



**The City of Rio Rancho  
3200 Civic Center Circle NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144**

**GOVERNING BODY**

COUNCILOR DISTRICT ONE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT TWO:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT THREE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT FOUR:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT FIVE:  
COUNCILOR DISTRICT SIX:

Chuck Wilkins  
Patricia A. Thomas  
Tamara L. Gutierrez  
Mark Scott  
Timothy C. Crum  
Lonnie Clayton

MAYOR:

Thomas Swisstack

ACTING CITY MANAGER:

James Babin

ADA COORDINATOR:

Scott Sensanbaugher

ADA Interim Transition Plan Adopted: (date)

**The City of Rio Rancho  
3200 Civic Center Circle NE  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144**

**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT  
INTERIM TRANSITION PLAN**

**I. Background**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a Federal Civil Rights Legislation which mandates non-discrimination to persons with disabilities. The ADA, Title II prohibits discrimination by public entities on the basis of disability. Therefore, it is important that the City of Rio Rancho comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those protecting persons with disabilities.

In order to accomplish this, the City of Rio Rancho is developing this Transition Plan. The document will outline the City's plan and schedule for conducting a self-evaluation of its roadway infrastructure, identify issues of accessibility that need to be addressed, and identify a plan for bringing this infrastructure into compliance. The City will progressively remove physical barriers to accessibility within its right of way to ensure access to persons with disabilities and the public as a whole.

Currently all newly-built City infrastructure projects and developer-initiated projects with public facilities are required to be compliant with all ADA regulations and requirements.

The City's Final Transition Plan will contain the following elements:

- A description of the type and list of physical barriers in the public entity's roadway facilities that limit accessibility of its programs, services, or activities to individuals with disabilities;
- A detailed description of the methods to be utilized to remove these barriers and make the facilities accessible;
- The Schedule for taking the necessary steps to achieve compliance with Title II;
- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation;
- A schedule for providing ADA compliant pedestrian facilities, where pedestrian walkways cross the streets.

The City currently follows roadway standards that conform to ADA requirements. Some of these standards are published by the NMDOT and include Standard Drawings for Pedestrian Access Details for Curb Ramps, Types A through D; Median Curb Details, Pedestrian Islands, Driveways and Driveway Aprons, Stairway and Handrail requirements, Accessible Parking, Passenger loading bus stop and ramp requirements; all aided by a Detectable Warning Surface where applicable. These standards are found on the city's website at: <http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/index.aspx?nid=539>

**II. ADA Program**

**A. Responsible Official**

An ADA Program Coordinator has been designated by the City as the person responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the City of Rio Rancho's ADA Transition Plan. Currently this function is performed by the Director of Public Works.

**B. Internal Review**

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The City of Rio Rancho conducted an internal review of available ADA compliance documentation and items that should be evaluated within its jurisdiction in February of 2012. A process and methodology for self-evaluation was established and an interim transition plan was developed to begin the structured implementation of a corrective program for deficiencies identified in the self-evaluation process outlined in this interim plan.

C. Self-Evaluation

As required by ADA legislation, the City conducted a partial self-evaluation survey of all public roadway infrastructures within its jurisdiction in the summer of 2012. As part of this partial self evaluation, the City of Rio Rancho equally divided all ADA infrastructures into 12 inspection zones. Categories of infrastructure being reviewed include: sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian push button stations at signals and crosswalks and mailbox locations adjacent to public facilities and utilities located within and/or adjacent to public facilities.

An Action Plan will be developed and updated annually by the City, listing specific upcoming projects and/or facilities modifications needed. The City is anticipating conducting compliance inspections yearly, subject to available funding. With current projections, all compliance inspections should be completed within 6 years (2019).

III. Transition Plan

A. Prioritization

The City has the responsibility of identifying barriers and implementing a corrective program. The City's self-evaluation survey will identify inventory requiring modifications to comply with ADA requirements.

The City has limited funding available for infrastructure upgrades so a list to prioritize upgrades within each inspection zone will be developed with the following criteria:

1. **Land Use.** Specific land uses (schools, hospitals, retirement communities, commercial districts) will be used to prioritize improvements. This would be a "**High**" priority.
2. **Population.** Large population concentrations have the possibility of higher impact. This is considered a "**Medium**" priority.
3. **Already Identified Projects.** The City will ensure that upcoming capital or maintenance projects that can correct ADA deficiencies identified within its project area will do so. This is considered a "**Low**" priority only in the sense that a project has already been identified to correct the deficiencies.
4. **Others.** Projects not falling into any of these categories will be listed but not given priority in funding. These locations will be reviewed periodically to ensure that they do not move into one of the three categories listed above, therefore changing its prioritization and ranking.

B. Facility Classification

Access to and utilization of the City's facilities by individuals with disabilities can be compromised by the barriers described below. Barrier descriptions are not necessarily complete, but they represent the potential type of barriers that may be identified by the City during the self-evaluation.

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The City of Rio Rancho's roadway system provides the traveling public with routes throughout the City limits that can be accessed via motorized vehicle and by pedestrians. Sidewalks and multi-use paths are the public facilities with potential barriers that need to be evaluated to determine if the facility (sidewalks, ramps, and associated infrastructure) meets current ADA requirements. Potential barriers may include:

1. Ramps. May not be present where needed or may not meet ADA requirements. Tactile warnings not placed correctly or are not present.
2. Fire Hydrants and Utilities. Location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may present a barrier to the public.
3. Group mailboxes and single mail box installations. Incorrect or poor location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may make these facilities non-compliant.
4. Landscape obstructions within the sidewalk.
5. Pedestrian push buttons at signals and crossing locations set incorrectly, at the incorrect height or with non-compliant button type.

**C. Inventory**

The table below depicts the type of data the City intends to collect to evaluate its roadway infrastructure during the self-survey.

	Material Type	Width	Compliant	Deficiency	Obstruction Type	Obstruction Owner	Ramp Type	X-Slope	Down Slope	Tactile Warning
Sidewalks	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Ramps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utilities	X		X	X	X	X				
Ped Push Buttons			X	X	X	X				
Mailboxes			X	X						

**D. Infrastructure ADA Compliance Program**

Upon identification and prioritization of ADA non-compliant City infrastructure, the City will implement an ADA compliance program within the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP).

