

Appendix E – Public Outreach

The County recognizes that providing an opportunity for review and comment is an important part of this Plan. Comments will be recorded and, if feasible, modifications to the document content and prioritization of improvements will be made.

As part of the Plan development process, the County will post the Plan document on the County's Highway section of its website <https://www.co.steele.mn.us>, and the Plan will be made available for public comment. Additionally, a printed copy of the Plan will be made available at the Highway Department.

A link to the plan was also distributed via email to school districts, medical facilities, and other public agencies with facilities along or access to the County's ROW. The following is a list of Stakeholders and the text that was included in the email notice.

Stakeholder Contact List

- Schools
 - Blooming Prairie High School
 - Blooming Prairie School District
 - McKinley Elementary School
 - Medford Public School
 - Medford School District
 - NRHEG School District
 - Owatonna Christian School
 - Owatonna School District
- Medical Facilities
 - Owatonna Hospital
- Other Public Agencies
 - Cities
 - Blooming Prairie
 - Ellendale
 - Medford
 - Owatonna
 - Hope (Somerset Township)
 - Steele County Courthouse
 - Steele County Public Health
 - Cedar Valley Services

Email Notice

To whom it may concern:

Steele County is seeking input from the public on the draft ADA Transition Plan to support accessibility for people using its facilities. We invite you to review the draft version of the Plan, as it is being finalized. You may view the draft by using the following link to the County's website:

[Insert web hyperlink]

Feel free to distribute this notice to your colleagues or others that may find this plan to be of interest. The purpose of this notice is to introduce the ADA Transition Plan to the public and inform those that work in "priority areas" related to accessibility about the County's work thus far. Any comments that you provide may be incorporated into the final version of the Plan, and help Steele County to identify key areas for improvement, including curb ramps, sidewalks, and pedestrian pushbuttons.

If you need a reasonable accommodation, assistance, or require more information please contact Steele County ADA Coordinator, Paul Sponholz, using the contact information below.

Thank you for your input,

Steele County

ADA Coordinator

Name: Paul Sponholz, Assistant County Engineer

Address: 3000 Hoffman Dr NW, Owatonna, MN 55060

Phone: 507-444-7670

E-Mail: paul.sponholz@co.steele.mn.us

Record of Public Outreach Summary

The County sent out a Media Release and made the Plan available to the public for review during a virtual open house, which was available from November 17 – 29, 2020. During this time, one comment was received regarding a specific location. The County is in the process of working with the Commenter to address the request.

E-1: Public Outreach Media Release



STEELE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

PO Box 890 • 3000 Hoffman Dr NW • Owatonna, MN 55060-0890
(507) 444-7670

November 17, 2020

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:
Paul Sponholz
507-444-7670
paul.sponholz@co.steele.mn.us

STEELE COUNTY ADOPTING ADA TRANSITION PLAN

Owatonna, Minn. – The Steele County Highway Department is creating a Transition Plan to make pedestrian facilities accessible per the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Steele County invites the public to participate in an open house to review the county's progress and provide feedback. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions of in-person public events, the open house will be held online November 17 until November 29.

To participate in the open house and view the draft of the plan, the public can go to this link: www.co.steele.mn.us/ada_transition. The public will then be able to provide feedback to or ask questions of project staff via email or phone. If someone needs a reasonable accommodation, assistance, or require more information, they should contact the Steele County Highway Department.

Over the past several months, the County has evaluated the sidewalks, trails, curb ramps, and traffic signals within Steele County for compliance with accessibility guidelines. The Transition Plan lays out a strategy for correcting non-complaint infrastructure.

###