

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 2023 Transition Plan Updates



Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts
15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone MA 01504
(508) 883-1500
www.townofblackstone.org

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Introduction

Transition Plan Need and Purpose

The [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) is a civil rights law prohibiting discrimination against individuals on the basis of disability. It was enacted on July 26, 1990, and was amended in 2008 with the ADA Amendments Act. The ADA consists of five titles outlining protections in the following areas:

- I. Employment
- II. State and local government services
- III. Public accommodations
- IV. Telecommunications
- V. Miscellaneous Provisions

Title II of ADA pertains to the programs, activities and services provided by public entities. The Town of Blackstone must comply with this section of the Act, as it specifically applies to public service agencies. Title II of ADA states that “no qualified individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or be subjected to discrimination by any such entity.” ([42 USC Sec. 12132](#); [28 CFR Sec. 35.130](#))

As required by Title II of ADA ([28 CFR Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150](#)), the Town of Blackstone has conducted a self-evaluation of its services, programs, activities, and facilities on public property and within public rights-of-way; and has developed this Transition Plan detailing the methods to be used to ensure compliance with ADA accessibility requirements.

ADA and its Relationship to Other Laws

Title II of ADA is companion legislation to two previous federal statutes and regulations: the [Architectural Barriers Act \(ABA\) of 1968](#) and [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#).

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 is a Federal law that requires facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds to be accessible. The Architectural Barriers Act marks one of the first efforts to ensure access to the built environment.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a Federal law that protects qualified individuals from discrimination based on their disability. The nondiscrimination requirements of the law apply to employers and organizations that receive financial assistance from any Federal department or agency. Title II of ADA extended this coverage to all state and local government entities, regardless of whether they receive federal funding or not.

Agency Requirements

Under Title II, the Town of Blackstone must meet these general requirements:

- Must operate their programs so that, when viewed in their entirety, the programs are accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities [[28 CFR Sec. 35.150](#)].
- May not refuse to allow a person with a disability to participate in a service, program or activity simply because the person has a disability [[28 CFR Sec. 35.130\(a\)](#)].
- Must make reasonable modifications in policies, practices and procedures that deny equal access to individuals with disabilities unless a fundamental alteration in the program would result [[28 CFR Sec. 35.130\(b\)\(7\)](#)].
- May not provide services or benefits to individuals with disabilities through programs that are separate or different unless the separate or different measures are necessary to ensure that benefits and services are equally effective [[28 CFR Sec. 35.130\(b\)\(iv\) & \(d\)](#)].
- Must take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others [[28 CFR Sec. 35.160\(a\)](#)].
- Must designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate ADA compliance [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(a\)](#)]. This person is typically referred to as the ADA Coordinator. The public entity must provide the ADA Coordinator's name, office address, and telephone number to all interested individuals [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(a\)](#)].
- Must provide notice of ADA requirements. All public entities, regardless of size, must provide information about the rights and protections of Title II to applicants, participants, beneficiaries, employees, and other interested persons [[28 CFR Sec. 35.106](#)]. The notice must include the identification of the employee serving as the ADA Coordinator and must provide this information on an ongoing basis.
- Must establish a grievance procedure. Public entities must adopt and publish grievance procedures providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints [[28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(b\)](#)]. This requirement provides for a timely resolution of all problems or conflicts related to ADA compliance before they escalate to litigation and/or the federal complaint process.

Designation of Responsibility

In accordance with [28 CFR 35.107\(a\)](#), the Town of Blackstone has designated the following person to serve as ADA Coordinator, to oversee the Town's policies and procedures:

Name: *Chad Lovett*

Job Title: *Town Administrator*

In accordance with [28 CFR 35.150\(d\)\(3\)](#), the Town of Blackstone has designated the following person to serve as ADA Transition Plan Implementation Coordinator, to monitor the Town's progress and manage review and updates of this document:

Name: *Chad Lovett*

Job Title: *Town Administrator*

Contact information is provided in [Appendix D – Public Notice of ADA Requirements and Grievance Procedure](#).