This program will help to establish a proposed annual budget to begin correcting ADA non-compliant infrastructure within the City of Rio Rancho with the priority being given to those deficiencies with a high priority. It is anticipated that the City will complete all upgrades to ADA non-compliant infrastructure within 7 years (2020).

**IV. Strategy**

The following strategy is recommended to assist the City of Rio Rancho in meeting ADA requirements.

**A. Accessible Ramps and Sidewalks**

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The Department of Public Works will resolve ADA noncompliance issues relating to deficient ramps and sidewalks on an annual basis by utilizing in-house maintenance staff, by on-call contracting services, or by seeking contractor bids.

**B. Utilities**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient utilities with the utility owner. Some utilities may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects, during planned roadway maintenance projects or as stand-alone projects.

**C. Pedestrian Push Buttons**

The Department of Public Works will resolve ADA noncompliance issues relating to existing deficient pedestrian push button stations/locations on an annual basis by utilizing in-house traffic staff, by on-call contracting services, or by seeking contractor bids.

**D. Group Mailboxes and Single Mailboxes**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient group mailboxes with the United States Postal Service. Some areas may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects adjacent to the mailbox facilities, during planned roadway maintenance projects affecting the full prism of the roadway section or as a stand-alone project.

**V. Funding**

The City will commit, upon funding availability, budget for City maintenance projects identified for ADA compliance. The City will also continue to ensure that all new developer projects or City funded projects will continue to construct public facilities that are in compliance with ADA guidelines and regulations.

**VI. Public Involvement**

The City of Rio Rancho held a public meeting on February 20, 2012 to solicit input on the ADA Transition Plan, grievance procedure, compliance inspections, and the ADA non-compliance remediation process. The information presented at this meeting can be found in Appendix A. The City plans to continue public involvement throughout the inspection and remediation process. The City has also developed an online and hardcopy grievance procedure for residents to inform the Public Works Department of ADA issues.

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# Appendix A

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# Appendix A



HAPPY  
VALENTINES  
DAY

**ARRESTED**  
Mother arrested  
for child abuse  
NEWS ■ 3

**BASKETBALL**  
Ugly first half dooms  
Cleveland girls  
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# RIO RANCHO OBSERVER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013

RROBSERVER.COM

Vol. 40 No. 13 25 cents

## News digest

### They love Rio Rancho

About 40 City of Vision representatives are putting the community's best foot forward during "I Love Rio Rancho Day" at the Roundhouse on Thursday.

Susan Sheridan, Rio Rancho Regional Chamber of Commerce project and events coordinator, said those 40 people represent business, city government and other fields.

Participants are set to divide into two groups, one for each chamber, and give presentations. The day also includes a meeting with Gov. Susana Martinez and her staff.

The registration deadline was last Friday.

### Get out the ear plugs

Auditions for the City of Rio Rancho Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department's annual Battle of the Bands will take place Saturday, Feb. 23, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Sabana Grande Recreation Center, 4110 Sabana Grande Ave.

Demo CDs will also be presented.

## Seniors only Mardi Gras



Rio Rancho Observer—GARY HERRON photo

More than 70 senior citizens gathered at Meadowlark Senior Center Monday afternoon to celebrate Mardi Gras, where they crowned a new king and queen (Russell and Elisa Roe), and princesses and escorts danced. After the "March of the Masks," revelers did the "Cha Cha Slide," before the "toss of coins" and more merrymaking and refreshments.

## Board extends Cleveland contract

BY GARY HERRON  
Observer staff writer  
gherron@rrobsobserver.com

Receiving glowing reviews from the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education, Superintendent Sue Cleveland's contract was extended for another year at Monday's meeting, meaning she'll be on board for at least three more years.

Cleveland receives an annual salary of \$151,880, and she has refused to accept a raise — at least, until the board can afford to give raises to its teachers, staff members and administrators.

# RR Rio Rancho

## City of Vision

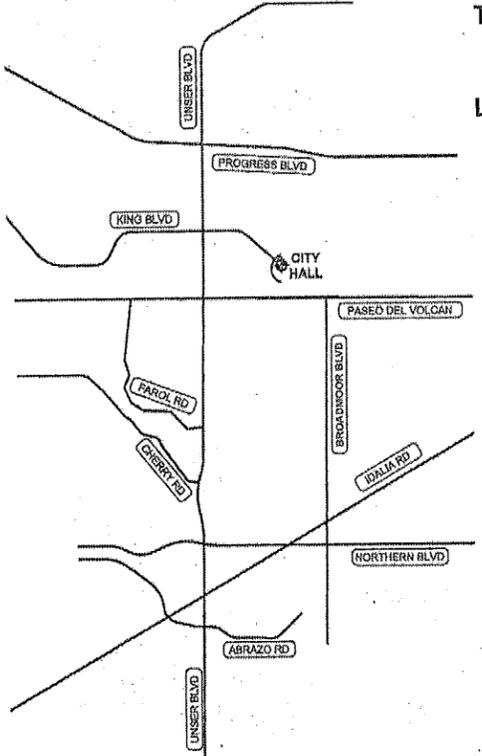
### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

#### ADA Compliance Plan City of Rio Rancho

The City of Rio Rancho, in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, is holding an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Public Meeting to discuss upcoming ADA roadway infrastructure compliance inspections as well as remediation compliance construction projects.

The City of Rio Rancho is also seeking public input on the grievance procedures for citizens to notify staff of potential ADA roadway noncompliance issues. Comments will be collected at the public meeting.

**Date:** February 20, 2013  
**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 PM (Open House)  
 6:30 PM (Presentation)  
**Location:** Rio Rancho City Hall  
 Governing Body Chambers  
 3200 Civic Center Circle NE  
 Rio Rancho, NM



Additional information about the city's draft plan can be obtained from the City of Rio Rancho's website at <http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/ADAplan>.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact Peter Wells at (505) 891-5002 at least two days before the meeting date.

