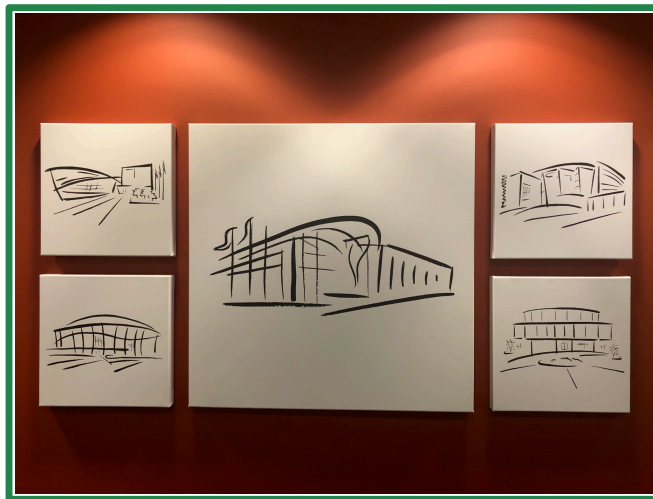


Executive Summary

GOAL STATEMENT

This Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan is intended to benefit the City of Charlotte (the City) in implementing and further establishing a culture of inclusivity for all residents regardless of their ability or disability. The Transition Plan (the Plan) will draw from the City's existing vision: "Charlotte is America's Queen City, opening her arms to a diverse and inclusive community of residents, businesses, and visitors alike; a safe family-oriented city where people work together to help everyone thrive." This vision aims to provide equal opportunity to all residents in order to establish a world-class City. By providing opportunity and removing architectural and programmatic barriers, the City plans to maximize the talents and contributions of all residents in creating a vibrant and culturally unique environment.



Concept Drawings of the Charlotte Convention Center

This Plan will focus on providing access to City programs, services, and activities (PSAs), and facilities to persons with disabilities. By removing potential barriers to such City services, it will be easier for residents with disabilities to participate in the City's cultural and economic growth. As such, the Plan's goal is to establish a City-wide culture of accessibility. This cultural shift will place ADA access at the forefront of City planning, construction, and policy-making

efforts. This aligns with the City's mission: "The mission of the City of Charlotte is to ensure the delivery of quality public services and to promote the safety, health and quality of life of its citizens."

This 85% draft of the Plan incorporates comments made by City staff regarding the 75% draft presented to the City on October 4, 2019. In this draft, there are several placeholders which will be updated in the final draft that will be produced in July 2021. This draft presents City staff and other stakeholders with the final opportunity to provide comments and suggestions which will be incorporated into the final draft. As such, more granular information will be provided as additional feedback is gathered from City staff and the self-evaluations are completed.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The final Plan will be developed over an approximately 30-month period that started in January 2019 and goes through July 2021. During that time, the Altura Team will work with the City's staff in the creation of the Plan. The City contracted with Baseline Mobility Group, Inc. (Baseline) to provide project management services as augmented staff. In conjunction with the City, the project team includes Altura Solutions, LLC (Altura), Disability Rights & Resources (DR&R) and Simon Resources, Inc. (Simon). Altura is based in Austin, TX and serves as the lead consultant that provides project management and accessibility consulting services. Disability Rights & Resources is a non-profit Center for Independent Living based in Charlotte, NC and provides support in the self-evaluations of PSAs, historical context to the City's ADA efforts, and support in public input open *houses. Simon is a public involvement firm based in Winston-Salem, NC and assists with both the public input open houses and City staff open house sessions, and manages input received from the public input online survey.

A total of 1,489 existing City PSAs and 241 City policies and procedures have been analyzed, and the self-evaluation of 175 City-owned facilities are included in this draft of the Plan. In general, City-owned facilities and select City-leased facilities were part of the self-evaluation. Facilities that are owned by the City but operated by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) were also part of the facility self-evaluation. The CRVA is a public authority created by the North Carolina General Assembly that is charged under the City Charter with managing and

operating certain city-owned facilities. The City and CRVA will work together to address the recommendations outlined in this Plan.



Charlotte Fire Station 22

The Plan aims to achieve program access as defined by the ADA to be “a public entity's services, programs, or activities, when viewed in their entirety, must be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.”¹ In essence, not every facility must be altered to be fully ADA compliant, but programs can be moved from or duplicated from facilities with barriers to barrier-free facilities. Programs, services, and activities that are subject to the ADA requirements include any service that is provided by the City across every department. Examples of such programs include law enforcement, providing utilities, permit applications, zoning regulations, boards, commissions meetings, hiring practices, and volunteer opportunities.

Pedestrian facilities within the City’s public right-of-way (ROW) were not part of the Altura Team’s scope of work but were evaluated under the City’s contract between the City of Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) and Cole Engineering. The ROW ADA Transition Plan will include funding separate from the Altura Team’s work. The typical pedestrian facilities found within the public ROW include sidewalks, curb ramps, intersections, pedestrian pushbuttons, and transit stops. As of the date of this draft, CDOT’s ROW Transition Plan work has not been

¹ Americans with Disabilities Act, 28 CFR § 35.150 Existing Facilities

completed. Once completed, the Altura Team's work and CDOT's ROW Transition Plan will be combined to give the City of Charlotte a complete ADA Transition Plan.

An ADA Transition Plan is a living document that can be modified over time based on the City's priorities and available resources. This Plan should serve as the starting point and outline for the City to remove identified physical barriers to achieve program access. The Plan can be modified to reflect evolving needs of the community and as funding and other resources become available to assist in the implementation of the Plan.



Charlotte Fire Station 40