

# CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

## Municipal Development

### **ADA Transition Plan Update**

*Infrastructure within Public Right of Way*



### Introduction

Albuquerque, New Mexico was founded in 1706 with a population of 250. Today, with a population of approximately 559,277, the City of Albuquerque (COA) is known as the largest city in the state of New Mexico. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted on July 26, 1990, and later amended effective January 1, 2009. The ADA provides comprehensive civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, state and local government services, access to public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. The Act has required the City to understand existing infrastructure compliance to quantify how much improvement need exists.

The COA has completed the following projects which included ADA improvements:

- Lead & Coal Avenues Roadway
- Menaul Blvd (Louisiana to Wyoming)
- Atrisco Drive Corridor
- Girard Blvd (Constitution to Indian School)
- Bosque Trail Updates (Montano to Tingley Beach)

### Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of the ADA Transition Plan is to describe the curb ramp and sidewalk improvement needs within the public right of way throughout the City of Albuquerque, to outline the recommended procedures for implementation of the plan, to identify a process of implementation, and to provide costs associated with these improvements.

### Goals of the Plan

The goal of this Plan is to:

- Document the current ADA needs within the City's public right of way;
- Develop an effective capital improvement program;
- Optimize the pedestrian experience;
- Provide safe and usable pedestrian facilities; and
- Comply with all federal, state and local standards.



Evaluation Methodology

This ADA Transition Plan contains a detailed physical barrier evaluation and analysis of existing sidewalks and curb ramps within the public right of way throughout the COA. The analysis is contained in a Geographical Information System (GIS) database managed by the COA and documents the evaluated barriers present at the time of a 2016 data collection.



Sidewalk

The COA contains approximately 3,135 miles of sidewalks. A sidewalk refers to a paved path for pedestrians adjacent to the roadway, providing an accessible and safe route that people can use. ADA states that obstructions within a sidewalk require a 4-foot minimum clear width. Obstructions include poles, vegetation, cracking, fire hydrants, utility infrastructure, guy wire, buckled sidewalk, transit facility (shelter, trash can, bench), benches, and sidewalk termination. Furthermore, ADA requires where the clear width of the sidewalk is less than 5 feet, passing spaces shall be provided every 200 feet. The City is in the process of evaluating passing spaces to better understand this need.

By The Numbers

3,135 Miles of Sidewalk

56% may require additional ROW to add passing spaces

69% maintain adequate clear width (4 ft minimum)