New Mexico State Fair and the New Mexico Photographic Arts Show. He is a purist, a fan of photographic masters like Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Diane Arbus and Walker Evans. He tries to see the world in a less conventional way and asks you to look with him at the world of the unnoticed.

More of his work can be seen at [talsart.com](http://talsart.com) or the Terre Bella gallery.

### COMING UP

#### A Storm of talent

The annual talent show at Cleveland High School will take place on Friday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

It's the biggest show yet in

the area. The significant work shop, set for Saturday, Feb. 23, from 2-4 p.m. at Loma Colorado Main Library, is designed to encourage, enlighten and enable you to share and write your personal stories for your family.

History is being lost every day because this isn't always done.

Registration is required: Call 891-5013, ext. 3033, or stop by the Adult Information Desk.

#### Fun with photos

"A" is for Atget, "B" is for Barrow, "C" is for Come join Katherine Ware, New Mexico Museum of Art's curator of photography, for the official launch of FOCA+P as she takes us on an alphabetical journey through the museum's photography holdings and talks about collecting

tragic that there is not a dry eye in the house during the performance. As you hear work, you will the component such a multi-f art form.

Registration call the adult (891-5012, option 3) for inquiries or directions.

#### Be 'enchanted' at The Bone

The Enchanters, a mixed choral group of 24 voices, perform at Esther Bone Memorial Library on Tuesday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. The group has been bringing joy to audiences for more than 40 years with a repertoire that includes Broadway, jazz, inspirational, pop, patriotic, rock and roll, and timeless classics.

The Enchanters have performed at a wide variety of venues throughout New Mexico, including the Albuquerque Sunport, Biopark, conventions, special events, senior citizen venues, libraries and schools.

According to Rob Nankin, library branch manager, "We are very pleased to have the Enchanters perform for our library audience. The event is part of our ongoing Library Concert Series and we are lucky to have them sing and play for us."

Tickets are not required; arrive early for the best seats.

#### Meet 'Floppo' the frog prince

As a special spring-break treat, Loren Kahn Puppet Theatre will present "Floppo" on April 9 at Esther Bone Memorial Library.

The 30-minute show, for ages 5 through adults, begins at 2 p.m.

Kahn started out as an anthropologist, but departed that profession in 1973 to travel the western U.S., working as a street puppeteer.

This free program is funded by the Friends of the Library of Rio Rancho.

Email Datebook items to [gheeron@rroserver.com](mailto:gheeron@rroserver.com)

## PREMIERE CINEMAS

### D-BOX 100% STADIUM 100% DIGITAL 100% RECLINERS

LIVE THE MOVIES IN MOTION

Fri 02/15/13 Thur 02/21/13

*2D ESCAPE FROM PLANET EAR PG	11:30a	4:00p	8:30p
*3D ESCAPE FROM PLANET EAR PG	1:45p	6:15p	10:45p
*3D HANSEL & GRETEL R	1:40p	6:15p	10:45p
SUNDAY:	2:35p	7:25p	
*A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD R	11:15a	11:50a	1:50p 2:25p 4:25p
	5:00p	7:00p	7:35p 9:35p 10:10p
*BEAUTIFUL CREATURES PG13	11:15a	2:05p	4:55p 7:45p 10:35p
*D-BOX A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD R	11:50a	2:25p	5:00p 7:35p 10:10p
*IDENTITY THIEF R	11:25a	2:10p	4:55p 7:40p 10:25p
SUNDAY:	12:05p	2:40p	5:15p 7:50p 10:25p
*SAFE HAVEN PG13	11:25a	2:10p	4:55p 7:45p 10:30p
*SIDE EFFECTS R	11:35a	2:15p	4:55p 7:35p 10:15p
SUNDAY:	12:00p	2:30p	5:00p 7:35p 10:15p
2D HANSEL & GRETEL R	11:15a	4:00p	8:30p
SUNDAY:	12:10p	5:00p	9:50p
2D THE HOBBIT PG13	11:10a	2:45p	6:20p 9:55p
BULLET TO THE HEAD R	11:30a	1:45p	4:00p 6:15p 8:30p
	10:45p		
MAMA PG13	11:45a	2:20p	4:45p 7:20p 10:00p
SUNDAY:	12:05p	2:30p	4:55p 7:20p 10:00p
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK R	11:20a	2:10p	5:00p 7:50p 10:40p
SUNDAY:	12:20p	3:10p	6:00p 8:50p
THE IMPOSSIBLE PG13	11:45a	2:25p	5:05p 7:45p 10:25p
WARM BODIES PG13	11:15a	1:35p	3:55p 6:15p 8:35p
	10:50p		

We will be having 10pm shows on the night of the 13th of Beautiful Creatures, Safe Haven, and Good Day to Die Hard (in DBOX also)

100% DIGITAL CINEMA WITH 3D  
 \*No passes on these movies. \*\*No passes accepted for 3D movies.  
 \*\*\*No Passes for D-BOX Features. ID Required for R rated movies.  
 \*\*Policy prohibits admission of ANY child 6 or under to any R-rated movie after 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS. We accept competitors passes:  
 Early Bird (first show daily) \$5.50  
 Children & Seniors \$6.75  
 \*Matinee (all shows before 6 pm) \$7.00  
 General Admission \$9.50 • D-BOX\* \$17.50 per Ticket  
 Digital 3D Features add \$3.00 per Ticket  
 Major Credit Cards Accepted.  
 BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 11:00 A.M.

Use your Rewards Card  
 Cashless Movie-Going  
 Earns Valuable Prizes

1000 Premiere Parkway, Rio Rancho, NM 87124 (Corner of Southern & Unser Blvd.)  
 Verify Showtimes and Buy Tickets at [www.pccmovies.com](http://www.pccmovies.com) | Hotline 505-994-3300

## Public Meeting Advertisement 1 - Continued

said she'd watch the tape of the game later, once she'd put her...  
 atman's a real mas...  
 n't many things for as she watched the...  
 (J-2) eventually lose...  
 cano Vista, 61-53...  
 could do no right in...  
 the first eight minutes, turning...  
 the ball over 11 times and scoring...  
 its four points from the foul line...  
 The Hawks led, 23-4, when the...  
 first quarter ended, and the Storm...  
 sliced that deficit to single digits...  
 on a 9-1 run in the second period...  
 when they turned the ball over...  
 just twice.

