



City of Madera

Appendix H: Public Comments

June 18, 2024

City of Madera Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Public Input Meeting

In-person attendees:

DJ Becker, ADA Advisory Council Chairperson

Cynthia Ortegón, ADA Advisory Council Member

Dianna Robbins, ADA Advisory Council Member

Jack Porter, ADA Advisory Council Member

Carlos Guerrero, member of the public

Derek Robinson, member of the public

Ismael Hernandez, City of Madera Public Works

Nicki Rincon, City of Madera Parks & Community Services

Giachino Chiaramonte, City of Madera Police Department

Joseph Hebert, City of Madera Parks & Community Services

Mike Lima, City of Madera Finance Department

Will Tackett, City of Madera Community Development

Keith Helmuth, City of Madera Engineering

Wendy Silva, City of Madera Human Resources

Erica Gaitan, City of Madera Human Resources

Zoom attendees:

Sally Swanson Architects

Sally Swanson, CEO

Chris Sircello –Facilities Specialist

Sergio Valencia – GIS & Database Specialist

Tina Dorius –ADA Policy Specialist

Mattie Mendez, Community Action Partnership of Madera County

Graciela Valdez, Madera County Public Health

Correena Lipira, Madera County Public Health

Questions, Answers, and Feedback

DJ Becker

One of the big things is how do we proceed with this in a rational fashion and engage the public? I mean, obviously, we know the areas of concern in our city. How do we distill your data, which is voluminous, into kind of like a checklist or summary to prioritize and improve it, to spend our money wisely and for the benefit of pedestrian safety.

Sally Swanson

I think the first thing you have got to do is how much money do you have? So you must look at your budget and you must see how much money you have in your plan and what you can do with this.

And we've scored the barriers so that you would know what are the most important barriers that we explain. So you would take those and implement them.

What other budget do you have, but you first must decide how much money you have and how you're going to implement this and that might take 10 years, it might take a long time.

But you must really address the issues that are most important that were noted first.

If you're in need of more help, if you're in need of a spreadsheet that makes it very easy to simplify it, we've done that before, and we'll certainly give that to you, and we can work with you to prioritize within this spreadsheet what you must tackle first.

So we can take this big chunk of information and bring it to something very simple.

DJ Becker

But for this document to get implemented or get evaluated or to get maximum resident participation with, we need to simplify it a little bit, and kind of help residents understand, and prioritize it. And we've heard mostly that we've got unsafe curbs, unsafe, you know, curb uplift, you know, it's not complicated stuff. So do we have any ideas and suggestions. Cynthia, you had some thoughts on this.

Cynthia Ortegón

Yeah, because we had a Self-Evaluation plan done in 2010, I believe. And from then till now, we haven't really, we've done as best we can with the money that the city has and has put into it. But now we're 10 years later, and we still have a lot to do. So we'd like to just be able to basically put out a, for our education, we want to know what the priorities are. And we can do that with the database. I understand that we can look at it. It's a large document. The other one was printable. This one is huge, but if as long as the searchable, that's great.

Sally Swanson

Okay, so that's a question. Is it searchable?

Tina Dorius

Yes, they are. And we can give training, if that's helpful, on how to easily search the databases. I think you have the choice of either using the Excel spreadsheets or using BlueDag, the software for facilities, and BlueDag is exceptionally user-friendly.

DJ Becker

So drop a pin, drop a pin in a map type thing.

Tina Dorius

That might be GIS, I'm not sure. BlueDag, I know it's just you can, like let's say you guys fix a curb ramp or you fix a deficiency in a facility, you can mark it in the software, and it'll update for everybody and there's just a living record of it. So it keeps track of everything for now. If you have any, you know, staff changes, it's okay because again, that database is going to house everything.

Sally Swanson

If you're saying we could give you a spreadsheet, we could also give you training.

Tina Dorius

Yes, we'd like to train you. Additionally, Sally, I think getting public feedback and public input on where this plan should start is crucial. So I think, you know, really getting the public involved, finding out what are the top priorities for the public and putting that into consideration along with the way our rankings and priorities.

DJ Becker

And we just want to make this accessible for the majority of our residents because this is going to be a great resource behind Wendy's desk or online. But we have to be able to bridge the gap for the average resident, say, hey, we really are working on these things. So I don't know, maybe surveys, email, absolutely. We have a gap where people can, you know, right now they just call me or Cynthia, or, you know, and there's things that get lost in that translation. We need a better way for citizens and residents to express their concerns that I think is a top priority and to put it into layman's language where it's accessible and understandable.

What about a survey? Wendy, can we go out with a survey for residents or what do you suggest? How do we get the residents involved? And now that we have the data, how do we interface with the residents?

Sally Swanson

Could we use your website? Could we use flyers? Could we just have three or four sentences? A new issue every week?

Could we make it simple? We've done a lot on websites and maybe just making that an avenue. Maybe you would just have a check sheet that you have in the desks as people enter the city hall.

DJ Becker

Something very simple.

Sally Swanson

Do you want to hold a Zoom meeting with Zoom meeting with residents? Make it a date? We're going to have a Zoom meeting and talk about this and spread it in your website on the newspaper. Put a big sign in front of your building. You know, just really get the word out.

DJ Becker

Yeah.

Sally Swanson

We're available certainly to do that.

Frank Porter

I'd also like to know how much it costs for this survey to be put together. How much the City has already spent.