Training is an important tool for ensuring compliance with ADA requirements. The ADA Coordinators will identify resources and opportunities for agency employees at various levels to receive ADA-related training appropriate to their job functions.

Self-Evaluation

Overview

Under Title II of the ADA ([28 CFR Sec. 35.105](#)), public entities are required to perform a self-evaluation of their current services, policies and practices with regard to accessibility. The goal of the self-evaluation is to verify that, in managing its programs and facilities, the agency is providing accessibility and not adversely affecting the full participation of individuals with disabilities.

The intent of the ADA self-evaluation is to review the agency's entire public program, including all facilities on public property and within public rights-of-way, in order to identify any obstacles or barriers to accessibility that need to be addressed. The general categories of items to be evaluated include:

- Communications, Information & Facility Signage.
- Building Facilities – these include offices, garages and other types of buildings.
- Pedestrian Facilities (Pedestrian Circulation Routes / Pedestrian Access Routes) – these include sidewalks, curb ramps, bicycle/pedestrian trails, traffic control signals and bus stops (and/or other transit facilities) that are located within the Town rights-of-way.

Public entities are required to provide an opportunity for interested persons, including individuals with disabilities or organizations representing individuals with disabilities, to participate in the self-evaluation process by submitting comments [[28 CFR Sec. 35.105\(b\)](#)].

Furthermore, a public entity that employs 50 or more persons is required, for at least three years following the completion of the self-evaluation, to maintain on file and make available for public inspection:

- A list of the interested persons consulted;
- A description of areas examined and any problems identified; and,
- A description of any modifications made.

Process & Findings

In November of 2006, the Town of Blackstone completed an initial self-evaluation of its services, programs, activities, and facilities on public property and within public rights-of-way with regard to accessibility. Detailed inventories, findings, and subsequent updates from this review are provided in:

- [Appendix A – 2006 ADA Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan](#)
- [Appendix B – 2010-2011 ADA Transition Plan](#)
- [Appendix C – 2017 ADA Transition Plan Updates](#)

An important component of the self-evaluation process is the identification of obstacles or barriers to accessibility, and the corresponding modifications that will be needed to remedy these items.

The following sections under *Transition Plan Updates (September 2023)* provide a summary of improvements that have already been made, and obstacles that the Town plans to address as part of this Transition Plan.

Transition Plan Updates (September 2023)

Communications, Information, & Facility Signage

Title II of ADA includes the following requirements regarding Communications:

General ([28 CFR Sec. 35.160](#))

- A public entity shall take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with applicants, participants, and members of the public with disabilities are as effective as communications with others.
- A public entity shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in, and enjoy the benefits of, a service, program, or activity conducted by a public entity.
- In determining what type of auxiliary aid and service is necessary, a public entity shall give primary consideration to the requests of the individual with disabilities.

Information and Signage ([28 CFR Sec. 35.163](#))

- A public entity shall ensure that interested persons, including persons with impaired vision or hearing, can obtain information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities.
- A public entity shall provide signage at all inaccessible entrances to each of its facilities, directing users to an accessible entrance or to a location at which they can obtain information about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility shall be used at each accessible entrance of a facility.

Other examples of important communication items/devices include [Accessible Pedestrian Signals](#) (APS) used at intersections, and signs, pavement markings and other traffic control devices used to provide advance warning and positive guidance in the vicinity of construction, maintenance or utility work areas/zones that impact sidewalks, crosswalks or other pedestrian access routes.

The [Pedestrian Checklist and Considerations for Temporary Traffic Control Zones](#) provides an overview of pedestrian-related considerations to enhance safety and accessibility for these types of situations.