The Hawks (15-5, 1-1) led, 30-22, at halftime, and when the Storm opened the second half on a 7-2 run, that once-daunting 19-point deficit had been whittled to three points — one possession. But mishandling the ball haunted the Storm again, as they committed eight turnovers and again trailed by double-digits, 48-36, when the third period ended.

VVHS's Bianca Perez, who'd score 11 points in the first period, led the Hawks again in the third quarter, scoring six more but missing all three of her free throws. Seven different CHS players scored in the third period, but none had more than 3 points.

The Storm never got closer than eight points the rest of the way, but used a feisty defense to force Hawks turnovers during a late 8-0 run.

Storm guard Karlie Peck scored nine of her team-high 16 points in the fourth quarter; Bailey Benham and Courtney Lawson, with 12 and 10 points, respectively, joined her in double figures. Perez led VVHS with 27 points.

"We didn't get back on defense," Boatman said, after spending at least 20m minutes with her team after the loss to the seventh-ranked Hawks. "We responded well doing it the second half."

"We've had great practices for the last week; we practiced hard," she said. "It's not an issue for these kids giving it everything they have. It's an issue of playing smart and getting better... We have to take advantage



Above, Cleveland High's Bailey Volcano Vista's Ebony Hodge; Below, Erin Carrica passes between...

of every situation." Something else she could be happy with: free throw shooting. The Storm were 12 of 14 from the line in the first half, 11 of 19 in the second half.

"Any given night, these kids can do it," Boatman said, hoping her team can pick up a win or two before the all-important district



## STATE FAILING GRADE

New Mexico fails for spending on tobacco usage

NEWS ■ 11



## TOP COPS

RRPD honors top officers for 2012

NEWS ■ 3

## STORM SWEEP

CHS Boys and girls basketball teams win city contest

SPORTS ■ 12

## Public Meeting Advertisement 2

# RIO RANCHO OBSERVER



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2013

RROBSERVER.COM

Vol. 40 No. 14 25 cents

## News digest

### Local writer wins national book award

"No Crystal Stair," written by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, children's services director at Esther Bone Memorial Library, has won more acclaim.

The book, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, and published in 2012 by Carolrhoda Lab(TM) — a line of fiction for young adults from Carolrhoda Books, a division of Lerner Publishing Group — has been named an American Library Association "Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book."

The Coretta Scott King Book Award is given annually to an African-American author and illustrator for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions. The ALA awards were announced last week at the American Library Association's midwinter meeting in Seattle.

In "No Crystal Stair," a documentary novel of the life and work of Lewis Michaux, a Harlem bookseller and Nelson's late great-uncle, Nelson

## African-American storytellers



## City agrees to extend reused water line

BY ARGEN DUNCAN  
Observer staff writer  
aduncan@rrobsobserver.com

The City of Rio Rancho is moving forward with its reused water system in a step that could save water and money.

At the Rio Rancho Governing Body meeting Wednesday night at City Hall, city councilors unanimously approved a bid award for Franklin's Earthmoving Inc. to install 9,200 feet of reused water line for \$1.26 million. Of that money, the city is paying about \$573,000 from 2009 utility bond proceeds, while the rest comes from grant money from the state severance tax and state water trust board.

The reuse line will run from just

# Public Meeting Advertisement 2 - Continued



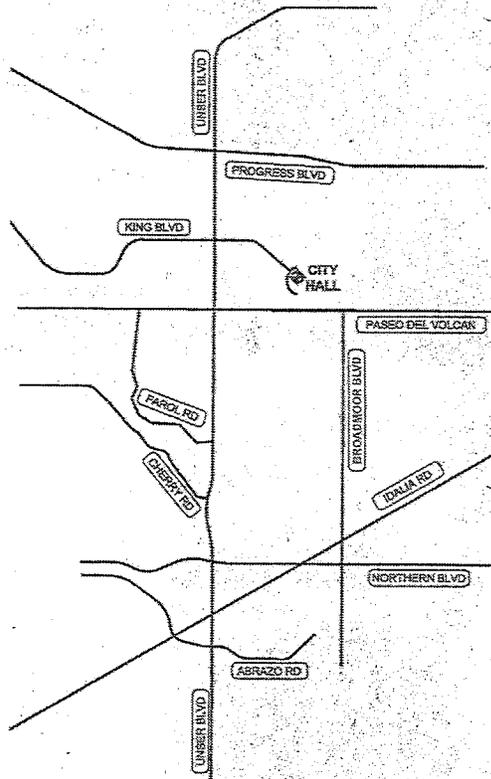
## PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

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The City of Rio Rancho is also seeking public input on the grievance procedures for citizens to notify staff of potential ADA roadway noncompliance issues. Comments will be collected at the public meeting.

- Date:** February 20, 2013
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6:30 PM (Presentation)
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Rio Rancho, NM



Additional information about the city's draft plan can be obtained from the City of Rio Rancho's website at <http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/ADAplan>.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact Peter Wells at (505) 891-5002 at least two days before the meeting date.

## LIMITED DRIVERS

Training Programs for Recent  
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Experienced Drivers  
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Freight  
Experience  
Minimum Within  
1 Year & More  
T/T Exp. Req.

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careers.com  
Community Employer

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Whether home or a commercial roofing rip-off by visiting [www.nmrca.com](http://www.nmrca.com) for a list of licensed experienced NM roofing suppliers and associates

Roofing Contractors members agree to a strict code of ethics that includes fair and accurate estimates, professional workmanship, job site safety and the highest quality of customer service before and after the job is done

[www.nmrca.com](http://www.nmrca.com)  
Roofing Contractors Association

Have a DOL certified Journeyman Roofer



# Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan

## Public Information Meeting

Date

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Printed Name Diane Sonier  
Telephone Number 891-8728

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name MARYANN CANO  
Telephone Number 891-1545

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name SAL CANO  
Telephone Number 891-1545

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name Jay Hart  
Telephone Number 891 5037

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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# ADA Public Meeting Packet

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Hardcopy Comment Form	4

The online version of the hardcopy Comment Form can be found at:  
<http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/ADAPlan> for your convenience.

