



Punta Gorda

CITY OF PUNTA GORDA ADA TRANSITION PLAN FINAL REPORT Fire Station #2

October 4, 2017

Prepared For:
City of Punta Gorda
326 West Marion Avenue
Punta Gorda, Florida, 33950



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1.0 LOCATION MAP

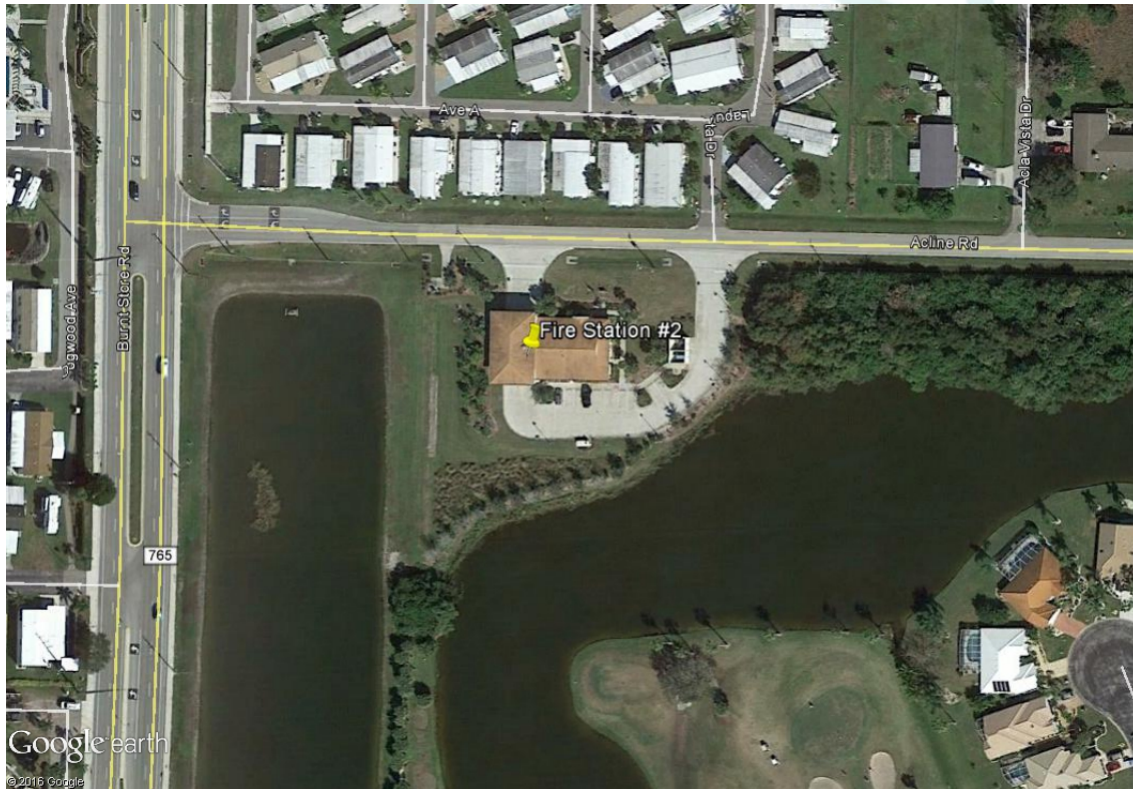


Figure 1-1 - Location Map

1.1 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Punta Gorda Fire Station #2 is located at 2601 Acline Road. It was built in 2008 and is 6,238 square feet, of which 3,730 square feet is air-conditioned. The fire station houses fire safety equipment and personnel.

General public access to the facility is allowed, but limited. Dedicated parking for the facility is provided at the south end of the structure, accessed from Acline Road.



2.0 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

2.1 PUBLISHED STANDARDS

As indicated in our project proposal, the findings for each facility assessed under the project will be provided in the form of an Accessibility Assessment Report, or AAR. This AAR conforms to ASTM E2018-01 - Standard Guide for Property Assessments: Baseline Property Condition Assessment Process standards.

