

## **Annual Report 2024**

### **Pueblo/PACOG ADA Advisory Committee**

#### **2024 Goals:**

- 1) Continue monitoring access to city, county and state facilities and services**
- 2) Business Community outreach**
- 3) Succeed in outreach to State Fair and CDOT technical advisors**
- 4) Emergency preparedness**
- 5) Strengthen public transit options**
- 6) Promote ADA awareness, publicity and outreach**

#### **Successes:**

##### **Goal 1: Continue monitoring access to city, county and state facilities and services**

Many ADA compliant curb ramps and sidewalks were installed throughout our City as part of several construction projects

Automatic door openers were installed for restroom doors at the Pueblo Municipal Justice Center (PMJC)

Signage was installed for motion sensors in the main entrance vestibule of the PMJC

We reviewed the plans for the new Pueblo County Detention Center and Bureau Chief Paul Toth answered our questions about ADA compliance.

In excess of 50 walk/roll audits were conducted during the year. The results of some of them follow:

A walk/roll audit was requested by, and conducted at, the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment building on 101 W 9<sup>th</sup> Street. A walk/roll audit was conducted at the Sangre de Cristo Arts & Conference Center on 210 S. Santa Fe Avenue

We reviewed Pueblo Transit's plan for lighting at some bus stops and conducted walk/roll audits for 33 of them. A walk/roll audit was conducted of the bus stops in Salt Creek and the County Compliance Officer, as well as the Pueblo Transit Director were notified that ADA access for mobility device users is nonexistent.

The extension cord barrier that was identified in our 2023 walk/roll audit of the Chile & Frijoles Festival was resolved by City Public Works using electrical outlets in light poles in 2024. However, there was an issue with sufficient accessible Port-A-Johns.

An automatic door opener was installed after one of our wheelchair-using members was not able to enter the Pueblo Ice Arena. A new mobility device lift was also installed when no parts could be found to fix the old one.

A walk/roll audit was conducted of Dutch Clark Stadium and several barriers were identified. District 60 Directors, Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority Director and City Council were all notified. We hope these barriers will be removed in Phase 2 of the renovation; completion is estimated to be sometime in 2025.

The west entrance to the Pueblo County Courthouse was made ADA compliant for access into the building. The accommodation of having the office for auto registration, etc. directly ahead is continuing and appreciated. During the west entrance renovation of the County Courthouse, the east entrance wasn't accessible for our wheelchair-using members for over a year, but that has been remedied

with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new ramps in the fall. However, the button for the automatic door opener has not been moved where it is accessible for all wheelchair-users, so it remains insufficiently accessible.

The City asked the Committee for one letter of support and the County asked for them for three different projects, and received them in a timely fashion.

### **Goal # 2: Business Community outreach**

We continue to support the long-term goals of the Front Range Passenger Rail system and a Regional Transportation System.

### **Goal # 3: Succeed in outreach to State Fair and CDOT technical advisors**

We engaged with the Colorado Department of Transportation Region 2 at their 4P (Project Priority Programming Process) meeting and asked to be included in reviews of their projects in the planning stages. We had identified existing barriers in 3 of their completed projects that had to be retrofitted.

### **Goal #4: Emergency preparedness**

We took part in an Emergency Management Exercise at the Pueblo Airport and get regular updates on relevant issues and projects.

### **Goal # 5: Strengthen public transit options**

We supported the added bus routes for more access to shopping.

### **Goal # 6: Promote ADA awareness, publicity and outreach**

We promoted ADA awareness by having representatives present at numerous meetings of other Pueblo bodies, such as the Transit Advisory Commission and PACOG, meeting with City Council and others.

### **Challenges:**

When we asked for an update about the new elevator in the Courthouse, the reply we got was a sarcastic “Are you gonna pay for it?” We look forward to appropriate communications from County staff from now on.

When we met with everyone involved with the Phase 2 of the Dutch Clark renovation on October 7, 2024, the District 60 Schools Supervisor of Operations told the Committee after bringing up the cost of the accessible restroom pods, that most events are only a couple of hours long. This insinuated that people with disabilities should wait until the event is over to use the restroom elsewhere.

While it is doubtful that any insult was intended, the inappropriate communications and assumptions clearly indicate that additional work with our partners is needed to create increased ADA awareness.

We audited an Assistive Listening Device (ALD) to use during training on November 20, 2024 held at the Pueblo County Emergency Services Center. This was training of Preparedness Planning for underserved populations for Rural Responders and Volunteers, and the ALD was not working.

The ALD microphone system that was provided for the December PACOG Board meeting was one that was owned by one of the board members. This was not effective, and the County ADA Coordinator was

notified, and an ALD specifically for public attendees to use was requested for future meetings.

We have been unsuccessful in even being able to speak to the people at the State Fair who are responsible for ADA access. They claim to have access as part of what they were given taxpayer money to provide, but do not appear to have any interest in doing so effectively.

Closed captioning and American Sign Language Interpreters were requested for the 2025 State of the City Address as access was insufficient for the 2024 Address.

### **Summary:**

We are generally pleased with the progress we have seen with both the City and County access issues, and the generally positive response from both. While there remain issues with the CDOT and the State Fair, we will continue to work towards progress with them. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners in moving forward in 2025.

### **2025 Goals:**

- 1) Continue monitoring access to city, county and state facilities and services**
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