



**AGENDA**  
**ADA Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, October 23, 2025**  
**3:00 PM**  
**Levy Senior Center: 300 Dodge Ave.**  
**Locust Room / Zoom**

**(I) CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome guest speaker:

- Chris Sous, P.E., PTOE, CFM, Assistant City Engineer, Public Works Agency

**(II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(III) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**(IV) ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Guest speaker: 2026 ADA Capital Improvement Projects

- City project proposals
- Committee/attendee feedback

New inquiries/grievances:

- Walgreens service dog/service dog-in-training complaint
- Inaccessible entrance doors at Evanston restaurants
- Microphone request at Levy
- No parking/yield zone request at CJE
- Additional accessible parking at Levy

Other items:

- CTA Public Hearing for Proposed Capital Projects & Plans (see attachment):

Fred W.

- October Advocacy Avenue: Learning Disabilities
- Parks & Rec update: new registration system coming for winter
- ADA Advisory Committee meeting locations
- Next meeting: Thursday, November 20 at 3pm, location TBD

**(V) COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE**

**(VI) ADJOURNMENT**



**ADA Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, September 25, 2025 @ 3:00 PM**  
City Hall: 909 Davis Street / Zoom

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Members present: Ted Gram-Boarini, Lisa Noble, Litrea Hunter, Donna Stevens, Aby Karottu

Guests: Ronnie McCarron, Carlos Hranicka, Patrick Hughes

Staff: Yazarri Gutierrez (Senior Services Coordinator), Trent Oatman (Accessibility Advisor), Alice Eakes (Accessibility Advisor), Lauren Ruiz (Inclusion & Accessibility Division Manager), Kimberly Kull (Division Chief, Emergency Management, Evanston Fire Department)

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The August 28 meeting minutes were approved by Lisa Noble and Ted Gram-Boarini.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- An attendee requested resources for rent financial assistance. Coordinator Gutierrez to provide information.
- An attendee inquired about Access Evanston and if financial assistance provided through this program would be affected with other state/federal assistance in question. At this time there are no changes to the benefits available through Access Evanston.
- An attendee shared a barrier in place at Evanston's Farmer's Market which was a lack of accessible space for people who use wheelchairs/mobility devices as well as difficulty navigating through vendors and crowds.
- An attendee inquired about the use of automatic doors and why some buildings do not have them. These are not required but locations are encouraged to provide a doorbell to alert staff that they need assistance in order to enter. A staff shared her perspective of guide dogs becoming "door shy" with automatic doors and how they are not beneficial to everyone.
- An attendee shared communication and advocacy efforts related to making Lake Street Church accessible for hundreds of AA and related meetings held here.

**4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Updates about previous inquiries/grievances:

- Audible pedestrian signals, multiple locations: Sheridan & Central: the push buttons are not audible/no longer available and on recall, entire intersection needs to be upgraded. Monroe & Ridge: signals are working as programmed but are not accessible buttons. Emerson & Maple: the volume was previously lowered due to resident complaint. It has been raised to mid-level.
- Community reminder: overgrown bushes/clearing ROW: Reminder to be provided in e-news and on social media in October for residents to maintain a clear ROW surrounding their property.
- Evanston Folk Festival: Accessibility Advisors Alice and Trent shared their experiences in meeting with Folk Festival coordinators prior to the Festival. Summary of positives: golf cart to pick people up/transport, lots of audible landmarks, a number to call if people need help, accessible seating in various places at large stage, accessible parking designated. Summary of improvements for future: reserved/enforced accessible parking (production vehicles, etc. were parked in this area), more accessible seating for smaller stage areas, trimming low branches prior to event due to these blocking the view from accessible seating.

New inquiries/grievances:

- Residential curb cut/sidewalk widening request: while the cost of this work typically falls on residents, individuals are encouraged to contact ADA Coordinator to confirm any upcoming projects that may include it, also helps avoid changes that the City may need to make during larger projects
- Mobi-mat extension at beaches: access mats: individuals can sign a waiver and borrow these mats for personal use at programs, events, visits to beaches/parks. Staff will set up/take down.
- Wheel tax accommodation: accommodations can be made for individuals unable to leave their homes.
- 909 Davis garage elevator entrance/Collector's office: door opening pressure was measured and found to greatly exceed requirements. Communication to be shared with building managers for adjustments.

