

# **Washington County is making sidewalks safer for everyone!**

**Imagine getting around your neighborhood easily, no matter how you walk.** We want to make this a reality for everyone. This **ADA Transition Plan** is about making sidewalks and crosswalks safer and easier to use, especially for people with disabilities.

## **What is the problem?**

- There is a law called the ADA (the **A**mericans with **D**isabilities **A**ct) that says everyone should be able to walk easily and safely in public places.
- We checked sidewalks and crosswalks in Washington County found problems that make it hard for people with disabilities to use them.
- This **ADA Transition Plan** is like a roadmap to fix those problems over time.
- It will take a while because there is a lot to do, but we are committed to making sidewalks safer and easier to use for everyone.

## **What are we fixing?**

- Replacing sidewalk ramps that are too steep or uneven.
- Improving crosswalks that are hard to see or use.
- Updating crossing signals.
- Adding sidewalks where they are missing.

## **How long will it take?**

- We will fix these problems in phases, focusing on the areas that are most important for people to get to first.
- It will take up to 40 years to fix everything, but we are starting on the biggest problems first.

## **How will we pay for it?**

- We will use different sources of taxpayer money to pay for the improvements.
- Fixing everything will cost around \$440 million.
- We will spread this cost over 40 years, budgeting about \$11 million annually.

## **What else is involved?**

- Part of this ADA Transition Plan describes how people can report a specific ramp, sidewalk or crossing signal that needs to be added or fixed so people can easily use it.
- We updated construction standards and created a way to track our progress.
- We are asking for your input on how to make this plan even better.

## **How to make a request to improve access at a specific location**

1. Make a request to improve access by e-mailing [equity@washingtoncountyor.gov](mailto:equity@washingtoncountyor.gov) or call 503-846-6288.
2. Provide your contact information and describe the situation you would like improved.
3. County staff then has 60 days to make the improvement, ask for an extension, propose an alternative, or explain why the request can't be honored at this time.

All of the steps to make a request are explained in the ADA Transition Plan in the part titled ADA Request for Accommodation and Grievance Procedure. The steps also follow County Procedure #211-A called Access for People with Disabilities.

## **How we prioritize upgrades to sidewalks and pedestrian crossings**

We plan to prioritize upgrades to sidewalks and crossings following federal ADA guidelines that recommend providing access to pedestrian facilities in the following order:

1. State and local government offices, including schools and other public spaces.
2. Access to public transportation and along major roads.
3. Access to commercial and industrial employers.
4. All other areas, typically residential and privately owned property.

The County will work to prioritize specific locations that are requested by members of the public.

**This is just the beginning. Washington County is dedicated to making our community a more inclusive place for everyone!**

## **Future Phases (with estimated beginning dates):**

- Phase II: Pedestrian buttons & intersections (December 2025)
- Phase III: Parks & trail crossings (December 2026)
- Phase IV: Sidewalks (December 2027)