The AAR is intended to identify defects or deficiencies in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and Florida Accessibility Code (FAC) and to recommend necessary improvements that could improve accessibility of the assessed facilities by individuals with disabilities. Our assessment is based on spaces, areas, elements, or features that can or could be accessed by the general public. Attention to equipment or work spaces not allocated for use by individuals with disabilities has not been evaluated. Nevertheless, where work areas that may allow individuals with disabilities to be employed are identified by the facility member interviewed during the introductory stage of the assessment are identified, these areas have been assessed and any deficiencies noted are reported herein.

The date the facility was constructed or renovated is important to determine so that applicable standards can be applied during the assessment process. ADAAG became enforceable in January 1992 with a revision becoming enforceable in 2012. The FAC has had various revisions over the years. This AAR reports deficiencies according to ADAAG and FAC standards as appropriate to the condition assessed.

2.2 BUILDING ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

An informal interview with our point of contact for the facility, Lieutenant Doug Pyszka, was conducted prior to performing the physical assessment of the building and surrounding elements. LT. Pyszka provided an overview of the facility's occupancy, use, and history which established the spaces and elements frequented by the general public and which must meet the minimum accessibility requirements. LT. Pyszka also stated that this facility could not accommodate personnel assigned to light duty work.

The pre-interview process is used to determine and document information relevant to each facility's use in order to determine applicable regulatory standards to apply to the assessment of the facilities. Use and occupancy information is critical in determining compliance with accessibility standards and must be established prior to the physical assessments.



3.0 ASSESSMENT PROCESS

A facility walk-thru and assessment of site and building elements for compliance with applicable accessibility standards was conducted on May 26, 2016. The assessment was conducted by Tindale Oliver staff, certified as Accessibility Inspectors, and escorted by the designated facility contact, Lieutenant Doug Pyszka.

The facility survey addressed each accessible element and space within and external to the building and included applicable elements such as path-of-travel (accessible route), parking, curb ramps, entrances/exits, signage, toilet, shower, locker, drinking fountains, ramps, doors, hardware, recreational facilities and all other occupiable spaces and elements covered by the ADAAG.

The survey included physical measurements and counts for components or systems. Survey findings were collected and recorded on Tindale Oliver's custom made, Android based, ADA compliance checklist application. Photographs were taken with the tablet of each area of the facility for familiarization and later reference to illustrate deficiency findings. The digital data and photographs were then uploaded to a database on our secure servers for backup. Where appropriate, photographs have been included in this AAR to illustrate issues or deficiencies where necessary.

The facility survey consisted of non-intrusive visual observations, which allowed for a readily accessible and easily visible components and systems assessment of the facility which included measurements of space and clearance dimensions, slope, walkway widths, reach ranges, maneuverability measurements, etc.

4.0 FINDINGS AND DEFICIENCIES

4.1 GENERAL

The use and occupancy of Fire Station #2 dictates egress requirements and accessible route requirements consistent with the ADAAG regulations. Because the general public does, on occasion, access the facility, and in the interest of establishing an accessibility compliance baseline condition report of the facility, a full accessibility assessment was conducted. Where deficiencies in compliance with ADAAG or FAC exist, descriptions of the deficiency, regulatory requirement(s) pertinent to the deficiency, a photograph or sketch illustrating the deficient element, and recommendations for remediation of the deficiency are listed below.



4.2 PARKING

Assessments

Parking spaces are provided for use by patrons/occupants of Fire Station #2. The surface parking lot is located on the south side of the fire station and is accessed via a driveway from Acline Road.

The requisite numbers of accessible parking spaces (1) are provided among the 10 total parking spaces. However, several deficiencies exist in terms of requirements for accessible parking.



Figure 4-1 - Parking Area

FAC 502.6.1 states that, “Each such parking space must be striped in a manner that is consistent with the standards of the controlling jurisdiction for other spaces and prominently outlined with blue paint, and must be repainted when necessary, to be clearly distinguishable as a parking space designated for persons who have disabilities.”

ADAAG 208.2.4 states that, “For every six or fraction of six (accessible) parking spaces required... at least one shall be a van parking.”

ADAAG 502.6 states that, “Signs identifying van parking spaces shall contain the designation ‘van accessible’.”

Recommendations

It is recommended to re-stripe the accessible parking space and adjacent accessible aisle to make it more prominent and be in full compliance with the ADA and FAC. A sign must be added to the existing accessible parking sign with the words “van accessible” on it.



4.3 ACCESSIBLE ROUTE

Assessments

An accessible route from the existing parking area to the facility's only public entrance is provided, as shown below.