Other items:

- DASH & GO: Disabled Adult Social Hour & Gaming Opportunity: next meeting October 21, 1 PM at Prieto Community Center.
- Next meeting: Thursday, October 23, location TBD by group. The group in attendance shared their feedback about holding the meeting at 909 Davis, barriers included being unable to get to this room (332A) without someone opening the lobby door due to security measures, table/chair set up, noise level, parking/parking validation areas, camera not showing everyone present in room. Positive: people attending online could hear everyone very well. The group may try one additional future meeting at 909 Davis to get additional feedback and to see if some of these barriers can be adjusted/removed.

## 5. COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

No additional comments at this time.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.



# Memorandum

To: ADA Advisory Committee

From: Chris Sous, Assistant City Engineer

Subject: Proposed 2026 Capital Improvement Program

Date: October 23, 2025

Recommended Action:

Staff will present the proposed 2026 Capital Improvement Program.

What is a Capital Improvement Project?

The City of Evanston owns many types of infrastructure. These include:

- Streets, Water Main, and Sewer and Sidewalk Improvements
- Transportation
- Parks
- Facilities
- Water treatment plant
- Miscellaneous

Over time, each type of infrastructure requires investment beyond routine maintenance. Such capital improvements typically involve major renovations, such as street resurfacing, or full replacements, such as a bridge over the Northshore canal. Capital improvement projects generally cost at least \$25,000 and are expected to have a useful life of five years or more. These are minimum guidelines. For example, the City's largest project, the installation of a new 60-inch raw water intake pipeline at the water treatment plant, costs approximately \$48 million and is designed to last about 100 years.

Each year, staff develops a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as part of the adopted budget. Project concepts are identified from a variety of sources, including infrastructure assessments, staff recommendations, community feedback, and coordination with other agencies.



Project Source	Description	2026 Project Examples
Operations and Maintenance Issues	Needs identified by City O&M staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Resurfacing</li> <li>- Fiber Optic System Upgrades</li> <li>- Water Plant 4160V Electrical System Reliability</li> </ul>
Adopted/Accepted Plans	Projects identified from plans adopted by the City Council; examples include Climate Action Resilience Plan, Streetlight Master Plan and Sidewalk Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Church Street Ped &amp; Bicycle Improv. (from Multi-Modal Transportation Plan)</li> <li>- Sidewalk Gap Infill</li> <li>- Streetlight LED Conversion (from Streetlight Master Plan)</li> <li>- City Fleet Charging Infrastructure</li> <li>- Sidewalk Improvement Project</li> </ul>
Citizen Requests	311; Suggestions from Mayor, Council members and City Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pathway improvements</li> <li>- Playground Equipment Replacement</li> <li>- Fence Replacement (Various Parks)</li> <li>- Traffic Calming Improvements</li> </ul>
Legal Requirements	Projects required to meet regulatory requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead Service Line Replacement</li> <li>- ADA Improvements</li> </ul>

Multiple departments collaborate to scope projects, bringing a range of perspectives to the development process. The resulting projects are organized into a multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). A draft CIP is prepared to prioritize and budget for short-term projects with a 1–5 year horizon, while also identifying longer-term projects planned for the 5–10 year range.

### ADA Transition Plan and CIP

In 2022, the City Council adopted a new ADA Transition Plan for City programs and infrastructure. This plan identifies a list of needed improvements at City parks and facilities. It also outlines policies for ADA compliance within the public right-of-way of streets. A link to the plan can be found [here](#).

As projects are developed to improve different aspects of City infrastructure, the plan is reviewed to obtain a list of needed improvements at each location for incorporation into the project. For example, during the construction project to renovate the Evanston Ecology Center, the Transition Plan was reviewed to help develop the full project scope so that ADA considerations at the center were properly addressed. Similarly, for park improvement projects, the Transition Plan is reviewed to identify relevant considerations within the project area and incorporate any additional elements into the scope.

Sometimes, ADA compliance improvements are core to the project scope and necessary to comply with the City's stated policies for that type of infrastructure improvement. This is especially true in transportation projects. For example, each year, the City invests significant funding into sidewalk improvements. Block by block, this project repairs sidewalks to remove physical barriers (cracks, settlement, and gaps). It also includes the installation of the ADA detectable warning tiles at intersections and wherever else appropriate.