In recent years, the Town has implemented the following accessibility improvements regarding communications, information, and facility signage:

LOCATION	UPDATES
<p>Recorded Town Meeting Videos</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Closed Captions for both Live Streamed and Recorded Town Board, Commission, and/or Committee Meetings • Action Item: Provide closed captioning for the audio portion of both live streamed and recorded Town Board, Commission, and/or Committee meetings officially designated as public record. • Update: Funding was obtained and put out to bid in January 2023 and implemented in the first half of 2023.
<p>Town Website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Redesign and Upgrade of Website for Accessibility • Action Item: Updating the website content, presentation, functionality, and design to meet accessibility requirements for users with visual and auditory impairments. • Update: Website redesign process is currently in progress with a projected date of completion and launch of December 18, 2023. Improvements include more options for communications and alerts (automated voice, text, email), alternative text options for content, and an ADA compliant color scheme.
<p>Municipal Center (Town Offices) 15 St. Paul Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: No accessible signage exists that directs people or room numbers • Action Item: A complete signage package should be developed for both the interior and exterior of the building. • Update: The Office of the Town Administrator and the ADA Coordinator are actively working on procuring new accessible signage for the interior of the building with a projected completion date of December 1, 2023.

Building Facilities and Related Parking Lots/Facilities

The Town of Blackstone is responsible for the following buildings:

- **Municipal Building (Town Offices/Police/Fire/Senior Center):** St. Paul Street
- **Roosevelt Park:** St. Paul Street
- **Blackstone Public Library:** Main Street
- **Blackstone Historical Museum:** Main Street
- **Town Common:** Main Street
- **Goulet Park & Fields:** Lincoln Street
- **Corrosion Control Facility/Water Treatment Plant:** Elm Street
- **Fire Station 2:** Elm Street
- **Fire Station 3:** Rathbun Street
- **Turbesi Park:** Rathbun Street
- **Valati Park:** Park Street

In recent years, the Town has implemented the following accessibility improvements to its building facilities:

LOCATION	UPDATES
<p>Municipal Center (Police & Fire) 15 St. Paul Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Vertical Lift to Police and Fire Station • Action Item: Replace the lift with a compliant ramp that will lead to the Police & Fire Department entrance. This would enable all people access 24 hours per day, seven days per week, the hours that these departments operate. • Update: The Vertical Lift to the Police and Fire Station has been removed and replaced with a new station entrance with both steps and a compliant ramp in January 2023. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>

The Town has conducted a detailed accessibility evaluation of each of its building facilities, and related parking lots/areas, based on the [ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities](#) publication and through the *Center for Living & Working, Inc.* The findings from this evaluation are provided in Appendix A. The accessibility barriers/issues identified as currently existing had been ranked in order of priority for improvement.

Improvement Schedule

Moving forward, the Town of Blackstone plans to implement improvements for the following items that have been identified as potential obstacles to accessibility.

Building Facilities and Related Parking Lots/Facilities	
Schedule	Description of Accessibility Improvement Projects / Methods
Year 1 (2023)	<p><u>MUNICIPAL CENTER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: All ADA Noncompliant Issues Identified • Action Item: The Municipal Center is a multi-level concrete brick structure constructed in the late 1970s that is the site of the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Offices, and Senior Center. Multiple items have been identified over the last several years in each iteration of the Transition Plan that does not meet ADA requirements. • Update: The May 2023 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$100,000 in funding to conduct a feasibility study and design services to renovate and expand the Municipal Building for all departments. This would also focus on and address the identified issues with the inaccessible front entrance, parking constraints, storage issues, elevator, etc. As of September 2023, the study and design are currently out for bid.
Year 2 (2024)	<p><u>ROOSEVELT PARK & TURBESI PARK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Inaccessible Recreation/Playground Area • Action Item: Renovation and replacement of outdated and noncompliant playground equipment, ground surfacing, fencing, accessible outdoor seating, parking spaces and connected pathways. • Update: The May 2023 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$350,000 for the renovation and replacement of playground equipment and ground surfacing only at Roosevelt Park and \$293,000 for Turbesi Park. The Town is exploring other funding and grant opportunities for the remaining outstanding items. The use of ARPA funds was approved in August 2023 to replace all picnic tables in each of the parks with the exception of Valati Park due to an existing encumbered \$10,000 designated for picnic table replacement. <p><u>BLACKSTONE HISTORICAL MUSEUM</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Multiple Issues ADA Noncompliant Issues Identified • Action Item: Modifications to the existing parking, ramp, and restroom to bring the structure in closer alignment with ADA requirements. • Update: The May 2023 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$150,000 for engineering designs, bid documents, construction, reconstruction, repair and future evaluation of the museum flooring, sidewalks and ramp, for the purpose of preserving the building’s structural condition, increasing allowable floor load capacity, and complying with ADA requirements.
Years 3–5 (2025 to 2027)	<p><u>MUNICIPAL CENTER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Renovation and Expansion of the Municipal Center • Action Item: The Municipal Center is a multi-level concrete brick structure constructed in the late 1970s that is the site of the Police Department, Fire Department, Town Offices, and Senior Center. Multiple items have been identified over the last several years in each iteration of the Transition Plan that does not meet ADA requirements. • Update: Next steps are dependent upon the results and recommendation of the 2023 feasibility and design study and town meeting appropriation.

