

APPENDIX I

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

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PERRY COUNTY NEWS

ADA plan available for review here, in courthouse

Public comments being taken

Monday, May 14, 2012 at 10:08 am (*Updated: May 14, 10:55 am*)

By KEVIN KOELLING
Managing Editor

TELL CITY – A draft grievance policy and procedure intended to bring the county into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act was provided to the county commissioners at their regular meeting May 7.

As the *News* reported March 19, the Federal Highway Administration is requiring communities across the nation to develop policies for dealing with complaints that they don't comply with the act.

Failure to do so will result in the withholding of highway funds. Described by Matt Wallace of the Bernardin-Lochmueller engineering firm of Evansville as written in a user-friendly question-and-answer format, the draft is attached at the bottom of this story. It includes a form people can use to file grievances about discrimination they've experienced.

Wallace told the commissioners communities were required by the act when it became law in 1990 to develop transition plans they would follow to become compliant with it. The plans would be self-evaluation tools for the identification of physical barriers and correction programs, such as the installation of curb ramps, he explained.

Communities were also required to develop grievance procedures, Wallace continued, "for folks who felt they had been discriminated against on the basis of disability. Those folks would have a chance and a procedure to follow to file a grievance with a community and ask for something to be corrected."

He was at the meeting, he continued, to present to the commissioners and the public a draft policy and procedure. The four-page policy, which includes a grievance form, can also be viewed in the county administrator's office.

"Perry County is committed to ensuring that people with disabilities are able to take part in and benefit from the variety of public services and activities offered by the county," the document's introductory sentence asserts. It goes on to describe the statutory basis – the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended in 1972, 1978 and 1992 – of the requirement.

"Then in more of a user-friendly question-and-answer format, we go through who may file a grievance, what should it include, when should it be done, to whom should it be given and what happens after it's filed?" Wallace explained. He added that a form was included to document information pertinent to the complaint so county officials can conduct fair evaluations and investigations.

He proposed returning to the commissioners' June 4 meeting and "we'll have a public hearing at that time to let any folks who would like to make public comment on the procedure, whether they support it or would like to see something done in a different manner, whatever public comment they would have on the policy and procedure."

Anyone unable to attend the meeting can send their comments to the county administrator's office in the courthouse or call 547-2758, he added.

The commissioners could adopt the policy at the June 4 meeting or table the issue if they need to take time to consider any comments that might have been offered.

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ARTICLE IN PERRY COUNTY NEWS ON APRIL 7, 2016 (portion)

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PERRY COUNTY NEWS

County up to date on ADA upgrades

By Stuart Cassidy

Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 9:01 am

PERRY COUNTY – The county government is making strides to ensure adequate access to all of its buildings for those with disabilities. According to Teresa Kanneberg, the county's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator, a steering committee has overseen development of plans to identify and correct deficiencies on that front.

In an update of activities presented to county commissioners during their regular session Monday, Kanneberg said the committee has been working since 2013 on implementing an ADA transition plan. Such efforts played a crucial role in adopting upgrades that went into courthouse renovations completed in 2014.

Included in the rehab were improvements to the parking lot, where parking spaces were increased in size; new signs added to the interior and exterior of the building; and reconfiguring of walls in restrooms as well as revamping of jury boxes, both measures aimed at making them more wheelchair accessible.

Initial work was in accordance with a grievance policy adopted by the county in mid-2012 that set procedures intended to bring the county into compliance with ADA provisions. That was in response to measures from the Federal Highway Administration requiring communities across the nation to develop policies for dealing with complaints that claim noncompliance with the act.

The ADA has been in place since the early 1990s but many of the objectives had gone unfulfilled, nationwide. Due to the lack of impetus from local administrations, the Federal Highway Administration implemented policies toward local governments that would withhold funding if corrective steps weren't taken. The ADA website explains there is no explicit "grandfather" clause in the ADA. However, the law is flexible and governments are not required to take any action that would cause undue financial and administrative burdens.

The result yielded self-evaluation tools, employed by the county ADA coordinator, for the identification of physical barriers and correction programs, such as the installation of curb ramps.

In the nearly four years since the county adopted its approach, there have not been any complaints logged against it due to impediments to those with disabilities.

