



City of Newton, Iowa

Title VI Annual Accomplishment Report For 2021

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

Date of Report: May 23, 2022

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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 Non-Discrimination Assurances Document and the Iowa DOT Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement was updated at the City Council meeting on March 1, 2021, per City Council Resolution 2021-054.

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 2021.

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:

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MONITORING AND REVIEW PROCESS

The following goals for 2021 have been accomplished, implemented, or continued:

- 1) The City held a project open house for the Union Dr. Reconstruction Project on July 13, 2021. This open house was held at the Public Works office at 403 W 4th St N, Suite 501 in Newton.
- 2) The City held a project open house for the proposed Westwood Clubhouse Project on July 20, 2021. This open house was held at the Westwood Golf Course patio.
- 3) 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.
- 4) The City continued to work on the implementation of goals included in the City of Newton ADA Transition Plan (see 2021 accomplishments below).

FEDERAL FUNDED PROJECTS

The City awarded a contract that used Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds for an Airport Taxiway Relocation Project in 2021. This project's construction began in 2022 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 2021.

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. Beginning on April 6, 2020, City Council meetings were held online due to COVID-19. These were done in accordance with directives issued by the Governor's office, and continued in that manner the rest of 2020. Council meetings in 2021 offered both in-person and Zoom options to attend.

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 Transliterators. No requests for any of the services listed above were received in 2021.

Two project-specific open houses were held as noted above in the Monitoring and Review Process section.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA)

The City ADA Transition Plan is updated annually. During the past ten years an average of \$103,016 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.

2021 ADA improvements completed included:

- City-Wide HMA Resurfacing Project: \$132,955 on compliant ramp construction/upgrades.
- Other Misc. Locations: \$4,289

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 10-year period from 2012 through 2021, the number of intersection corners with vertical curbs has decreased from 387 to 242 (a 37% reduction). The number of intersection corners with vertical curbs and/or noncompliant ramps has decreased from 744 to 489 (a 34% 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 - 2021

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
5-2-2021	Transportation Title VI Program Review completed with Iowa DOT Bureau of Civil Rights.
7-13-2021	Project open house for the Union Dr. Reconstruction Project held at the Public Works office at 403 W 4th St N, Suite 501 in Newton.
7-20-2021	Project open house for the proposed Westwood Clubhouse Project held at the Westwood Golf Course patio.

- Even though City Council meetings shifted to online in April due to Covid, Public Hearings for projects were still held as required by law. Notices were published as required.
- Throughout 2021 a list of projects out to bid was routinely updated on the City website. Staff also included upcoming projects being designed and projects that had been awarded.
- Social meeting postings were made at various times throughout the year updating the public on various projects.
- Staff continued using the ClearGov projects module on the City's website in 2021. This site allows citizens to view project information and updates, and also provides project status timelines and contact information.

2022 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

May 23, 2022