Building Facilities and Related Parking Lots/Facilities	
Years 3–5 (2025 to 2027)	<p><u>ROOSEVELT PARK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Noncompliant Public Restrooms and Concession Stands • Action Item: Multiple issues identified with the current park structures. • Update: Plan to renovate and update structures to meet code and compliance.

Pedestrian Facilities / Public Rights-of-Way

Since the adoption of the ADA, the Town of Blackstone has striven to provide accessible pedestrian features as part of the Town’s capital improvement projects. As additional information was made available regarding the methods of providing accessible pedestrian features, the Town updated its procedures to accommodate these methods.

In recent years, the Town has implemented the following accessibility improvements to its pedestrian facilities:

LOCATION	UPDATES
Canal Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority: Cracked and Damaged Sidewalks on Canal Street and Greenway Bike Path Entrance • Action Item: Replace the damaged and inaccessible sidewalks and curbing along Canal Street to the Greenway Bike Path Entrance. This would enable all people access 24 hours per day, seven days per week, to travel safely and without physical obstructions along Canal Street. • Update: The Canal Street Improvement Project was funded through Annual Town Meeting appropriation and a \$400,000 Complete Streets Grant Award. Construction groundbreaking occurred on March 17, 2023, with a projected completion date of October 1, 2023

Methodology

The Town of Blackstone will utilize two methods for upgrading pedestrian facilities to current ADA standards. The first and most comprehensive method is through scheduled street and utility improvement projects. All pedestrian facilities impacted by these projects will be upgraded to current ADA accessibility standards. A current listing of these scheduled projects will be developed by December 31, 2024, following another review and assessment of the Transition Plan.

The second method is through specific sidewalk and ADA accessibility improvement projects that are identified individually. These projects will be incorporated into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Town of Blackstone staff. The Town CIP, which includes a detailed listing and preliminary budget for specific improvements, is published on the [Town website](#).

Policy

The Town of Blackstone’s goal is to continue to provide accessible pedestrian design features as part of its capital improvement projects. The Town will consider and respond to all accessibility improvement requests.

All accessibility improvements that are deemed reasonable will be scheduled consistent with capital and budget priorities. The Town will coordinate with external agencies to ensure that all new or altered pedestrian facilities within the Town jurisdiction are ADA compliant to the maximum extent feasible.

Maintenance of pedestrian facilities within the public rights-of-way will continue to follow the policies set forth by the Town. Examples of typical maintenance items relating to accessibility may include but is not limited to snow removal and ice control for municipal sidewalks, sidewalk repair policy, renewal of crosswalk markings, and signal hardware where appropriate. Detailed information will be provided in the CIP.

Requests for accessibility improvements can be submitted to the ADA Coordinator. Contact information is provided in [Appendix D – Public Notice of ADA Requirements and Grievance Procedure](#).

Public Notice of ADA Requirements and Grievance Procedure

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, each agency is required to publish its responsibilities with regard to ADA compliance. A draft of this public notice is provided in Appendix D.

If users of the Town of Blackstone facilities and services believe the Town has not provided a reasonable accommodation, they have the right to file a grievance. In accordance with [28 CFR Sec. 35.107\(b\)](#), the Town has developed a grievance procedure for the purpose of the prompt and equitable resolution of citizens' complaints or concerns. This grievance procedure is outlined in Appendix D.