Figure 4-2 - Accessible Route & Entrance

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section of the facility.

4.4 SIGNAGE

Assessments

The exit doors have overhead exit signs, but do not have corresponding tactile exit signage, as shown in Figure 4-3. The ADA requires that wherever exit signage directs emergency egress from a facility, a raised lettering and Braille (tactile) sign compliant with ADA standards must also be provided to assist individuals with vision impairments in finding exits.

Some of the permanent rooms within the facility do not have compliant signage, as shown in Figure 4-4. The ADA stipulates that all permanent spaces within a facility must be identified by a raised character and Braille (tactile) sign compliant with ADAAG standards at the entrance door(s) to the space so that individuals with vision impairments can identify the use or occupancy of the space before entering.



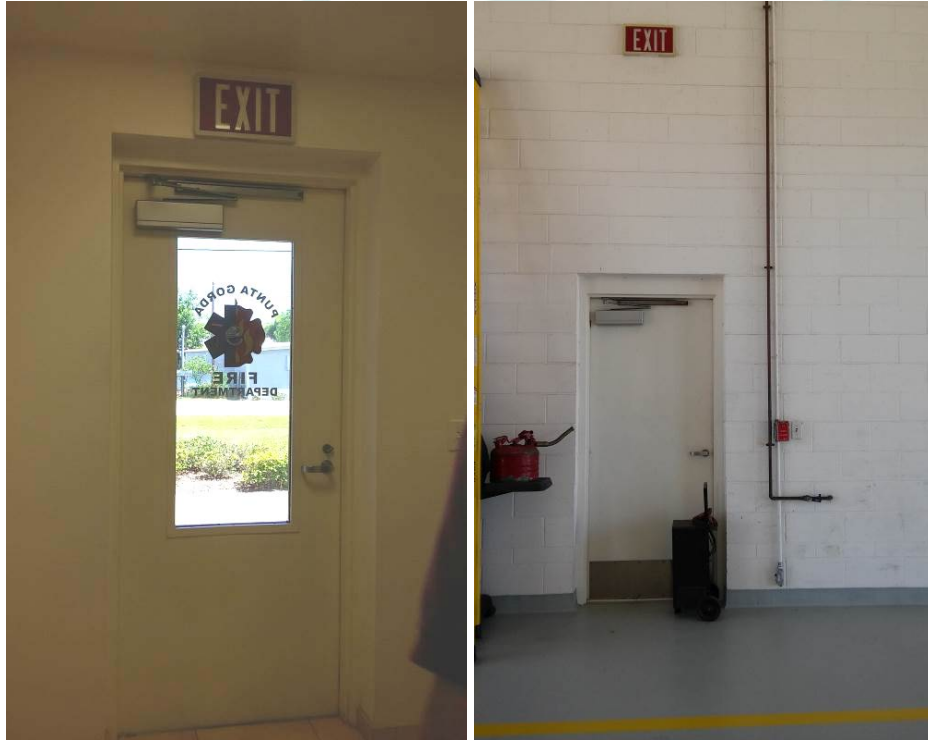


Figure 4-3 - Exit Doors

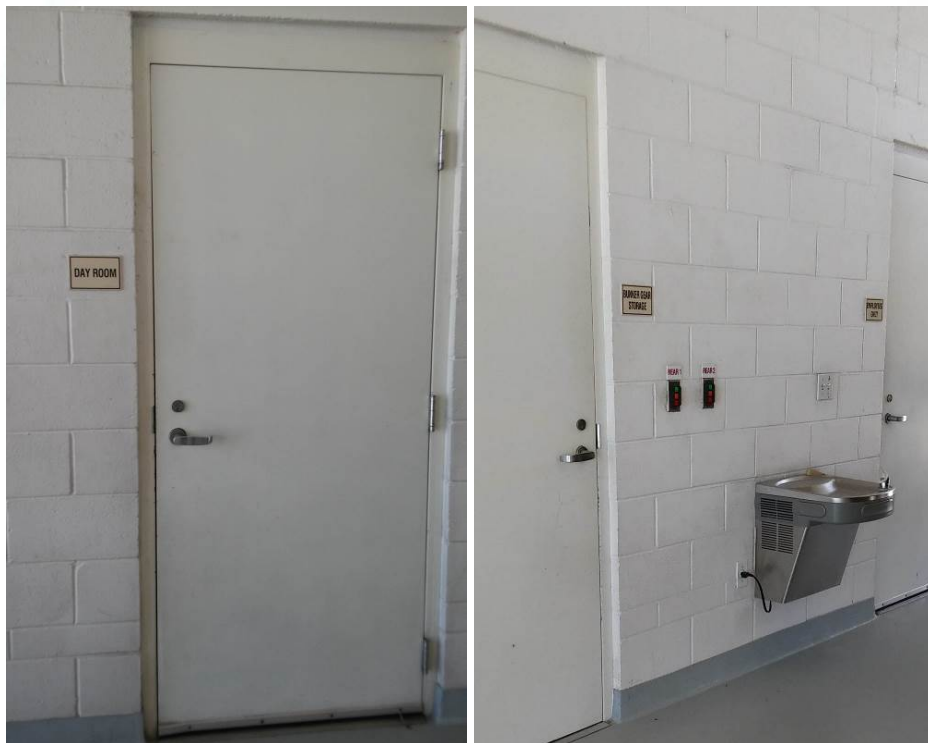


Figure 4-4 - Room Signage

ADAAG 216.4.1 states that, exit doors are required to have tactile signs.



ADAAG 703.3 states that, exit doors are required to have signage with raised characters and braille.

ADAAG 703.5 states that, exit doors are required to have signage with visual characters.

ADAAG 703.1, 703.2, and 703.5 state that, permanent rooms shall have signage with visual characters, raised characters, and braille.

Recommendations

At exit doors, provide a tactile exit sign with raised characters and braille. At all permanent rooms, make sure the room's signage has visual characters, raised characters, and braille.

4.5 DRINKING FOUNTAINS

Assessments

There is only one drinking fountain provided at this location.

ADAAG 211.2 states that, no fewer than two drinking fountains shall be provided at each location.

ADAAG 602.4 states that, one drinking fountain shall have a spout height of 36" maximum above the finished floor.

ADAAG 602.7 states that, one drinking fountain shall have a spout height of 38" minimum and 43" maximum above the finished floor.



Figure 4-5 - Single Drinking Fountain



Recommendations

Install an additional drinking fountain of appropriate height adjacent to the existing drinking fountain. Two drinking fountains are required so that a person in a wheelchair can access the lower fountain while a person with difficulty bending over can access the higher one.

4.6 RESTROOMS

Assessments

