on campus as well as local, state, and national disability organizations. Dr. Jo Ann Hutchinson, Director of Accessibility and Disability Service, is assigned this responsibility.

President's Commission on Disability Issues: This advisory board, comprised of individuals from across campus, provides advice to the President concerning issues affecting students and employees with disabilities. Dr. Ana Palla-Kane, Accessibility Specialist in the Division of Information Technology serves as the new chair.

Accessibility and Disability Service (ADS): Established in 1976, ADS has grown steadily from its original clientele of seven persons to over 1,000. The mission of the ADS is to coordinate services that ensure individuals with disabilities equal access to University programs. ADS provides and coordinates direct services for students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities, with services tailored to meet the needs of the individuals. It also educates and provides consultation to faculty, staff and administrators to increase their awareness and sensitivity toward individuals with disabilities, and provides students and staff with disabilities the opportunity to gain the skills necessary to effectively advocate for themselves within the University community.

Services include testing accommodations (extended exam time, private space, testing readers and/or scribes, computer access for exams and enlarged print); reading accommodations (audio books, alternate format of text materials, enlarged print); deaf and hard of hearing services (interpreting services, transcribing and audio systems); and other services (priority registration, note taking, lab/library assistance, adaptive technology lab, individualized coaching, advocacy support, and para-transit registration). Dr. Jo Ann Hutchinson is the Director of ADS.

Facilities Management (FM): FM is responsible to ensure that new buildings and renovated facilities meet ADA design guidelines; prepare and update the ADA Transition Plan every three years; and coordinate the Access MD and Access UMD programs for the University. Mr. Charles Reuning is the Associate Vice President and Chief Facilities Officer for Facilities Management.

Department of Transportation Services (DOTS): DOTS manages Shuttle UMD which provides transit services to students, faculty and staff. Shuttle UMD also provides para-transit service, which is a curb-to-curb, on demand and subscription service available to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. During the fall and spring academic semesters, para-transit service hours are twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. During summer sessions, para-transit service hours are twenty-four hours a day Monday through Friday and on the weekends 5:30 PM until 7:30 AM. Advanced subscription scheduling is available Monday through Friday during the fall and spring academic semesters as well as the summer and winter sessions. When the University is closed, none of Shuttle UMD's transit services, including para-transit, are running. Mr. J. David Allen is the Director of DOTS.

Other Services/Facilities: The UMD Campus Webmap at <http://maps.umd.edu/map/> is part of the first phase of UMD's Enterprise GIS (Geographical Information System) Initiative. The campus map application and related systems support is a collaborative effort led by Facilities Management and the Division of Information Technology, with datasets and application development support provided by the Department of Geographical Sciences. The map allows users to filter out stairs and steep inclines and provides travel routes from one location to another on campus. In addition, the University has installed granite markers throughout campus to indicate the pathways to accessible building entrances.