The overall goal of the federal guidelines is to provide sufficient access to civic life for all residents. "To ensure that this goal is met, Title II of the ADA requires State and local governments to make their programs and services accessible to persons with disabilities.

This requirement extends not only to physical access at government facilities, programs, and events – but also to policy changes that governmental entities must make to ensure that all people with disabilities can take part in, and benefit from, the programs and services of State and local governments.

In addition, governmental entities must ensure effective communication – including the provision of necessary auxiliary aids and services – so that individuals with disabilities can participate in civic life," according to the ADA website.

Self-evaluation enables local governments to pinpoint the facilities, programs and services that must be modified or relocated to ensure that local governments are complying with the ADA.

With a relatively modern courthouse and updates to it, providing even further amenities, the list of problem areas needing attention is rather short.

Among the chief locales is at the former National Guard Armory, which the county assumed from Tell City in

2014. The building is scheduled for a complete renovation to house departments currently stationed in the Cannelton Annex, wherein architects have incorporated into design plans new entrances and sidewalks, along with other additions to follow ADA requirements.

Kanneberg explained the structure had undergone an ADA assessment by the city before the transfer and several minor upgrades have been conducted.

With a transition plan that is re-evaluated on a three-year basis, Kanneberg said the recently opened South Annex, which was formerly under hospital control, will need an ADA analysis.

The South Annex and the former armory will be topics of discussion at the steering committee's next meeting.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PUBLISHED IN PERRY COUNTY NEWS

Published on May 28, 2018 and May 31, 2018:

Notice of Public Hearing

Perry County is updating its Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. A public hearing will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018, at 4:00 pm at the Perry County Courthouse in the Commissioners' Meeting Room to allow the public to provide input on Perry County's self-evaluation of programs, services, activities, policies, and practices. The public is encouraged to attend or provide comment by June 4, 2018 to ADA Coordinator Teresa Kanneberg by emailing pccomm@psci.net or calling 812.547.2758.

PUBLIC HEARING ANNOUNCEMENT POSTED ON PERRY COUNTY WEBSITE

Public comment accepted until June 4, 2018 for ADA Self-evaluation & Transition Plan
Posted on May 21, 2018 by Teresa Kanneberg

Perry County is updating its Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. A public hearing will be held on Monday, June 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. at the Perry County Courthouse in the Commissioners' Meeting Room to allow the public to provide input on Perry County's self-evaluation of programs, services, activities, policies, and practices. The public is encouraged to attend or provide comment by June 4, 2018 to ADA Coordinator Teresa Kanneberg by emailing pccomm@psci.net or calling 812.547.2758.

ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 4, 2018

ADA Steering Committee Members:

Teresa Kanneberg, ADA Coordinator
Bill Amos, Commissioner
Charles Baumeister, Southern Indiana Resource Solutions (and County Coroner)
Cathy Boerste, Purdue Extension Director
Pam Goffinet, Auditor
Reece Hendershot, Deputy Sheriff
Greg Hendershot, Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent

Other Public Members Present:

Stuart Cassidy, Perry County News
Larry James, Commissioner
Alan Malone, Sheriff

ARTICLE IN PERRY COUNTY NEWS ON JUNE 7, 2018

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PERRY COUNTY NEWS

Where are the barriers in county's ADA compliance?

Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 10:00 am

By STUART CASSIDY

TELL CITY – County leaders are taking steps to ensure that all locally owned government buildings and grounds are in compliance with Americans With Disabilities Act requirements. As part of an evolving three-year ADA transition plan, steps will include a review of the courthouse, newly renovated armory and south annexes, prosecutor's office, highway garage, county-run parks, associated parking lots and any curbs that may encroach onto county rights of way. It also includes potential policy updates to ensure employees are providing equal services to all people.

According to Perry County ADA Coordinator Teresa Kanneberg, the latest aims are part of the long-range ADA compliance plan that was set into place more than five years ago when the federal Department of Transportation eyed more stringent oversight to help ensure equal opportunities for all citizens. While there has never been an ADA related complaint against the county, Kanneberg said the goal is to seek continued improvements and have "reasonable accommodation" procedures in place to help as many people as possible should support services be needed. While many measures have already been implemented toward official office procedures, there's more that needs to be accomplished. That could mean some inner-office changes to remove any existing barriers that could impede future workers.