Progress Monitoring and Transition Plan Management

This Transition Plan is considered to be a living document that will continue to be updated as conditions within the Town evolve. The initial schedule is to formally review the complete document (main body and appendices) at least once per year, to identify any need for updates.

Updates to the appendices or attachments may be made more frequently as needed. Any substantive updates to the main body of this document will include a public comment period to continue the Town's public outreach efforts.

The Town of Blackstone recognizes that ADA compliance is an ongoing responsibility which will require monitoring to identify future accessibility issues that may be encountered. For example, facilities that currently meet ADA requirements could fall out of compliance in the future due to factors such as damage, disrepair, or changes within public rights-of-way that could create new accessibility obstacles.

Therefore, the ADA Coordinator will work with the established ADA Review Committee to formalize an on-going monitoring/inspection program to ensure that facilities continue to comply with ADA requirements. Agency employees will also be encouraged to report any accessibility concerns or deficiencies that are identified.

Formal Adoption of ADA Transition Plan

This Updated ADA Transition Plan is hereby adopted by the Town of Blackstone, effective September of 2023.

Signed:

ADA Coordinator

Date

Town Administrator

Date

Chairman, Board of Selectmen

Date

Appendices

Appendix A – 2006 ADA Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan

A public entity that employs 50 or more persons is required, for at least three years following the completion of the self-evaluation, to maintain on file and make available for public inspection:

- A list of the interested persons consulted;
- A description of areas examined and any problems identified; and,
- A description of any modifications made.

Document Link: [2006 ADA Self-Evaluation/Transition Plan](#)

Appendix B – 2010-2011 ADA Transition Plan

Document Link: [2010-2011 ADA Transition Plan](#)

Appendix C – 2017 ADA Transition Plan Updates

Document Link: [2017 ADA Transition Plan Updates](#)

Appendix D – Public Notice of ADA Requirements and Grievance Procedure

As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Town has posted the following notice outlining its responsibilities with regard to ADA compliance.

Public Notice

In accordance with the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Town of Blackstone will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Town of Blackstone does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under title I of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Town of Blackstone will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in Town of Blackstone's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Town of Blackstone will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in Town of Blackstone offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of Town of Blackstone, should contact the office of the Town Administrator soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

Contact information for the Office of the Town Administrator and ADA Coordinator:

Chad Lovett

ADA Coordinator and Town Administrator

Town of Blackstone | 15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone, MA 01504

Email: ratstupenas@townofblackstone.org

The ADA does not require the Town of Blackstone to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Town of Blackstone is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to the Town Administrator and ADA Coordinator, Chad Lovett.

The Town of Blackstone will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Grievance Procedure

Town of Blackstone, Massachusetts Grievance Procedure under the Americans with Disabilities Act

PURPOSE:

This Grievance Procedure is established to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA") to provide a method in which to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Blackstone.

APPLICABILITY:

It may be used by anyone who wishes to file a complaint alleging discrimination on the basis of disability in the provision of services, activities, programs, or benefits by the Town of Blackstone. The Town's Personnel Policy governs employment-related complaints of disability discrimination.

POLICY:

The complaint should be in writing and contain information about the alleged discrimination such as name, address, phone number of complainant and location, date, and description of the problem (see the *ADA Grievance Complaint Form*). Alternative means of filing complaints, such as personal interviews or a tape recording of the complaint, will be made available for persons with disabilities upon request.

The complaint should be submitted by the grievant and/or their designee as soon as possible but no later than sixty (60) calendar days after the alleged violation to:

Chad Lovett

ADA Coordinator and Town Administrator

Town of Blackstone | 15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone, MA 01504

Email: clovett@townofblackstone.org

Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the complaint, Chad Lovett or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and the possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days of the meeting, Chad Lovett or their designee, will respond in writing, and where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, such as large print, Braille, or audio tape. The response will explain the position of the Town of Blackstone and offer options for substantive resolution of the complaint.

If the response by Chad Lovett or their designee does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or their designee may appeal the decision within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the response to the Board of Selectmen or their designee.

