



City of Newton

Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report For 2019

Per the City of Newton Title VI Non-Discrimination Program
Established December 2012

Date of Report: March 26, 2020

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TITLE VI PROGRAM

The City is responsible to complete a Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report each year. The Report is completed early each year to reflect updates and changes that occurred during the previous calendar year.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Subsequent laws, executive orders and regulations further prohibit discrimination due to disability, sex (gender), age, limited English proficiency, environmental justice, and acquisition of right-of-way and property impacts.

The City of Newton is a Local Planning Agency (LPA) and receives Federal Highway Administration money for the planning and construction of transportation systems. The funds from the Federal Highway Administration are distributed to LPA's through the Iowa Department of Transportation. To be eligible to receive federal money, the State of Iowa and each LPA shall have a Title VI Non-Discrimination Program. The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) provides assistance to LPA's for Title VI compliance.

The City of Newton established a Title VI Non-Discrimination Program in December 2012, per City Council Resolution 2012-139. Being a city with a population of less than 250,000, the City of Newton has a Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement with the Iowa DOT. The City also has a Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement and a Standard DOT Title VI Assurances. The Standard DOT Title VI Assurances was updated at the City Council meeting on January 12, 2015, per City Council Resolution 2015-003.

The City of Newton established an Americans with Disability Act Transition Plan in March 2013, per City Council Resolution 2013-046. City staff updates this plan annually.

The City of Newton has Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program for the Newton Municipal Airport. The current airport DBE program is a 3-year plan adopted in July 2018.

Policy Statement:

No changes have been made to the City of Newton Title VI Non-Discrimination Policy Statement dated December 13, 2012.

Organization, Staffing, Structure:

Title VI Coordinator & ADA Coordinator
Brian Laube, Community Services Manager
1700 N 4th Ave W
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-6622, ext. 2302
brianl@newtongov.org

Title VI Administrative Head
Matt Muckler, City Administrator
101 W 4th Street S
Newton, IA 50208
641-792-2787, ext. 2001
matt@newtongov.org

MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCESS

The following goals for 2019 have been accomplished, implemented, or continued:

- 1) The City attempted to collect voluntary demographic information at public information sessions. The City held one public information session regarding public works projects on April 2, 2019. Demographic information was requested from attendees using a voluntary attendee questionnaire.
- 2) The City continued to use the Master Builders online statewide bid notification system, which reaches a considerably larger pool of potential bidders, contractors, subcontractors, and suppliers. These bid notices were also posted on the City's website.
- 3) The City continued to work on the implementation of goals included in the City of Newton ADA Transition Plan (see 2019 accomplishments below).

FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS

The City awarded a contract that used Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds for an Airport Master Plan in 2016. This project was completed in 2019 and followed FAA Title VI guidelines including the City of Newton 3-year Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program adopted for the Newton Municipal Airport in July 2015 and recently updated in July 2018.

The City of Newton either awarded a contract or continued work on the following Iowa DOT project contracts that received Federal funds in 2019:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Iowa Speedway Drive Concrete Overlay | STP-U-5482(613)--70-50 |
| 2. 1 st Ave E (US-6) HMA Resurfacing Project | STBG-SWAP-5482(621)--SG-50 |

The Iowa Speedway Drive Concrete Overlay project was a PC concrete overlay project. Iowa Speedway Drive is an arterial street that connects Newton to Interstate I-80. The completed project had a positive impact on the community with no known impact to any particular demographic group of people during or after construction.

The 1st Ave E (US-6) HMA Resurfacing Project is an asphalt milling and resurfacing project; with some sidewalk, bike trail, and pedestrian traffic signal upgrades. 1st Ave E is an arterial street that crosses Newton from east to west. The completed project will have a positive impact on the community with no expected impacts to any particular demographic group of people during or after construction.

The following airport projects, which were either awarded or received state or federal funds in 2019, are:

1. Airport Fuel System Upgrades
2. Airport Apron Expansion Project

The Airport Fuel System Upgrades included the construction of two new underground fuel tanks, new fuel dispenser cabinets, and related items at the Newton Airport. The project will have a positive impact on the Airport with no known impact to any particular demographic group of people.