DJ Becker

So, Jack, what was your question? It's a legal requirement. So what's that? Yeah. the cost, the contract is a flat fee agreement for the services. We agreed not to exceed two hundred forty-four thousand five hundred fifty dollars. And that's paid as progress is made on the project.

DJ Becker

All right. Well, we have a gap to bridge there because we get a lot of verbal feedback, but it's not always translatable into what we need. So but we're pleased to have the evaluation. We know where to start. Um, what's the what's the summary process for you? What have you identified as our top priorities?

Chris Sircello

Well, I think you asked about some of the dangerous conditions. And so I do have something to comment on that.

We already talked about level changes, tripping hazards, and as well as those barriers to access like headroom issues, or protruding objects.

You'll find that term in there. I consider those to be dangerous conditions. If they protrude from the wall more than four inches, between 27 inches and 80 inches, they're considered dangerous and are protruding objects. It's a hazard. I would get rid of those thresholds that are too high, but another tripping hazard, just like a level change. So you come into a door, you've got a one and a quarter inch threshold there, definitely a dangerous condition as well as something that would be difficult to navigate in the wheelchair, let's say, or somebody just visually impaired.

Let's see, other dangerous conditions. You could even have a dangerous condition from something like a ramp that was just way too steep, let's say 12, 13% sloped ramp and you know, all of a sudden you get a runaway wheelchair on that. That's a pretty dangerous condition. Let me see here.

I'm trying to think of some more dangerous conditions, the lack of tactile exit signs, that could be dangerous if somebody really needs to find an exit in an emergency, those are the ones that come to mind right now.

DJ Becker

How about door loads? We have some doors that are so heavy that they're very, very difficult for a senior with a walk or any possible for somebody in a wheelchair or a power chair.

So that's something that comes to the top of my memory list, that's something I get chatted up about quite often.

Chris Sircello

Yeah, absolutely.

DJ Becker

We have several sidewalks with three to four-inch rises because of trees. Absolutely. Yeah, you hit them with a walker, you did it.

Correct pavement, no transitions from concrete to dirt. mean, it's very sidewalks, sidewalks that go into landscapes and don't come out.

Right. Yeah, so we kind of know where our area is, but that said, Public Works has been doing an awesome job with some block grant money filling in sidewalks and tearing out the old fixing uplift.

So we're limited in finances, so we're trying to prioritize. And I think this is our opportunity to really put our heads together and try to come up with some type of reasonable input and prioritize.

But I guess we need to work with you to figure out where we can best spend our money. And once we find out how much we have, and we're not concerned about the smaller things, we've got some really glaring deficiencies here now that are a safety hazard.

Well, we have the advisory committee, so we'll find the priorities and then advise them what we feel is going to be the best for the city and the citizens.

I think that'll work good as a team. We just have to get the priorities in a workable form for us to see and for the city council and the rest of the staff to see that we're really going to do this.

We're going to implement it based on what we have and the time and the management and the money and get the jobs done as quickly and as safely as we can.

Matty Menendez

One area I would suggest the report be shared is in the city letter which includes the city notice, the city utility bills.

Derek Robinson

I spent some time at Fresno State and I noticed their sidewalk and they have companies that come and grind down, you know, some of the, know, lift and the cement.

DJ Becker

Yeah, we have a grinder. We bought a grinder, I believe. Okay. And you see, and meantime, the trouble spot, you can put red paint and reflectors, know, get fixed with safety. Yeah, we've been doing that too. Ishmael has been all, and Public Works has been all over that. So, that's been a huge help. And we've had some uplifts as much as four feet up here within a week. been, you probably have more since all this wind. Yeah, well, I haven't checked lately, and I'm sure. four inches. Actually, we had a six-inch uplift on Mainberry, and I mean, I walk every probably every other day out there. I'm like, where would that come from? And it was literally six inches on Mainbury. There's a four inch overruns, Shenore, and that sidewalk that goes around on Riverside. And the other, the other issue, Wendy had a suggestion Ishmael on that reporting app, that, that we're tentatively going to use. There's some software interface or training or something that that's available. If we decide to move forward with that nine or that, what is it? 311. What was the name of that app? reporting app.

Derek

And then another thing is you might have to get rid of some problem trees. They're all over the place.

DJ Becker

So impairing visibility or passage or what? Yeah, some visibility, you know, is over the sidewalk and people not maintaining their landscape. Yeah. Have you reported that anywhere? I've been driving by and was, you know, they can't stop. Yeah. Well, and I tend to say, well, hey, go on the city website and report that. And the comments I get are not kind. So we have a, we have a. A gap between what residents are trying to report and what they expect and, and what's doable for them, I guess, maybe.

Keith.

We actually have a couple of projects.

That's the grant that ultimately built the two buildings at Fifth and C Street. There was. Okay. Yeah, the veterans project. Yeah, there was at least two miles where the sidewalks that were included in that project in that same area.

It will be on Caltrans. We're actually sharing some of the effort on the Caltrans right away. We had a grant. They had the project for the downtown and they were limited on funds. We said we would go ahead and overlap our grant on that project and go ahead and save the money to do some other areas. But yeah, we do have multiple sidewalks. We generally will put like \$25,000 in there a year as a placeholder and that will be taken and move to projects. We don't technically go ahead and build \$25,000 worth of sidewalks. just do a set aside on that so that we can go ahead and move it wherever we need to at a given time.