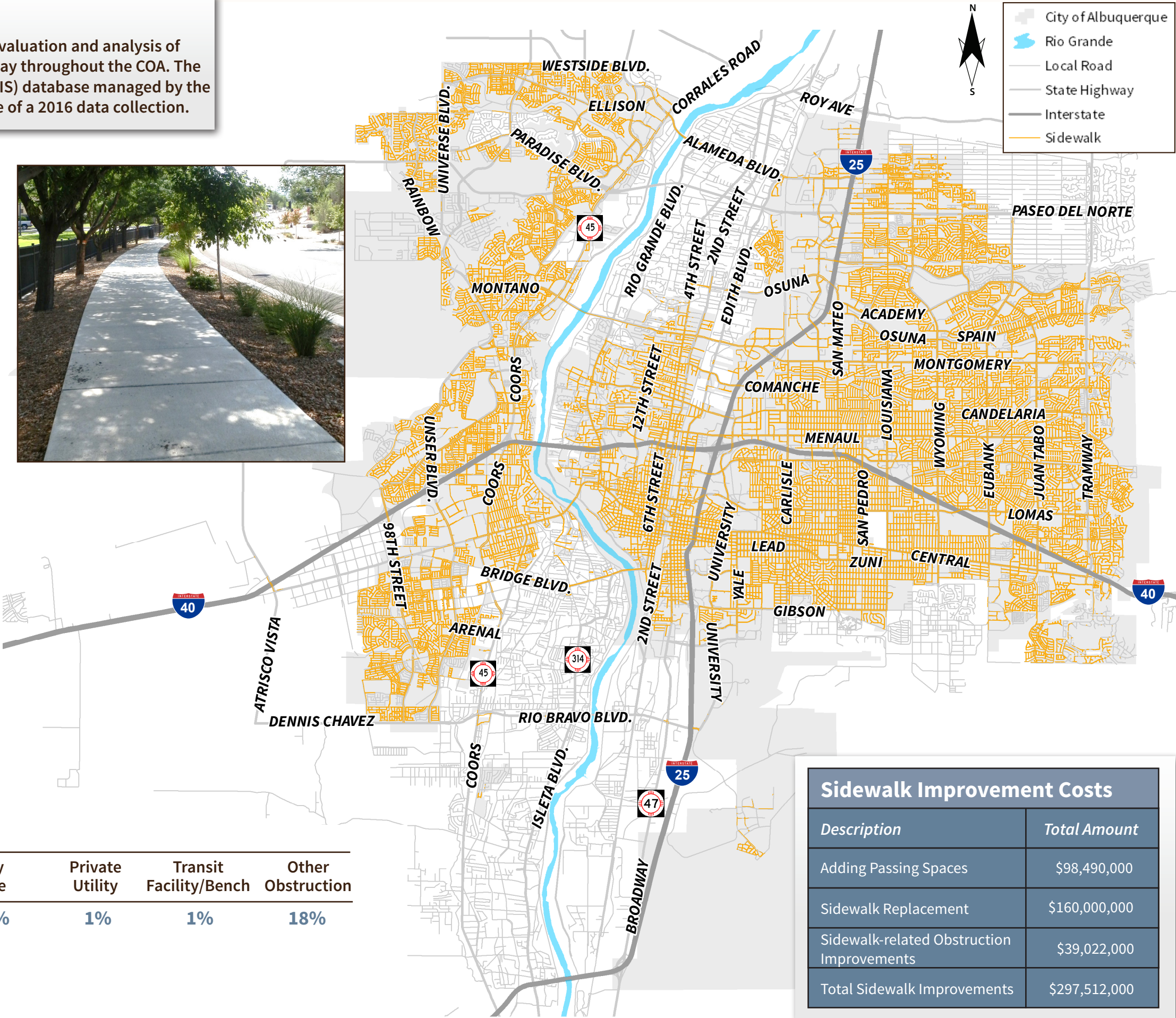
13% have severe cracking or buckling

30% have physical obstruction

Obstructions By The Numbers

10,760 Existing Obstructions

Buckled Sidewalk	Severe Cracking	Pole Obstruction	Fire Hydrant	Guy Wire	Private Utility	Transit Facility/Bench	Other Obstruction
7%	6%	5%	4%	1%	1%	1%	18%









ADA Transition Plan Public Review

A public entity with more than 50 employees is required to seek public input on its ADA Transition Plan. Public input is necessary in order to assure that those directly affected by ADA facilities understand the scope of work and the responsibilities held by the COA. As previously discussed, this report is an update to the 2009 report, providing documentation of the COA’s improvements process and efforts to improve ADA facilities since 2009.

This report will be posted to the COA’s website for a 30-day period for public review and comment. The COA will employ the Human Rights Office to distribute the posted report location to the public. Outreach to the COA ADA Advisory Council will be made, among other groups and associations, including but not limited to; NM Human Rights Bureau, Office of Neighborhood coordination, Southwest ADA Center, and the State of NM Governor’s Commission on Disability. Comments received during the 30-day time period will be reviewed, analyzed and incorporated in their entirety into an appendix of the final ADA Transition Plan, as presumed appropriate.



Narrow Sidewalk



Relocations Required



Narrow Sidewalk & Relocations Required



Utility Relocations Required



Improved Curb Ramp

Grievance Procedure

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). It may be used by anyone who wishes to report a deficiency and/or concern alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the COA. The COA’s Employee Handbook governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

1 Informal Complaint Process

The first step of the Grievance Procedure is through the Informal Complaint Process. This process consists of reporting a concern/issue with ADA facilities within the public right-of-way directly to the COA.