As most of the county-owned structures were built or have been updated after the act passed in 1990, most are largely in compliance, yet there are some deficiencies that limits some access, Kanneberg said. Much of the corrective action will likely involve adding more wheelchair-accessible spaces in parking lots, putting up new signs alerting motorists to that availability and providing other minor alterations, like ensuring that doors

open and close within ADA specifications.

However, in some instances, more rigorous repairs may be sought. For example, Kanneberg pointed out that a ramp leading into the commissioners' room at the courthouse doesn't technically meet specifications when doors are closed, but are in compliance when open.

While there is no explicit "grandfather" clause in the law, it is flexible and governments are not required to take any action that would cause undue financial and administrative burdens.

Yet, possible issues are being evaluated by the coordinator and will be presented to the county ADA Steering committee in the near future, though that meeting hasn't yet been announced. The steering committee will then be charged with finding solutions to limit any potential barriers to citizens.

One of the more pressing problems is at the South Annex which houses the Extension Offices and parks and recreations headquarters. While that facility was constructed in the early 90s, it doesn't have wheelchair access through the main entrance. As it is, those with mobility issues have to ring a buzzer at a side entrance and wait for personnel to unlock the door. According to Extension Director Cathy Boerste, that's not an ideal situation since equal access isn't available for those with a disability, but there isn't a quick, easy or cheap remedy.

Cost estimates to construct a concrete ramp at the main entrance reportedly came out to more than \$16,000 for materials alone. A suggestion to swap a demonstration kitchen with the reception area to allow the side door to become the main entrance was expected to be even more costly.

A major hurdle to any upgrades is that the ADA committee has an annual budget of \$2,000 for repairs. More money could be sought through appropriation, but the committee wants to identify its top priorities first.

During a public hearing on the matter, the group agreed that the South Annex should be atop their list of projects.

With a crumbling parking lot laid about 25 years ago, which was also listed a mobility impediment, the committee is looking at a possible complete revamp of that exterior. They hope to develop a plan to pay for a project in the near term, and have a grasp on all other needed repairs countywide by the end of next year.

"Over the course of the next three years, I think we could knock out most of these," Kanneberg said as she went through a list of potential barriers already identified.

For more information about Perry County's efforts to improve ADA compliance policies, visit www.perrycounty.in.gov/about-perry-county/ada-and-title-vi-resources.

PERRY COUNTY ADA STEERING COMMITTEE VIRTUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Members of the Perry County ADA Steering Committee attended a virtual meeting. ADA Coordinator Teresa Kanneberg informed them that the purpose of the meeting was to work on developing a proposed Transition Plan for the next three years. Members had been sent in advance a timeline of progress since the previous three-year plan was approved and a copy of self-evaluation fundings. After some discussion, members agreed on a proposed Transition Plan and to invite the public to comment on the Plan before asking the Commissioners for approval.

PERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2021

Teresa Kanneberg, County Administrator and ADA & Title VI Coordinator, notified the Commissioners that a public comment period would begin immediately for a proposed three-year ADA Transition Plan. The public would be invited to submit comments by mail, e-mail, phone, or in person at the Courthouse on or before November 1, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at which time she would be available in the Courthouse Meeting Room to accept comments in person.

IMAGE COPY OF LEGAL AD PUBLISHED IN PERRY COUNTY NEWS ON OCTOBER 18,2021

Notice of public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Perry County is updating it's Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan. The public is invited to view the proposed Plan at

<http://www.perrycounty.in.gov/about-perry-county/ada-and-title-viresources/ada-self-eval-trans-plan/> and provide comment

now through November 1, 2021.

To provide comments or request a printed copy, contact Perry County ADA Coordinator, Teresa Kanneberg, 812-547-2758, countyadmin@perry-county.in.gov , 2219 Payne St, Tell City, IN 47586. The comment period will end at 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2021, at which time the ADA Coordinator will be available in the courthouse Meeting Room to accept comments in public.

No comments were received from the public.