City of Gainesville

ADA Transition Plan

April 2018

## **GOALS**

As outlined in the Transportation Mobility Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, the provision of a safe and accessible transportation system for users of all ability levels is a priority for the City. It is the City's intent to install sidewalks, retrofit non-compliant ramps, add new ramps where lacking when sidewalks are present, retrofit bus stops to enhance access and mobility, and to promote transportation mode integration. The Public Works Department has a goal to install a minimum of 30 ADA compliant curb ramps and a minimum of 1 mile of sidewalks and bicycle facilities per year. In addition, the department actively coordinates with the Florida Department of Transportation, Alachua County and the University of Florida to address ADA deficiencies on roadways within their jurisdiction.

## **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

In 2013 Public Works evaluated intersections within City limits and developed a GIS inventory of curb ramps on public streets. The inventory determines if curb ramps are present or not, and if so, documents their condition and compliance with federal ADA standards. The data is updated as new sidewalks and ADA curb ramps are added or existing ramps are retrofitted. This information serves as a basis for the overall estimation of needs and calculation of costs.

The inventory of curb ramps focuses on locations where sidewalks are present to identify deficiencies that need to be corrected to enhance pedestrian access and mobility. Where new sidewalks are constructed, ADA compliant curb ramps are added. Efforts are also made to coordinate with transit services to upgrade transit stops as needed as part of every sidewalk construction project.

Public Works maintains a GIS inventory of sidewalks within City limits. Over 688 miles of roadways traverse the city, of which 408 are City-owned, see Figure 1 for reference. Overall sidewalk coverage encompasses approximately 63% of the public roadways. Figure 2 depicts the location of sidewalks. Along City-maintained roadways, the sidewalk coverage is approximately 71% or 288 miles of sidewalks. Sidewalks repairs are performed on a regular basis via retrofits associated with capital projects for road reconstruction or resurfacing; repairs are also performed in response to complaints received or based on field observations by staff. Public Works has a goal to install 1 mile of new sidewalks and trails per year to enhance access and mobility for all users.

All intersections within City limits were evaluated as part of this project. The evaluation focused on areas where sidewalks are present and considers that any future sidewalk installation would include ADA compliant ramps. Intersection approaches where crossings are prohibited were excluded. The number of curb ramps (access points) at each intersection varies depending on the intersection configuration, existing constraints, and type of ramps used. For example, a four-way intersection may have between 4 and 8 ramps depending on the intersection design.