-  [COA Human Rights Website](#)
-  [311 Citizen Contact Center](#)
-  [Report a Physical Deficiency](#)
-  [ADA Email Address](#)

The COA has various options for the public to report any concerns, issues or questions in reference to ADA facilities. The COA Human Rights website contains a web based mapping tool for users to provide online input for such complains. The 311 Citizen Contact Center is utilized for non-emergency services, where complaints, issues, requests, or questions can be made. Report a physical deficiency to:

- [COA Human Rights Website](#)  
 [www.cabq.gov/humanrights](http://www.cabq.gov/humanrights)
- [ADA Email Address](#)  
 [CABQ\\_ADA@cabq.gov](mailto:CABQ_ADA@cabq.gov)

2 Formal Complaint Process

If the response does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the person reporting the concern through the Grievance Procedure and/or his/her designee may submit a formal complaint as soon as possible but no later than 45 calendar days after receipt of the written response from the COA.

Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the formal complaint, the COA ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and identify possible resolutions. Within 30 calendar days after the meeting, the COA ADA Coordinator or his/her designee will respond in writing and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the concern.

A formal complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or his/her designee as soon as possible but no later than 45 calendar days after the alleged violation to:

**Office of Diversity and Human Rights**  
**Attention: ADA Coordinator**  
**P.O. Box 1293**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87103**

3 Appeal Process

If the response by the ADA Coordinator or designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the response to the COA’s Chief Administrative Officer or their designee. Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the COA Chief Administrative Officer or designee will coordinate with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions.

## Public Involvement

COA residents were able to take advantage of the following outreach efforts, which were conducted for this Plan update.



COA ADA Advisory Council



Website



Public Meetings



Email

## Cost Estimates & Funding

The construction cost estimates are based on the historic costs of similar types of improvements for curb ramps and sidewalks along with the use of current maintenance costs and average unit bid prices for similar construction work. Construction costs were created to estimate how much it will cost to improve the existing curb ramp and sidewalk infrastructure in order to meet current ADA guidelines and standards. All costs for this report are based on 2017 unit bid prices. Potential right-of-way needs were documented; however, costs for right-of-way were not included in this Plan.

Current dedicated funding for city-wide ADA improvements for the 2018 and 2019 fiscal years includes \$550,000 per two-year bond cycle. Requests have been made for an increase in funding for the 2020 fiscal year and for future years. Funding for these improvements is provided by a variety of financial mechanisms. Among them are the General Obligation Bond Funds (GO Bonds), as well as federal and state grants, all of which are limited.

## Next Steps

The COA commits to following the ADA standards and guidelines set forth in this Transition Plan for all new construction, reconstruction or alteration projects. The COA commits to actively revising and amending this document and associated GIS database as new information is discovered through additional assessment, submitted complaint forms, and updated standards from the United States Access Board.

Annually, the COA will assess the ADA Transition Plan needs and budget, and provide dedicated funding to make scheduled progress towards making the COA pedestrian facilities fully accessible based on the established procedures.

Remaining COA facilities will be evaluated at a later time. This may include, but will not be limited to: signal equipment, alleys, transit stops, and driveways.

The GIS data associated with this ADA Transition Plan is intended to be a living document that is to be reassessed periodically to maintain compliance as ADA standards are updated. The detailed inventory and tracking mechanisms established with this update will allow for ongoing monitoring of progress while complying with current ADA standards, and assess how future proposed changes to the ADA standards may impact the COA.

Questions/comments on the Update,  
send to [CABQ\\_ADA@cabq.gov](mailto:CABQ_ADA@cabq.gov)

Report a physical deficiency, go to  
<https://www.cabq.gov/humanrights>

Report formal complaint, go to  
<https://www.cabq.gov/humanrights>