Within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the appeal, the Board of Selectmen or their designee will meet with the complainant to discuss the complaint and possible resolutions. Within fifteen (15) calendar days after the meeting, the Board of Selectmen or their designee will respond in writing, and, where appropriate, in a format accessible to the complainant, with a final resolution of the complaint.

Grievance Procedure Complaint Form

COMPLAINANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name

Date

Address

Phone Number

Email Address

COMPLAINT DETAILS:

Location

Date

Problem/Issue Description:

Complainant Signature

!Send **Online Applications** to: clovett@townofblackstone.org and ttaylor@townofblackstone.org

!Send **Hard Copy Applications** to the Office of the Town Administrator in person, in the drop box in front of Town Hall, or via mail to the Office of the Town Administrator, 15 St. Paul Street, Blackstone MA 01504

Appendix E – Agency ADA Design Standards and Improvement/ Compliance Procedures

ADA Resources and Design Standards

[Massachusetts Architectural Access Board \(AAB\)](#)

[Federal Highway Administration \(FHWA\) - Civil Rights - ADA/Section 504](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines \(ADAAG\)](#)

[2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#)

[ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities](#)

[ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments](#)

[ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments](#)

[Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as Amended \(2008\)](#)

[Title 28 CFR Part 35](#) – *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services*

Appendix F – Glossary of Terms

ABA: See Architectural Barriers Act.

ADA: See Americans with Disabilities Act.

ADA Transition Plan: Transportation system plan that identifies accessibility needs, the process to fully integrate accessibility improvements, and aims to ensure that all transportation facilities, services, programs, and activities are accessible to all individuals.

ADAAG: See Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines.

Accessible: A facility that provides access to people with disabilities using the design requirements of the ADA.

Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS): A device that communicates information about the WALK phase in audible and vibrotactile formats.

Alteration: A change to a facility in the public right-of-way that affects or could affect access, circulation, or use. An alteration must not decrease or have the effect of decreasing the accessibility of a facility or an accessible connection to an adjacent building or site.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Civil rights legislation passed in 1990 and effective July 1992. The ADA sets design guidelines for accessibility to public facilities, including sidewalks and trails, by individuals with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG): Contains scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and public facilities by individuals with disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

APS: See Accessible Pedestrian Signal.

Architectural Access Board (AAB): The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) develops and enforces regulations designed to make public buildings accessible to, functional for, and safe for use by persons with disabilities in the state of Massachusetts.

Architectural Barriers Act (ABA): Federal law that requires facilities designed, built, altered or leased with Federal funds to be accessible. The Architectural Barriers Act marks one of the first efforts to ensure access to the built environment.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): The CIP for the Town of Blackstone which typically includes an annual capital budget and a five-year plan for funding the new construction and reconstruction projects regarding all qualifying capital projects and improvements valued over \$35,000.

Detectable Warning: A surface feature of truncated domes, built in or applied to the walking surface to indicate an upcoming change from pedestrian to vehicular way.

DOJ: See United States Department of Justice.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA): A branch of the U.S. Department of Transportation that administers the federal-aid Highway Program, providing financial assistance to states to construct and improve highways, urban and rural roads, and bridges.

FHWA: See Federal Highway Administration.

Pedestrian Access Route (PAR): A continuous and unobstructed walkway within a pedestrian circulation path that provides accessibility.

Pedestrian Circulation Route (PCR): A prepared exterior or interior way of passage provided for pedestrian travel.

Right-of-Way: A general term denoting land, property, or interest therein, usually in a strip, acquired for the network of streets, sidewalks and trails creating public pedestrian access within a public entity's jurisdictional limits.

Section 504: The section of the Rehabilitation Act that prohibits discrimination by any program or activity conducted by the federal government.

Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS): Accessibility standards that all federal agencies are required to meet; includes scoping and technical specifications.

United States Access Board: An independent federal agency that develops and maintains design criteria for buildings and other improvements, transit vehicles, telecommunications equipment, and electronic and information technology. It also enforces accessibility standards that cover federally-funded facilities.

United States Department of Justice: Federal executive department responsible for enforcement of the law and administration of justice (also referred to as the Justice Department or DOJ).