Figure 1: Road Ownership

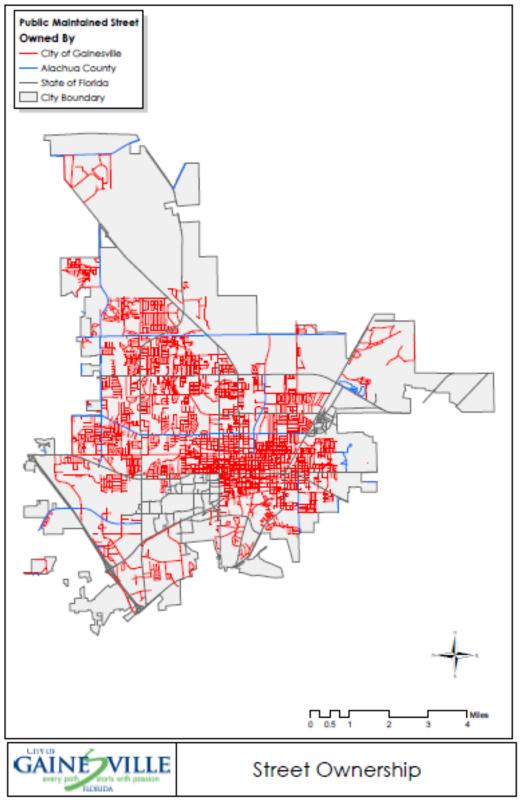
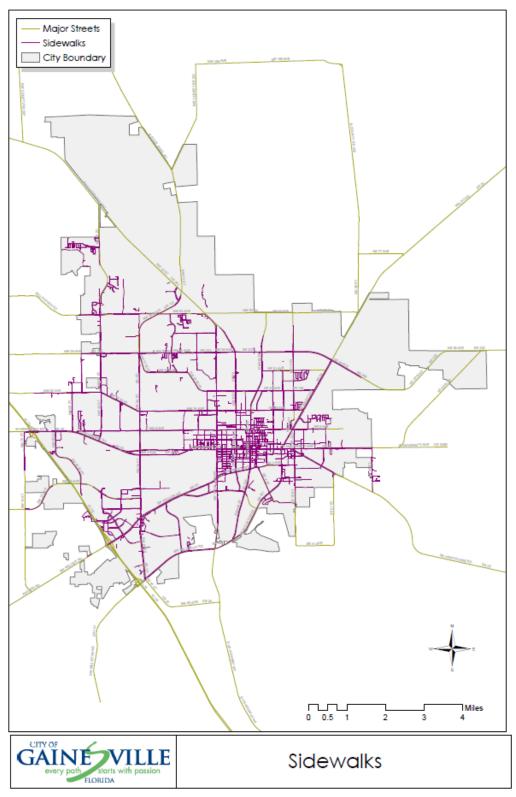
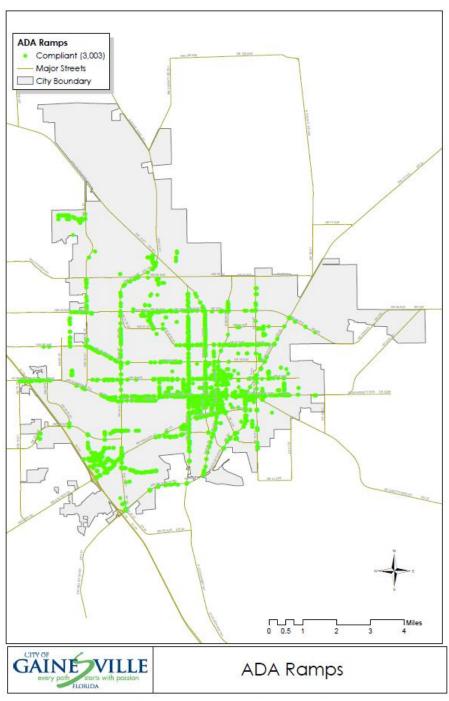


Figure 2: Existing Sidewalks



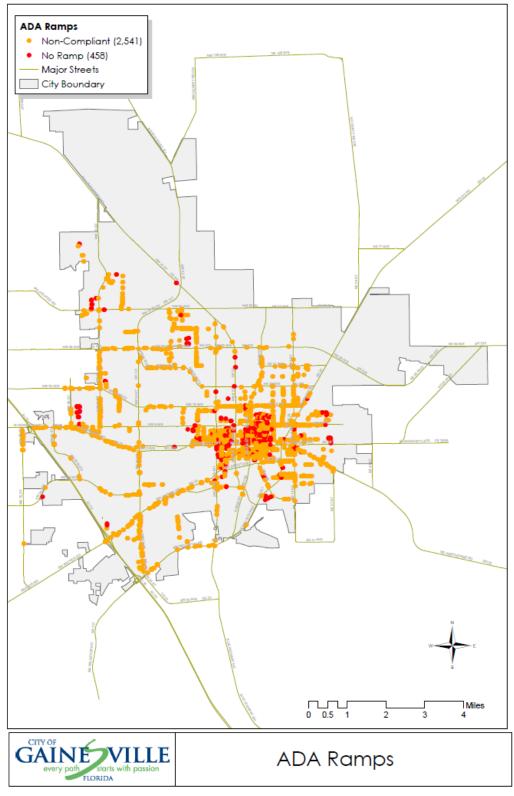
As shown in Figures 3 and 4, there is a total of 5,454 curb ramps within City limits, of which 3,003 (55%) are ADA compliant; 2,451 (45%) of ramps evaluated are usable but require upgrades to meet current ADA standards. There are 458 locations where sidewalks are present but curb ramps are lacking.

**Figure 3: Existing ADA Compliant Curb Ramps** 



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Figure 4: Non-Compliant/Non-Existing ADA Curb Ramps



## **FUNDING**

Sidewalks and ADA curb ramps are funded by an annual allocation of \$100,000 in the City's budget. The funding is complemented by grants from the Florida Department of Transportation, development contributions in accordance with land development regulations, and also with funding allocation for capital projects associated with roadway reconstruction and resurfacing which incorporate pedestrian amenities such as sidewalks and curb ramps. The Regional Transit System also receives grants from the Federal Transit Administration which assist with the retrofit of transit stops.