

# ADA COMPLIANCE

## Self-Evaluation



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the ADA?

In 1990, President George H. Bush signed into the law the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), protecting the rights of citizens with disabilities.

Title II of the ADA mandates that state and local governments must make their programs, services, and activities accessible to everyone. This requirement extends not only to physical access to sidewalks and curb ramps in the public right-of-way, but also to policies or procedures.

### 2. Why does Snohomish County Public Works need to do the self-evaluation plan and transition plan?

The federal government mandates Public Works to complete a self-evaluation of its pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way in regards to its compliance with federal, state, and local requirements. This is followed by a transition plan describing how it will resolve all barriers identified during the self-evaluation. There are financial ramifications if Public Works does not complete these tasks and become ADA compliant.

Public Works sees ADA compliance not only as a regulation, but as the right thing to do.

### 3. What types of facilities did Snohomish County Public Works evaluate?

Public Works is focused on Title II of the ADA, specifically, requirements that relate to the county's pedestrian facility program. Pedestrian facilities in the public right-of-way include:

- Curb ramps.
- Pedestrian crossings.
- Pedestrian signals and beacons.

- Sidewalks.
- Bus stops.
- Alternate pedestrian facilities in work zones.

Compliance with the other aspects of Title II and other titles of the ADA are the responsibility of other county departments.



#### 4. Why is Snohomish County Public Works non-compliant?

The creation of almost all of the administrative barriers for Public Works can be traced to at least one of four main root causes:

- (1) Lack of awareness.
- (2) Lack of suitable policies and/or procedures and guidance.
- (3) Inadequate technology.
- (4) Insufficient training.

In most cases of physical barriers, non-compliant facilities have been constructed in the public right-of-way due to multiple contributing factors and several root causes. Public Works identified four main contributing factors for physical barriers:

- (1) Expectations are not clearly set / Lack of training.
- (2) Standards have not been clearly defined.
- (3) No follow-up to determine if standards have been met.
- (4) No accountability to address non-compliant facilities or handle exceptions.

#### 5. How much is it going to cost for Snohomish County Public Works to become compliant?

To meet the requirements of the ADA, it's estimated to take Snohomish County more than \$1 billion to correct and remove all barriers.

#### 6. How long is it going to take for Snohomish County Public Works to become compliant?

Depending on the resources available to Snohomish County Public Works' ADA Compliance Program, it's going to take Snohomish County decades to correct all of the ADA non-compliance issues.

Public Works is working to correct these barriers with dedicated resources that will include personnel / staff and funding.

#### 7. What's been done so far to correct these errors / barriers?

Public Works did not wait to complete its self-evaluation before addressing non-compliance issues. Since beginning the self-evaluation process:

- A citizen advisory committee was formed to advise Public Works staff conducting the self-evaluation.
- An ADA coordinator was designated to lead the self-evaluation, investigate complaints of discrimination based on disability, and implement a grievance procedure to fairly adjudicate them.
- An extensive amount of training was developed and provided to staff, contractors, and utility franchise workers in the public and private sectors.

- Guidance documents were developed to answer frequently asked questions and provide help where the ADA is vague.
- Since 2013, hundreds of curb ramps and pedestrian crossings, dozens of pushbuttons, and miles of sidewalks have been constructed or reconstructed to full ADA compliance that otherwise would not have been if Public Works had not undertaken its ADA self-evaluation.



## 8. What is the county doing next in terms of the ADA Compliance Program?

The non-compliance results were not what Public Works expected – it anticipated higher compliance rates.

Based on the results of the self-evaluation, a list of all the barriers that were identified and follow-up / action items (FAIs) were drafted.

- A checklist of 60 FAIs can be found in Appendix J of the draft document. (Visit [www.SnoCoADA.org](http://www.SnoCoADA.org) and select “Resources”.)
- All barriers identified have very specific FAIs that address the contributing factors and root causes of non-compliance.

Once the self-evaluation is complete, Public Works will draft its transition plan. This will include:

- Methods that will be used to make facilities accessible.
- Schedules, milestones, and progress dates for compliance.
- An estimated budget.
- Resources to be allocated to complete the plan.

## 9. Where can I find more information about the ADA Compliance Program?

You can visit [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/pwADA](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/pwADA) for more information.

If you have any further comments or questions about the self-evaluation, contact Ryan Peterson at 425-388-3488 ext. 2883 or by emailing [Ryan.Peterson@snoco.org](mailto:Ryan.Peterson@snoco.org).

## 10. How can I become more involved in the ADA Compliance Program?

- To read the full draft self-evaluation study, visit [www.SnoCoADA.org](http://www.SnoCoADA.org) and select “Resources.”
  - o **Note:** This is only a draft. The final version will be completed and shared publically within in the next year.
- Share your input by completing the self-evaluation survey.
- Sign-up to participate in:
  - o A focus group in mid-October.
  - o The Public Works ADA citizen advisory committee (ADAPROW).
  - o A long-term partnership with the ADA Compliance Program.

## 11. I know locations / barriers or if I see a barrier, who should I contact?

You should contact the ADA Coordinator for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way, Jim Bloodgood, at 425-388-6449 or by emailing him at [Jim.Bloodgood@snoco.org](mailto:Jim.Bloodgood@snoco.org).

TitleVI/ADA: Interpreter and translation services for non-English speakers and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please make arrangements in advance by calling Ryan Peterson, 425-388-3488, ext. 2883. For questions regarding Public Works' Title VI Program, contact our Title VI Coordinator via email at [spw-titlevi@snoco.org](mailto:spw-titlevi@snoco.org), or phone 425-388-6660. Hearing/speech impaired call 711.

Si los solicita, hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y traducción para personas que no hablan inglés y adaptaciones para personas con discapacidades. Le pedimos que coordine los arreglos necesarios por anticipado llamando por teléfono Ryan Peterson, 425-388-3488, ext. 2883. Si tiene preguntas sobre el Programa de Obras Públicas del Título VI, comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador del Título VI por correo electrónico a [spw-titlevi@snoco.org](mailto:spw-titlevi@snoco.org), o por teléfono al 425-388-6660. Las personas con dificultades auditivas/del habla deben llamar al 711.