

From: FHWA, Administrator (FHWA) <Administrator.FHWA@dot.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:12 PM

Subject: Reaffirming our Commitment to Americans with Disabilities and Removing Barriers to Access

Dear Colleague,

As we celebrate the 33rd anniversary of the landmark legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) today, we reaffirm our commitment to Americans with disabilities and removing barriers to access to our transportation systems.

State Departments of Transportation (state DOTs) have made great strides in addressing the pre-ADA legacy of inaccessible pedestrian facilities identified in your ADA Transition Plans. The historic funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is also an opportunity to accelerate completion of those plans and the elimination of inaccessible pedestrian facilities and public-rights-of-way. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has compiled an overview of the many funding sources that can help you implement ADA Transition Plans and improve related data:

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.cfm.

To mark this year's ADA anniversary, FHWA is launching an effort to update the Department's website to help state DOTs and the public understand and better utilize ADA Transition Plans. The updated website will provide direct links to state DOT ADA Transition Plans and the inventory of structural barriers identified within them. It will also specify whether the inventory is available to the public in a geospatial format that can be mapped and analyzed, and will link to the data where available.

We invite you to work with FHWA's Office of Civil Rights and Division Offices to validate your information for this website, and to consider improving the public's access to and use of your existing inventory data. This will provide the public a better understanding regarding how this data affects their lives as part of the traveling public. This will also help communicate your progress to members of the public, including individuals with disabilities, and assist your planning teams in programming BIL funding to address remaining legacy barriers. For more information, please contact Irene Rico, Associate Administrator of the FHWA Office of Civil Rights at irene.rico@dot.gov, or your FHWA Division Administrator.

Thank you for everything you do to keep our nation's infrastructure safe and accessible for all, including Americans with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Shailen P. Bhatt
Administrator
Federal Highway Administration