The locker room shower has a door opening that is 32" in width.

ADAAG 608.2.1 states that, transfer type showers shall have a 36" wide minimum entry.



Figure 4-6 - Shower Opening

Recommendations

The shower opening shall be widened to be 36" minimum.



5.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCIAL PLAN

In the previous sections, the improvements that are required to improve accessibility conditions to the facility were identified. The next step in the process is the development of an Implementation and Financial Plan for improvements. This was undertaken through the following efforts:

- preparing cost estimates for the required improvements;
- identifying funding that is available for the improvements; and
- reviewing the specific improvements in more detail and categorizing them into two separate groups. These include:
 - quick fix improvements; and
 - improvements that require more time, effort, and/or funding.

5.1 DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVEMENT COSTS

In order to develop the Implementation and Financial Plan, unit costs for each type of improvement were developed. These unit costs were based on recent experiences with other agencies and, when available, standard industry costs when local data was not available. **It is important to note that the unit costs include across-the-board assumptions that will need to be reviewed prior to the actual improvement being completed.**

Table 5-1 includes the unit costs for each type of improvement that were used to estimate the improvement costs. In addition, this table includes an estimate for the total number of items needing each type of improvement, as well as the total estimate of probable cost by improvement type.

Note that the costs included in the table below are planning level estimates, once the projects progress through design, the actual construction opinions of cost will become more refined. Also, the City does not have the funding to go out and make all of these improvements at one time, which would offer the most economy of scale. Therefore, cost estimates are reflective of multiple smaller phases that will be more conducive to the funding available.

Again, it should be noted that the estimates are intended to reflect the order-of-magnitude costs for the City's overall facility improvement needs over the timeframe of the plan; for specific projects nearing implementation, it may be necessary for the City to conduct a more detailed cost assessment.