**Note:** All comments relating to the ADA Public Meeting and the forms contained in this packet must be submitted via the web or using the hardcopy Comment Form no later than March 22, 2013.





March 2012

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- The name of the official responsible for the plan's implementation;
- A schedule for providing ADA compliant pedestrian facilities, where pedestrian walkways cross the streets.

The City currently follows roadway standards that conform to ADA requirements. Some of these standards are published by the NMDOT and include Standard Drawings for Pedestrian Access Details for Curb Ramps, Types A through D; Median Curb Details, Pedestrian Islands, Driveways and Driveway Aprons, Stairway and Handrail requirements, Accessible Parking, Passenger loading bus stop and ramp requirements; all aided by a Detectable Warning Surface where applicable. These standards are found on the city's website at: <http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us/index.aspx?nid=539>

### II. ADA Program

#### A. Responsible Official

An ADA Program Coordinator has been designated by the City as the person responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of the City of Rio Rancho's ADA Transition Plan. Currently this function is performed by the Director of Public Works.

#### B. Internal Review

The City of Rio Rancho conducted an internal review of available ADA compliance documentation and items that should be evaluated within its jurisdiction in February of 2012. A process and methodology for self-evaluation was established and an interim transition plan developed to begin

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the structured implementation of a corrective program for deficiencies identified in the self-evaluation process outlined in this interim plan.

C. Self-Evaluation

As required by ADA legislation, the City will conduct a self-evaluation survey of all public roadway infrastructures within its jurisdiction beginning by the summer of 2012; identifying any physical barriers to ensure accessibility to persons with disabilities. Categories of infrastructure being reviewed include: sidewalks, ramps, pedestrian push button stations at signals and crosswalks and mailbox locations adjacent to public facilities and utilities located within and/or adjacent to public facilities.

An Action Plan will be subsequently developed and updated annually by the City, listing specific upcoming projects and/or facilities modifications needed. The target dates by which the City will make the necessary changes will be consistent to those projects identified and listed in the Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP) and approved by the Governing Body in its annual City Budget.

III. Transition Plan

A. Prioritization

The City has the responsibility of identifying barriers and implementing a corrective program. The City's self-evaluation survey will identify inventory requiring modifications to comply with ADA requirements.

The City has limited funding available for infrastructure upgrades so a list to prioritize upgrades will be developed with the following criteria:

1. **Land Use.** Specific land uses (schools, hospitals, retirement communities, commercial districts) will be used to prioritize improvements. This would be a "**High**" priority.
2. **Population.** Large population concentrations have the possibility of higher impact. This is considered a "**Medium**" priority.
3. **Already Identified Projects.** The City will ensure that upcoming capital or maintenance projects that can correct ADA deficiencies identified within its project area will do so. This is considered a "**Low**" priority only in the sense that a project has already been identified to correct the deficiencies.
4. **Others.** Projects not falling into any of these categories will be listed but not given priority in funding. These locations will be reviewed periodically to ensure that they do not move into one of the three categories listed above, therefore changing its prioritization and ranking.

B. Facility Classification

Access to and utilization of the City's facilities by individuals with disabilities can be compromised by the barriers described below. Barrier descriptions are not necessarily complete, but they represent the potential type of barriers that may be identified by the City during the self-evaluation.

The City of Rio Rancho's roadway system provides the traveling public with routes throughout the city limits that can be accessed via motorized vehicle and by pedestrians. Sidewalks and multi-use paths are the public facilities with potential barriers that need to be evaluated to determine if the

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facility (sidewalks, ramps, and associated infrastructure) meets current ADA requirements. Potential barriers may include:

1. Ramps. May not be present where needed or may not meet ADA requirements. Tactile warnings not placed correctly or are not present.
2. Fire Hydrants and Utilities. Location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may present a barrier to the public.
3. Group mailboxes and single mail box installations. Incorrect or poor location of these items adjacent to or within the public infrastructure may make these facilities non-compliant.
4. Landscape obstructions within the sidewalk.
5. Pedestrian push buttons at signals and crossing locations set incorrectly, at the incorrect height or with non-compliant button type.

**C. Inventory**

The table below depicts the type of data the City intends to collect to evaluate its roadway infrastructure during the self-survey.

	Material Type	Width	Compliant	Deficiency	Obstruction Type	Obstruction Owner	Ramp Type	X-Slope	Down Slope	Tactile Warning
Sidewalks	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Ramps	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utilities	X		X	X	X	X				
Ped Push Buttons			X	X	X	X				
Mailboxes			X	X						

**D. Infrastructure ADA Compliance Program**

Upon identification and prioritization of ADA non-compliant City infrastructure, the City will implement an ADA compliance program within the City's Infrastructure Capital Improvement Program (ICIP).

This program will help to establish a proposed annual budget to begin correcting ADA non-compliant infrastructure within the City of Rio Rancho with the priority being given to those deficiencies with a high priority.

**IV. Strategy**

The following strategy is recommended to assist the City of Rio Rancho in meeting ADA requirements.

**A. Accessible Ramps and Sidewalks**

The Department of Public Works will contract for upgrading existing deficient ramps on an annual basis, via its roadway maintenance program utilizing in-house maintenance staff, on-call contracting services or by seeking contractor bids.

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**B. Utilities**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient utilities with the utility owner. Some utilities may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects, during planned roadway maintenance projects or as stand-alone projects.

**C. Pedestrian Push Buttons**

The Department of Public Works will contract for upgrading existing deficient pedestrian push button stations/locations on an annual basis, via its traffic signal maintenance program utilizing in-house maintenance staff, on-call contracting services or by seeking contractor bids.

**D. Group Mailboxes and Single Mailboxes**

The Department of Public Works will coordinate upgrading existing deficient group mailboxes with the United States Postal Service. Some areas may be able to be modified in conjunction with roadway capital improvement projects adjacent to the mailbox facilities, during planned roadway maintenance projects affecting the full prism of the roadway section or as a stand-alone project.

**V. Funding**

The City will commit, upon funding availability, budget for City maintenance projects identified for ADA compliance. The City will also continue to ensure that all new developer projects or City funded projects will continue to construct public facilities that are in compliance with ADA guidelines and regulations.