### Evaluating the 2026 CIP for ADA Improvements

Generally, there are four main categories of disabilities:

- Physical (mobility, strength, etc)
- Behavioral/emotional
- Developmental
- Sensory (vision, hearing, etc.)

Evanston infrastructure projects are generally improving compliance for at least two of the categories: physical and sensory.

Common scope items for physical disabilities include improvements such:

- Sidewalk replacement
- Improved pathways in parks for better amenity access
- ADA-compliant restroom renovations.
- Guardrails or edge protection

Common scope items for sensory disabilities include improvements such as:

- Traffic signal audible indicators
- Detectable warning surfaces on sidewalk ramps at intersections
- Lighting improvements
- Installation of braille room signage
- Removal of non-compliant mid-height wall protrusions in hallways

The projects included in proposed 2026 CIP were evaluated for including improvements related to physical and sensory disabilities (see attached project list for analysis). At this point the CIP is just a proposed list of projects. It is anticipated that a number of projects will be delayed to future years as part of the process of refining the CIP so not all of the projects listed will be included in the final adopted 2026 budget.

In addition, the full scope of each project is not completely known at this time. Projects were evaluated for ADA improvements conservatively, so as the project is developed, the number that include ADA improvements may increase.

A breakdown of the number of projects that improve the City’s compliance is as follows:

Project Type	Total Projects	Projects Improving ADA Compliance for:				Total Projects w/ ADA Improvements	
		Physical Disabilities		Sensory Disabilities			
Street, Utility, Other Transportation	32	13	41%	12	38%	14	44%
Parks	24	19	79%	14	58%	19	79%
Facilities	20	8	40%	8	40%	9	45%
Miscellaneous	6	–	0%	–	0%	–	0%
Water Plant	15	–	0%	–	0%	–	0%
Large-Scale Facilities	2	1	50%	1	50%	1	50%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43%</b>

In general, 43% of the projects in the proposed 2026 CIP include ADA improvements. Areas where ADA improvements are not as robust include:

- Street, Utility, Other Transportation - This section includes utility projects such as water main, lead service line replacements and sewer that are mostly underground infrastructure improvements.
- Facilities - Many of these projects are focused on “behind the scenes” improvements such as HVAC system upgrades or roof improvements.
- Miscellaneous - This category includes projects that involve fewer tangible infrastructure improvements and are primarily related to studies, planning, or assessments.
- Water Treatment Plant - Most projects in this category focus on improvements to the water treatment process and associated infrastructure.

Projects that will have significant ADA improvements include:

- Traffic Signal Improvements - This project will modernize four traffic signals: three along Ridge Avenue (Simpson Street, Lincoln Street, and Noyes Street) and one at Central Street and Central Park Avenue. Improvements include new signal controllers, mast arm poles, LED heads, loop detectors, emergency vehicle preemption, pedestrian countdown and audible signals, ADA ramps, and necessary sidewalk upgrades. The Ridge Avenue signals will be interconnected via fiber optic to improve timing and network reliability.
- Traffic Signal Improvement (IDOT Payment) - This project will modernize three traffic signals on IDOT routes at the intersections of Sheridan Rd and South Blvd, Central Street and Lincolnwood Dr and Central Rd and McDaniel Ave. Improvements include new signal controllers, mast arm poles, LED heads, loop detectors, emergency vehicle preemption, pedestrian countdown and audible signals, ADA ramps, and necessary sidewalk upgrades. This project will be completed by the Department of Transportation and the City of Evanston will share the cost as according to jurisdictional ownership responsibilities and agreements.
- Bus Stop ADA Improvements - This is the third of a three year project to provide ADA-compliant concrete pads at bus stops on all non-IDOT city streets.
- Sidewalk (Various) - The City’s sidewalk program takes a multi-pronged approach to replacing or adding sidewalk that is fully ADA compliant to improve safe pedestrian access.
- Public Canoe Launch - Being built in conjunction with the Evanston Environment Association, this project will create a new, fully-ADA accessible canoe/kayak launch located near the Ecology Center.
- Cartwright Park, Fitzsimmons Park and Philbrick Park - These projects will fully renovate these two parks, including significant improvements in ADA access to the park amenities.
- ADA Improvements in Parks / ADA Improvements in Facilities - While the scope is not yet fully identified, this funding will be spent to provide ADA access in parks and facilities

## Dog Beach ADA Access:

The dog beach originally opened in 2021, following its closure in 2016. At the time, it was not ADA accessible, but the City Council directed staff to work toward providing legally required access while reopening the beach. Since that direction in 2022, there have been 15 engagements with City Council, commissions, stakeholders, and the public regarding the ADA ramp design and project details.