The Airport Apron Expansion Project includes the construction of additional aircraft parking aprons at the Newton Airport. The project will have a positive impact on the Airport with no known impact to any particular demographic group of people.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The City of Newton holds frequent public meetings, including regular and special meetings of the City Council, board meetings, workshop sessions, and project information planning meetings. These meetings are free and open to the public in accordance with Iowa Open Meetings laws.

On a regular basis, sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, and auxiliary services are not provided at City meetings. However, upon request, interpreters or alternate materials can be made available for individuals at public meetings. In the event that a sign language interpreter is requested, the City will coordinate services with an interpreter currently licensed by the Iowa Board of Sign Language Interpreters and Translitterators.

An open house for various proposed Public Works projects was held at the Newton City Hall on April 2, 2019. A media release for the meeting was sent to the local newspaper and radio. Social media and local newspaper advertising was done for the open house. A sign-in sheet was provided at the meeting and voluntary demographic information was sought from attendees.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

The City ADA Transition Plan is updated annually. During the past eight years an average of \$101,061 has been spent annually to improve accessibility throughout the City. These improvements are completed using a combination of allocated funds for accessibility improvements, funds spend on improving accessibility during street or other public improvement projects, and accessibility improvements completed in the right-of-way by private development projects.

2019 ADA improvements completed include:

- Public Works crews installed/updated the following curb ramp locations:
 - S 5th Ave E & E 2nd St S (SE corner): 2 existing full-curb locations updated - \$4,000
 - W 3rd St N & N 2nd Ave W (SW corner): 1 existing full-curb & 1 non-compliant ramp updated - \$3,500
 - E 15th St N & N 8th Ave E (SW corner): 1 existing full-curb updated - \$2,000
 - N 6th Ave E & E 10th St N (NW corner): 2 existing full-curb locations updated - \$4,000
- City-contracted projects:
 - 1st Ave Downtown Traffic Signal Improvements: \$199,000 on compliant ramp construction/upgrades; and \$14,000 in ADA-related traffic signal features.
 - NW Parking Lot Reconstruction: 3 ramps upgraded to complying ramps - \$4,000
- Public Works Office: New Restrooms Constructed - \$10,000

The City has an inventory of needed curb ramps and has prioritized the curb ramps into high priority and lower priority areas. High priority areas are located within approximately ¼ mile radius of city, county, state and federal government facilities, hospitals, assisted care facilities, and school buildings. High priority areas also include areas where a request has been made or where a person(s) with mobility needs lives or travels via sidewalks.

In the 9-year period from 2011 through 2019, the number of intersection corners with vertical curbs has decreased from 418 to 300 (a 28% reduction). The number of intersection corners with vertical curbs and/or noncompliant ramps has decreased from 775 to 564 (a 27% reduction).

The ADA accessibility improvements the City has made have a positive impact to most, if not all, demographic groups of people.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP)

According to the 2013 American Community Service Survey, 99.4% of adults in Newton speak English very well. It is estimated that 0.4% of adults (47 persons) do not speak English very well. The language spoken by these adults is Spanish, Indo-European, or Asian/Pacific Island, with none being substantially more than another.

COMPLAINTS

The City has not received any complaints during the past year regarding discrimination.

Information about the City of Newton Title VI and ADA programs are on the City website at www.newtongov.org. The information includes the process of how to file a complaint.

TITLE VI RECORDS - 2019

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
4-2-2019	Open house for various proposed Public Works projects was held at the Newton City Hall. Attendees were asked to complete a questionnaire.

Throughout 2019 we kept the list of projects out to bid updated on the City website. We also included upcoming projects being designed and projects that had been awarded.

2020 GOALS

- Continue to collect voluntary demographic information at public information sessions and project open houses.
- Continue to use the Master Builders online statewide bid notification system.
- Continue to look for new ways to reach people from all demographics.
- Continue meeting our goals in the City of Newton ADA Transition Plan.

Report prepared by:
Brian Laube
Title VI Coordinator & ADA Coordinator
City of Newton, Iowa
March 26, 2020