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- Mayor Swisstack
- Municipal Court
- Parks & More
- Permits & Forms
- Recycling Center
- Red-Light Cameras & Speed Monitoring
- Rio Transit
- RioVision TV
- SAD Info.
- Senior Services
- Strategic Plan
- Water Services
- Water Services Online Pay

### Complaint/Grievance Form: ADA Compliance Issues

Name: \*

Street Address: \*

City/State/Zip Code: \*

Telephone and/or E-mail Address: \*

Accessibility Issue Complaint within the Public Right-of-Way

Nature of Issue: \*

Location of Issue: \*

Optional File Upload:

Once your complaint is submitted, City of Rio Rancho Public Works Engineering Division staff will schedule a review of the location being reported to determine if a compliance issue exists and/or if it is already on a list of existing locations requiring modifications to become in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (1990).

\* indicates required fields.

- Citizen Question Forms
- Traffic Update
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 Rio Rancho, NM



**DRAFT**

Complaint/Grievance Form: ADA Compliance Issues

Name:

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Street Address:

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City/State/Zip Code:

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Telephone and/or E-mail Address:

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Accessibility Issue Complaint within the Public Right-of-Way

Nature of Issue:

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Location of Issue:

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Once your complaint is submitted, City of Rio Rancho Public Works Engineering Division staff will schedule a review of the location being reported to determine if a compliance issue exists and/or if it is already on a list of existing locations requiring modifications to become in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (1990).

City of Rio Rancho  
Department of Public Works/Engineering Division  
3200 Civic Center Circle  
Rio Rancho, NM 87144  
(505) 891-5016  
FAX (505) 891-5203



**Americans with Disabilities Act  
Transition Plan**

**Public Information Meeting**

Date

**Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

**Comment Form**

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Americans with Disabilities Act  
Transition Plan

Public Information Meeting

Date

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Comment Form

Printed Name MARYANN GANO

Street Address 1700 ASTURIA COURT NE

Telephone Number 891-1545

Comments:

*Would encourage communicating with the local  
veterans office and the Rio Rancho senior center  
about your plans.*

*If I were to build or purchase a home in a  
small developed area, which was surrounded by a large  
undeveloped area, I would be very concerned about water  
run off and erosion into the smaller developed area.*

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Scott: I think we'll go ahead and start, just do the presentation anyways. We're a little bit early and if somebody, some more folks arrive we'll go ahead and just kind of rewind but the reason why I'm talking into the microphone just so that you folks know, is we are recording the meeting and we wanted to make sure we had some documentation about the meeting and so that we can transcribe comments received or anything like that. But, my name is Scott Sensenbower, I'm the public works director here at the City of Rio Rancho and I wanted to, I'll introduce staff here, though I know you folks have probably already just talked with them. But we have B. J. Gottlieb who's the city engineer. He's the head of the engineering division. We have Diane Sonyae from the parks and rec department. She's I think mostly here just to kind of listen and observe too. We have John Martineau, Leonard Rivera, and Dave Hunter who are all three section managers in the engineering division and assisting with the ADA transition plan. So what I wanted to do is to just I guess briefly maybe explain to you why we're here and what the city is doing right now. And then I'm going to hand it to B. J. or to whomever wants to grab the microphone and be able to kind of explain a little bit further what, what we're working on. The ADA transition plan is something, as we all know, the ADA Americans with Disabilities Act is not a new act by any means, it's been around for quite a while. But there are many areas within, not just our city but within every city where there are deficiencies, things that don't meet the current standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. And this is something that little by little cities, including Rio Rancho, have been trying to chip away and make those areas compliant. But fairly recently, and I would say I believe it was in 2011, the federal government communicated with the New Mexico Department of Transportation and basically mandated to them and they in turn mandated to us as municipalities that we come up with an actual written document, a written ADA transition plan is what they called, which was a written plan documenting where all of the deficiencies were and to make a plan for achieving them and making sure that they were compliant. So we've been working on this. The DOT started, again, working on theirs. We've been working on ours since that time and wanted to have a public meeting just to go over what we're working on and what we're doing, so a couple of things. We do have the document tonight and B. J. I think I'm going to probably let you explain this in just a minute, a little bit more of what we do have and if you would also kind of go over the comment forms and so forth. I will just real quick want to say one of the things that we've identified as really our biggest task ahead of us, is identifying the areas, and it's a lot of data gathering. Unfortunately the city's records in the past have not been always the best in terms of where our infrastructure is, and I'm being kind. But um, although I know that the crew here has made great strides in making sure that we're getting there. So we're to the point now where we think we have a pretty good idea of where our sidewalks are and, and that may sound silly but that was a big task actually to be able to get to that point. But then, now we need the larger task of going out, making sure that we're all, we do have sidewalks, that they are compliant. So it involves things like literally checking cross slopes every so often to make sure that these slopes aren't,

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they're not tilted too far to the sideways, longitudinal slopes to make sure that they're not too steep, and making sure that there's adequate ramps at the intersections, that they meet all other things. And so I've been focusing on sidewalks, but we've also been talking about crosswalks and our pedestrian crossings particularly, and, at signalized intersections and signalized places so that they comply as well. You know I don't know Leonard if you want to later chip in and just explain a little bit more of what, what we're looking at as far as that, I'd appreciate that. But this data gathering is something, we're getting ready to begin gathering the data, identifying everything. We have a database. I think I'll let B. J. and his associates describe a little bit more what the database is for and then in the citizen forms, maybe you could just kind of explain a little bit better on that. What we're trying to do there is to not only, not rely just on ourselves for finding out where we have deficiencies but to make sure that the general public can identify things to us if there's something we missed, that, where they've noticed that there's a problem. So B. J. why don't I hand it over to you and if there's anything especially that I missed please feel free.

