

## **Introduction**

The Capital Region Transportation Council (Transportation Council) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) carrying out federal requirements for cooperative transportation planning and programming within the metropolitan area surrounding the Albany-Schenectady and Saratoga Springs urbanized areas.

The Transportation Council has budgeted \$22,000 for the Albany County ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan for Pedestrian Infrastructure in the Transportation Council's 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program. Facilitating Transition Plans is a strategy in the Transportation Council's Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan for the Capital District, which is part of New Visions 2050, the long-range metropolitan transportation plan for the Capital Region. The contract will span one year, with an option to extend for one additional year, upon mutual agreement between the Transportation Council and the contracted consultant. The Transportation Council will administer the consultant contract on behalf of Albany County and will serve as project manager.

## **Background on the Project**

To date the Transportation Council has assisted nine municipalities to complete Self-Evaluations and Transition Plans for Pedestrian Infrastructure. The Transportation Council will contract with LaBella Associates to complete the Self-Analysis and Transition Plan. This solicitation will continue that work and is anticipated to use a similar data collection methodology. Recognizing that the United States Access Board adopted the Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) in 2023, the Albany County Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan created under this contract will follow the PROWAG.

## **Study Purpose**

This project aims to improve the accessibility of existing pedestrian infrastructure along Albany County roadways. The selected consultant will complete Albany County's Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, in a format that may be adopted by the County.

## **Scope of Work**

The Transportation Council anticipates completion of all tasks by March 31, 2026.

The Transportation Council and Albany County will assume joint ownership of all data collected as part of the project.

## **Task 1: Kickoff Meeting and up to two additional advisory meetings**

LaBella will facilitate a kickoff meeting with a participant list provided by the County. LaBella will be available for up to two additional meetings with the County/Advisory group. Meetings may be open to the public, as determined in coordination with Albany County.

## **Task 2: Public Engagement**

Albany County will advise the public of this project and its process, and solicit public input into the plan and its priorities. This may be done through posting the draft document on a public website or similar means. In addition, if requested by the County, the consultant will be available to provide one public presentation in addition to the presentation discussed further in Task 6. While the County will reach out to the public, the consultant will document all public input and incorporate public input as appropriate and in consultation with municipal and Transportation Council staff. Albany County will provide a detailed list of individuals consulted in a form that may be posted to the municipal website and included in the Self-Analysis and Transition Plan.

## **Task 3: Self-Evaluation Data Collection**

Using the methodology already developed by LaBella and the Transportation Council, LaBella will train County staff to collect condition data for paved multi-use trails and for all pedestrian infrastructure in Albany County's public rights of way, including but not limited to sidewalks, curb ramps, pedestrian crossing signals, pedestrian street crossings, and transit stops. The County will then self-perform data collection of the system. All data will be collected into a Geographic Information System (GIS) compatible with ArcGIS. The Transportation Council will provide an inventory of all sidewalk locations and materials, and Albany County will provide an inventory of all multi-use trails.

## **Task 4: Transition Plan Schedule and Budget**

In close coordination with Albany County and with public input, LaBella will create a method to prioritize necessary improvements, which will likely be based on the condition score and the location/proximity of the element to key land uses, such as a government office, transportation facility, or public accommodation. Once a prioritization method is determined, with County and Transportation Council concurrence, the consultant will create a schedule outlining improvements by location, with a rough cost estimate for each. This section may reflect standalone projects as well as regularly occurring programs, such as repaving programs. It will include actions each year.

## **Task 5: Final Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan**

The consultant will compile all elements described above in Public Engagement, Self-Evaluation Data Collection, and Transition Plan Schedule and Budget. With reference to and incorporation of existing policy documents, the consultant will also create and add the following: individual responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan, ADA policy statement, ADA Coordinator (including name, address, and telephone number), and Complaint Procedure. The final document will include documentation of public input received over the creation of the plan and will provide information on requesting additional information and providing ongoing input. The final document will be in a format that may be adopted by the County.

The consultant will provide Albany County and the Transportation Council with all data collected, in ArcGIS or compatible format.

**Task 6: Municipal Presentation**

The consultant will present the final document in a public meeting or hearing as requested by the County, and answer questions about the document at the public meeting or hearing.