Early design work was completed by SmithGroup, which was already surveying the lakefront for a shoreline stabilization study. In February 2023, two pathway options were presented to City Council: a traditional switchback fully on the dog beach and a longer pathway primarily on the neighboring beach. Council directed staff to proceed with the latter, balancing reduced construction costs with accessibility, durability, and protection of nearby plantings. Subsequent meetings with volunteers, dog beach users, the Commission on Aging and Disabilities, and a plant consultant resulted in refinements, including the addition of a boardwalk to protect sensitive plantings.

The project was advertised for bid in spring 2024, and a construction award recommendation was presented to City Council on June 24, 2024. Following several discussions with the Preservation Commission and City Council, the award was delayed, and the original bid ultimately expired. On July 22, 2024, Council directed staff to retain the general design while exploring options for value engineering and additional ADA parking. Follow-up meetings with Councilmembers and ADA consultants, including WT Group, further informed the design.

Staff and SmithGroup have since developed three potential approaches for finalizing the ADA access: rebidding the existing design, value engineering the current design to reduce scope and cost, or modifying the design to shorten portions of the pathway, which increases slope but remains ADA compliant. Various parking options were also considered, with potential locations near the Clark Street Beach entrance or in the Church Street Boat Ramp lot. Throughout these discussions, consultant feedback has confirmed that the proposed designs meet state and federal ADA requirements.

In January 2025, while reviewing value engineering options from SmithGroup, City Council approved a contract with GEI Consultants for a third-party review. GEI provided a report identifying potential cost savings, including grading modifications and the use of mobi-mats. Their recommendations were shared with the City's consultant, Altura Solutions, who drafted the ADA transition plan. GEI received Altura's comments and prepared a response, which is included in their final report.

The project was discussed at the Parks and Recreation Board on August 21, 2025, and at the ADA Advisory Committee on August 28, 2025. Following receipt of feedback from the ADA Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Board, staff will provide an update to the City Council and get feedback on how to proceed.



2026 Capital Improvement Program  
Project Priority Criteria  
ADA Improvements

	Physical Disability Access	Visual Disability Access	Other Disability Access	2026 Funding	2026 GO Bond Funding
<b>Large-Scale Facilities</b>					
Police/Fire HQ - New Facility	Y	Y	N	800,000	-
Service Center - Electrical, HVAC Improvements	N	N	N	3,000,000	-
<b>Street Resurfacing, Water Main, and Sewer</b>					
<b>Major Projects</b>					
Chicago Ave, Howard to Davis	Y	Y	N	100,000	100,000
Chicago Ave, Howard to Davis, Fiber Optic Improvements	N	N	N	70,000	70,000
Main Street, Hartrey to Asbury	Y	Y	N	100,000	-
<b>Street Resurfacing</b>					
Emergency Street Repairs	N	N	N	100,000	100,000
Street Resurfacing Annual Program	Y	Y	N	1,320,000	-
<b>Water Main</b>					
Annual LSLR	N	N	N	11,630,000	-
Annual Water Main Replacement	Y	Y	N	9,953,000	-
LSLR Professional Support	N	N	N	2,462,000	-
Large Diameter Valve Replacement	N	N	N	100,000	-
<b>Sewer Rehabilitation</b>					
CIPP Rehabilitation	N	N	N	815,000	-
CSO Outlet Rehab	N	N	N	150,000	-
Emergency Sewer Repairs	N	N	N	25,000	-
Large Diameter Sewer Rehab	N	N	N	3,750,000	-
Sewer Repairs on WM/Street Projects	N	N	N	470,000	-
Stormwater Improvements	N	N	N	820,000	-
<b>Other Transportation</b>					
<b>Major Projects</b>					
Bus Stop ADA Improvements	Y	N	N	150,000	150,000
Divvy Bike Expansion	N	N	N	385,000	230,000
Lincoln Street Bridge Replacement	N	N	N	150,000	-
Traffic Signal Improvements	Y	Y	N	1,800,000	-
Traffic Signal Improvements IDOT Payment	Y	Y	N	450,000	-
<b>Annual Projects</b>					
Alley Paving	Y	Y	N	1,918,000	1,693,000
Bridge Inspection	N	N	N	25,000	25,000
Custer Alley- Improvement-- North of Main - Sewer Extension	N	N	N	400,000	-
Custer Alley- Improvement-- North of Main- Alley Improvement	N	N	N	270,000	-
Custer Resurfacing	N	N	N	70,000	-
General Phase I Engineering	N	N	N	150,000	50,000
Streetlight LED Conversion/Pole & Fixture Replacement	N	Y	N	550,000	200,000
Traffic Calming, Bicycle & Ped Improvements	Y	Y	N	450,000	450,000
<b>Sidewalk Projects</b>					
Downtown Sidewalks	Y	N	N	1,100,000	1,000,000
Sidewalk Gap Infill	Y	Y	N	650,000	350,000
Sidewalk Grinding Program	Y	Y	N	50,000	50,000
Sidewalk Improvement Program	Y	Y	N	750,000	450,000
<b>Parks</b>					
<b>Community Parks</b>					
Beck Park Stage 2 Improvements	Y	Y	N	160,000	160,000