B. J.: Thanks Scott. I appreciate the introduction. I wanted to just first of all talk about the packets that you guys have in front of you. The first page has got some good information on it. First of all it summarizes what's actually in the document itself. We have as the first item on there, behind the cover sheet, is the ADA transition plan itself that we submitted to the DOT in March 2012. The second item is the draft online ADA complaint/(inaudible) form. So what that form is, is a form where citizens who might you know, we don't get out very often to see all the streets in town, and we don't have nearly the number of eyes that the citizens of Rio Rancho do, so what we're trying to do is develop a form for citizens to actually go online and maybe put in, you know, if you think there's a problem with a ramp or there's a sidewalk that's heaving or it's cracked or whatever the issue may be, we'll get that form and then we can dispatch crews to go out and take a look at it. And if there is a problem with it we can get it resolved. The second, or the third one is the draft hardcopy ADA complaint and grievance form. That's on the backside. So these are all double sided just to save paper. That basically is a form, if you guys are not interested in coming to, you know going to the internet, you can come to city hall or you can go to the web and you can print out the form, hand write it, either mail it in or drop it off here when you're paying your water bill. And the last page is a comment from the hard copy comment form. There's also a comment form on the web. And if you'll look at the paragraph right below that the website for that comment form is listed there for your use. Either way is perfectly fine if you have any comments. One thing I do want to draw your attention to is that, as part of the public meeting, we need to close the comment period at a certain and we're going to have it open for 30 days, so the, we'd like to get the comment forms back by March 22 of 2013 in order to incorporate any comments you guys may have regarding any of the things you see in the packet or the whole methodology that we're looking at in general. As Scott said, you know we've been in a pretty heavy data collection period already. We've already started

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that process, and our first step was coming up with where are our sidewalks located in Rio Rancho. So that was a, that was an interesting effort and I think it paid off and we have pretty good information there. I think we need to do an update to it but it's actually pretty good right now. The board on our right hand side is the board that we're going to be using that when we do go out to the field and we do start our inspections, those are the items we're going to be looking at. In the plan itself that you have is a simplified format, but that actually tells us, so if we have an obstruction in a sidewalk it tells us, okay we have an obstruction, well what kind of obstruction? We're going to pick and figure what that obstruction is. If we have a slope that's wrong, well what is the slope off by and how do we fix that. So that, that information is listed there and it's also simplified in your plan. So as we talked a little bit about the city is large and we're sparse, you know sparsely populated in different areas. So we broke the city down into 12 districts or zones, let's call them zones, in order to balance the amount of sidewalks in each zone so that we can, we can more easily inspect it and then correct them, correct any deficiencies found. So what our plan is to do is to start inspections in one district, one year because of funding, the next year we would then start fixing the areas where we have noncompliance in the previous district or zone and then inspect the second zone or the third zone. So there's 12 zones now, to be inspect (inaudible)... With our current funding we'd probably take 12 years to do it, all zones and 13 years to actually complete all noncompliance issues with the funding that we currently have. Now that may be sped up depending upon how much we can actually accomplish with the money that we get, or if we get additional funding we can actually speed that up as well. We're planning...yes (inaudible)

Scott: I think I may want to add at that point just to something you just said too that that doesn't mean then that if there's a citizen complaint that comes in in zone 7 and we haven't got to zone 7 yet that we're going to just ignore it for 3 years until we get to zone 7, you know, so we would respond to citizen input, hence that's why we want to make sure these forms are out there and that we can then spot, identify the need and see what we can do to fix it.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B. J.: Currently right now it's being funded by the city. We're putting in requests right now for the city to fund the inspections, which will help...

Male: I think it's general fund...

B. J.: Yea, our city's general fund. We're not receiving any money at this point right now from the federal government. We may be looking for the state to provide us some funding as well through coop agreements or map agreements depending upon where the sidewalks are at and the constrains in those, in those grant agreements.

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So we're looking at multiple options, but right now most of what we're asking for is coming directly out of the city's general fund. And you know we're going through the budgeting process right now so we'll see if we get funded for any of that, if there's money available. And as Scott said, and I just want to you know make it, make it clear as well you know we want you guys input so just because it's like he said in district, or zone 7, and we're only in zone 1, you know we're still going to dispatch someone to look at it because there could be some serious issues that we need to take care of immediately and not wait 6 years to get to.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Or 12 years exactly. So that, that's very important and we have, what we're going to be doing is once the period is over and we address all the comments, we're going to make this form on our website electronic, the grievance/complaint form, and a hardcopy form, and if you choose to fill out the form on the website it'll actually be a part of the record going forward. So we're going to have to respond and we're going to make sure we get you guys answered on what we're doing.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Okay, let me reiterate the questions for the microphone. The question was, how will we communicate this with the citizens of Rio Rancho? Well hopefully one of the ways is through the public meeting that we're having here. Also through our city website just putting information on there through our city website and you know continuing to update our plan, with the DOT and with the federal highway administration. I'm sure that we're going to have to continue to have public meetings and do public outreach. So...you know...

Scott: I would add one of the things too is that every year at a minimum we will be going through and discussing this at the budget and through all the budget hearings that are also open to the public, because this is going to be something that we'll be talking about every year and trying to make sure that we keep this front and center and the governing body who does in fact appropriate the money to us. So that's something, again, at a minimum every year although we needless to say, talk about the budget a lot more than that, a lot more frequently.

B.J.: So I mean, I think that pretty much answers or concludes my portion. Dave, Leonard, John, do you guys want to add anything?

Leonard: Leonard Rivera, I'm the traffic section manager. One of the things that we had talked about with this plan is that we want to make sure it's a living document and that just like (inaudible) you know if...we're going through the process and we start doing the documentation of the different zones, we start building this database

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of how much infrastructure is needed to be fixed out there. Let's say we're successful in getting some of these grants, we start doing these projects and maybe not just doing small projects but larger projects if we get a lot of these areas fixed sooner rather than later, I think it's probably a good idea for the city to not only update the plan on a yearly basis but also do an outreach once a year so that we can also get the citizens input and adjust the plan accordingly because as we know a plan is almost, almost always a living document. And I think that will help us to better address some of these issues if we do that.