Improvement	Cost		Approx. Amount	Approx. Cost	Priority	Quick Fix
4.2 - Parking						
Restripe accessible parking space and aisle	\$1,000	spaces	1	\$1,000	High	No
Add van signage	\$100	each	1	\$100	High	No
4.4 - Signage						
Add room and exit signage	\$100	each	12	\$1,200	Medium	Yes
4.5 - Drinking Fountains						
Add secondary drinking fountain	\$1,000	each	1	\$1,000	Medium	Yes
4.6 - Restrooms						
Renovate showers	\$15,000	each	2	\$30,000	Low	No
Sub-Total Estimate				\$33,300		
<i>Mobilization</i>	\$15,000			\$15,000		
<i>Signed & Sealed Plans</i>	\$5,000			\$5,000		
<i>Survey/Design</i>	20%			\$6,700		
<i>Inspection</i>	10%			\$3,400		
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	15%			\$5,000		
Total Order of Magnitude Cost Estimates				\$68,400		

Table 5-1 Cost and Prioritization Table



5.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCIAL PLAN

The Implementation and Financial Plan was developed to identify when the improvements should occur, based on the relative priority of the improvements and anticipated level of funding that will be available to address the improvements.

Due to the nature of the quick fix improvements, it is assumed that the majority of the identified quick fix improvements will be completed within the confines of the five-year plan, listed in the following section.

It would be ideal if Punta Gorda could take advantage of “piggy backing” needed improvements with other planned facility improvement and renovation projects. Under ideal circumstances, this would permit the City to benefit either because the project directly addresses some or all of the needed improvements, or the project allows the City to reduce its improvement costs due to the concurrent construction activities. It is not known at this time the amount of implementation costs that could potentially be saved by completing the improvements concurrent with planned projects. Therefore, potential cost savings through fund leveraging are not included in the Implementation and Financial Plan at this time. In the future, should the desire and ability to estimate the amount of costs that could be reduced through fund leveraging, the cost of the improvements for those impacted improvements may be adjusted.

To develop the plan, the prioritized list of improvements were incorporated into the Implementation and Financial Plan based on the amount of anticipated funding available each year for the improvements.

It should be stressed that the Implementation and Financial Plan will serve as a general guide for the planning of improvements and that several factors will influence the timing for implementation of specific improvements and the overall cost of the program, including:

- Opportunities for partnering with other jurisdictions or organizations on implementing improvements.
- Specific site conditions at individual locations, including landscaping, utilities, drainage, which can have a significant impact on the type of improvements required and the associated cost.
- Contracting opportunities, including awarding a unit-price contract for the implementation of improvements at multiple locations.
- Additional opportunities to relocate or consolidate individual amenities.

On an annual basis, the list of needed improvements will be reviewed against the funding that is available that year to develop a specific work program. As previously mentioned, this will involve development of more detailed cost estimates based on a review of site conditions at individual locations.



5.3 FUNDING PLAN FOR NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

Table 5-1 presents an example of a phased implementation plan by listing the improvements with a proposed priority and their associated costs. It should be noted that the costs are estimates of probable cost, with the ultimate costs dependent upon how the work is undertaken, site conditions at individual locations, material and labor prices in future years, and potential right-of-way costs. The number of items that are consolidated, modified, relocated, or removed will also be an important variable, as well as the amount of work that will be the responsibility of other entities.

Due to the unknown level of funding currently available for accessibility improvements, current renovation schedule, and the completion of the quick-fix improvement list, the items recommended for improvement each year of the program do not necessarily have to be the highest ranking items on the priority list. However, as the improvement program progresses, high ranking items that were not initially improved should be included in future years.

It should be noted that the phased implementation plan is just a guide. The number of items improved each year and the specific locations chosen for improvement may vary due to such factors as the actual costs of the improvement. As such, the improvements will need to be reviewed and a work program developed specifying the improvements that will be undertaken on an annual basis. The improvements would be undertaken through task orders. It is envisioned that the effort could focus on implementation of improvements within specific sections of the facility or would occur with groups of similar improvements throughout the City, both of which could enable improvements to be implemented more quickly.

It should be stressed that this plan is presented as an overall guide to the implementation of improvements. City staff will need to review the needed improvements and the available funding on an annual basis to develop the annual improvement program.

