

#### LOS ALAMOS COUNTY

- ADA Access Audit and Transition Plan
  - Community Engagement Presentation
  - November 30, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
  - November 30, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.



#### INTRODUCTIONS

- Los Alamos County staff
- WT Group, LLC Accessibility Practice
- John McGovern, JD, Partner, Principal in Charge



# LOS ALAMOS COUNTY SCOPE OF WORK

- Access audits of parks and facilities
- Community engagement to identify any access preferences and priorities, and community survey
- Phased retrofit schedule (transition plan)



#### THE WT GROUP

- Site evaluations and access audits
- Community engagement & Transition Plan
- Plan review
- Inclusion process and policy review
- Staff training



#### WHAT IS THE ADA?

- Effective January 26, 1992
- Provides comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities in the areas of:
  - Employment
  - State and local government services
  - Privately owned places of public accommodation
  - Telecommunications



#### TITLE II

- Title II governs Los Alamos County services, parks, and facilities
- Design and construction of new sites
- Audit and retrofit at existing sites
- 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, New Mexico Building Code 2015, smart practices



#### TITLE II CONTINUED

- County must make programs available in the most integrated setting
- County must make modifications to support participation by people with disabilities
- County must make contractors, concessionaires agree to not discriminate on the basis of disability
- County must ensure that processes for people with disabilities are not more difficult than for people without disabilities



#### PROGRAM ACCESS

- Per US DOJ, "programs" of the County are what must be accessible
- Programs are broadly defined...what is a program?
- Not necessarily every existing site, or every asset at a site, must be retrofit for access...we suggest a minimum of one-of-three of recurring assets
- County can stretch schedule to meet the mandate in a way that is consistent with its resources, but must act in good faith



#### WHY AUDIT FACILITIES?

- Where renovations are being planned, access must be in the plans...the County wants to know where the deficits are
- Many sites were planned before 1992, and access was not in the mindset of designers...the County will stay current
- It's the right thing to do!



#### THE WTG PROCESS

- Every aspect of every element at every site
- 2010 Standards for Accessible Design, New Mexico requirements that are more stringent
- Simple tools
- Checklists for quality control



## WHAT IS A TRANSITION PLAN?

- Have four components: cite deficit, recommend a solution, name responsible person, note when barrier will be removed, and we add cost references for planning
- Disperse access retrofits
- Unique sites and recurring sites
- Stretched out over...how many years?



#### TRANSITION PLAN RETROFIT FACTORS

- Severity of the barrier
- Easy to do
- High-use site
- Public or employee space?



#### TRANSITION PLAN FACTORS

How recent is construction

- Repurposed site?
- Is there a partner?
- Complex or costly retrofits



#### TRANSITION PLAN FACTORS

- Sites not yet subject to design standard
- Compliance is technically infeasible
- Historic sites

Sites with other protections



### **OBSERVATIONS**





No accessible parking provided

#### **PARKING**

Parking stall/aisle slopes too steep

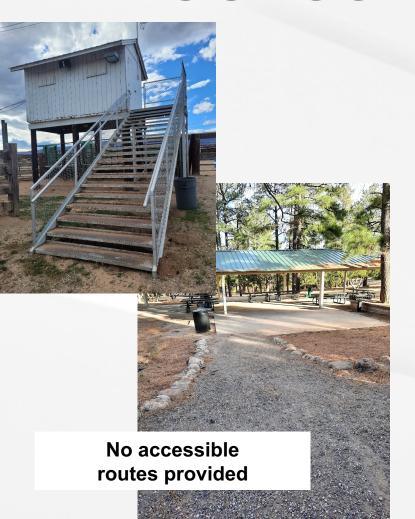






Running slopes exceed 10%, cross slopes exceed 2% along path

#### **ACCESSIBLE ROUTES**





Loose gravel along path





#### **PARKS**





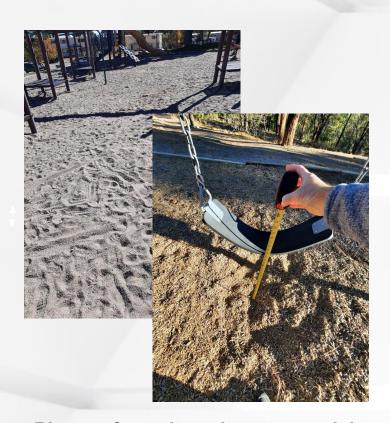
Route fails to connect to park amenities



#### PARKS/PLAY AREAS

**Transfer system installed incorrectly** 





Play surfaces have loose materials



#### **RESTROOMS**

#### Lavatory mounted too high



#### Pipes lack insulation





### UNIQUE SITE: Mini Golf, Rodeo Stadium







## UNIQUE SITE: Dog Parks



Lack accessible route







### ROLE OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- 35.150(d) requires opportunity for community member feedback in transition plan process
- We can measure dimensions, but practical input from those affected by access issues is VERY helpful to us and the County
- "Nothing for us, without us."



#### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

- We return in the winter and audit facilities, and continue to draft site reports
- More public feedback opportunities toward the end of the project
- RRC Associates will conduct a statistically valid and reliable survey
- We deliver Final Report and Transition Plan to the County in mid-2022



### WHAT ARE YOUR ACCESS PREFERENCES?

- Types of assets?
- Location?
- Busiest sites?
- Other factors?



# YOUR ACCESS PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES

- Start with the basics (parking, entries, restrooms, etc.)?
- In what order should sites be retrofit?

Dispersed retrofits or concentrated retrofits?



### THANK YOU