B.J.: I guess one, one final thing on the comment form. You know you can fill it out tonight and leave it with us if that, if that's convenient for you. If you want to take it home and think about it and either do it online or you want to do the hardcopy one that's attached in your packet. We have several options for you guys to return this. You can either fax it to us, and we have the fax number on the back, or you can drop it in the mail and we have our address on their with a stamp place and you can just fold it, staple it, or tape it, put a stamp on it and just drop it in the mail and it will, you know, will get to us. Or if you're up here, once again paying your bill or just wanting to say "hi", you can drop it off up at public works upstairs on the second floor. Yes, Diane.

Diane: (inaudible comment)

B.J.: Absolutely...that's right. What Diane was asking was if this information can be shared with other citizens, of course it can. If you want to take some additional comment forms with you, feel free to take them if you know anybody else who might be interested. Take a few extra packets with you, that's perfectly fine. So, share it with as many people as you like and hopefully we'll get some good comments back.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Okay, the question was, the comment period ends March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We weren't planning on having any additional meetings. We were just going to have the one meeting today and see if we got feedback. I think what Leonard said is, is correct though. You know, this is a living document. We're going to make the changes based on any comments and we're here 'til you know about 8 o'clock this evening. So I'm sure we might get some more people, but it's a living document, we're going to change it yearly, and we're going to do public outreach, you know every year, kind of in the same format, to get comment, you know, maybe we don't get a lot this year but maybe next year we'll get a few more people.

Scott: This may go out, go without saying but I think it warrants mentioning just, we're talking about the comment period before finalizing this plan and submitting it to the department of transportation, DOT, for approval, but that is completely separate

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than the comment form on where there's deficiencies. We're taking comments on that forever basically, if there's anywhere where there's a deficiency, anybody notices it, you know 5 years from now, that will always be there ready for us. The comment period is solely for, before we submit something to the DOT because they are wanting us to get this plan in to them and get it finalized and approved.

B.J.: Anybody else want to say anything, Dave, John? No? Diane? Okay, Leonard.

Leonard: Also just to add, this kind of covers a lot of our residential areas in town. When we have larger projects that come through that are on state facilities or if we have capital improvement projects that are going to be on, for example Southern Boulevard or on Unser Boulevard, we're going to try to address all of those identified ADA issues as part of one project, that way we're not focusing some of the limited local resources on those ADA issues but trying to utilize our federal and state funds to make those repairs at that time. And then anything that's related to traffic signals, we kind of have, we have separate funding available that we can utilize to make some of those, bring some of those areas into compliance sooner rather than later, so signals are also another area that we'll be looking into.

Scott: I think the one, just another thing I want to add too, is that mostly what we're talking about here is, is older infrastructure. Much of the infrastructure, the sidewalks and so forth in the city, were even built before the city incorporated, and those, or even before the, the ADA was passed by Congress. And so a lot of the older infrastructures where there might be problems, even then a lot of it was still, still complies. And the city has been very, very aggressive both this staff and the development service department staff about making sure that all new infrastructure on new developments all complies and I think we're feel pretty confident that anything that has been built in recent years and by recent I mean the last 10 years, does comply, although not to say there might not be an occasional place. And so I think we're fairly confident that, that there aren't a whole lot of deficiencies but we know there are some and we've got to identify them and we want to get them taken care of.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: That is correct. And I guess I should add, the question was about places of unit 17 and these would be parts of the, what we call the, the legal term I guess for lack of a better word is, is a premature subdivision, it's a subdivision that was created before all of this current codes that exist in the city. And the subdivision is this big monstrosity called Rio Rancho Estates, Unit 17 is, which is part of it. And right now the practice has been, there is no developer anymore, they're individual home builders, that they have not been required, under current city policies, to put in any of the infrastructure, not just sidewalks but roads, water, sewer, drainage

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improvements and so forth. And so those are still issues, but I think, and correct me B.J. if I misspeak, or Leonard please, that...the requirement, from what I understand in the ADA is that there, sidewalks aren't required but if they are put in they must comply with ADA. And so the city isn't requiring sidewalks in those areas right now. But anywhere where there's a new subdivision, let's say a Cabazon or a Loma Colorado, any of those areas, those are new subdivisions newly created out of what used to be a part of Rio Rancho Estates. Those are required by the city to comply with all standards of today which include again, water, sewer, curb, gutter and sidewalks which then must comply with ADA. Sorry for the long answer but it is true that most places like Unit 17 will still continue to develop the way they are developing right now.

B.J.: Thank you guys for coming and we're going to be around, so if you have any more questions feel free to ask.

(inaudible comment from audience)

[no longer using microphone]

(inaudible conversation)

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Okay the question was, where were the advertisements placed? I would have to check with our public information officer because he was the one that posted the advertisements, but I believe that one was posted in the Observer and I believe one was posted in the Rio Rancho Journal as well, and that was the two postings that we (inaudible)...and that was I think the criteria that the DOT had asked us to follow. But I agree with your comment before that you know going to the VA or maybe the senior center like Diane was suggesting would be a, would be a good way to get more attendance. So you know, if you wouldn't mind submitting that as a comment, it would be wonderful and we could actually look at doing maybe another one of these down there or in coordination with the VA here at the city hall. Thank you.

(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Attendance at these kind of meetings are, you know, we have project meetings and stuff for all of our projects like when we did Unser Boulevard and you know Northern Boulevard. The meetings are very, not very well attended, to be honest and we follow...and those meetings like (inaudible)...public meetings, and finally on the third public meeting we got a little bit more people to show up, but the first two were, were about what we have here.

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(inaudible comment from audience)

B.J.: Absolutely.

(inaudible comments)

B.J. We're probably going to put this map online. So what we can do is, there is a website on your packet. It's the city of Rio Rancho's main website and it says slash ADA plan. And on that you can find, that's where you can find the comment form, the draft grievance form that you see there, and the ADA plan itself, the interim transition plan. And what we can do is we can, after the meeting, maybe by the first part of next week, get this board as a PDF, uploaded to that map so that you can (inaudible) put it on your computer at home and take a look at it. The other one we can put on there as well, if you guys would like, it's mostly an Excel spreadsheet, we can PDF that as well and you guys can take a look at the, you know, what we're going to be inspecting and what it looks like. But I think the map is probably the more interesting of the two items, but we'll put them both up for you guys to look at. Thank you for coming.

**Meeting ends**