2026 Capital Improvement Program  
Project Priority Criteria  
ADA Improvements

	Physical Disability Access	Visual Disability Access	Other Disability Access	2026 Funding	2026 GO Bond Funding
Church Street Harbor - Sedimentation Study	N	N	N	200,000	200,000
Dog Beach ADA Accessibility	Y	Y	N	750,000	100,000
Fountain Square - North Plaza Repairs	N	N	N	2,500,000	600,000
Fountain Square - South Plaza Improvements	Y	Y	N	600,000	100,000
James Park - Baseball Quad Improvements	Y	N	N	15,000	15,000
James Park - Pathway and Playground Impr	Y	Y	Y	1,900,000	1,300,000
Mason Park/Davis St Extension	Y	Y	Y	725,000	-
Public Canoe Launch (incl. Eco Cntr Parking Lot)	Y	Y	N	3,050,000	725,000
<b>Neighborhood Parks - Legacy</b>					
Cartwright Park Renovation	Y	Y	Y	1,600,000	1,600,000
Chandler Park - Playground and Drainage Improvements	Y	Y	Y	350,000	-
Fitzsimons Park Renovations	Y	N	N	900,000	900,000
Philbrick Park Renovation	Y	Y	Y	1,050,000	1,050,000
Raymond Park Renovations	Y	Y	Y	25,000	25,000
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>					
Foster Field - Track and Field Lighting Payment	Y	Y	N	207,361	-
Pooch Park - Pathway Improvement Payment	Y	N	N	50,000	50,000
<b>Investment and Modernization</b>					
ADA Improvements in Parks	Y	Y	N	125,000	125,000
Court Rehabilitation	N	N	N	200,000	200,000
Fence Replacement (Various Parks)	N	N	N	125,000	125,000
Parks Contingency	N	N	N	125,000	125,000
Parks Lighting Modernization	Y	Y	N	350,000	350,000
Pathway improvements	Y	Y	N	330,000	330,000
Playground Equipment Replacement	Y	N	N	1,500,000	1,500,000
Playground Safety Surfacing Replacement	Y	N	N	300,000	250,000
<b>Facilities</b>					
<b>Legacy</b>					
Police/Fire HQ - Chiller Replacement	N	N	N	300,000	300,000
Police/Fire HQ - Locker Room Upgrades	N	N	N	450,000	450,000
<b>Non-Legacy</b>					
Chandler - ADA and Restroom Improvements	Y	Y	N	50,000	50,000
Chandler - Building Envelope and Drainage Improvements	Y	Y	N	400,000	-
Crown Interior Storage	N	N	N	300,000	-
Fire Station 3 - Interior Renovations (Kitchen, Finishes)	N	N	N	400,000	-
Fire Stations 1 & 3 Locker Room Improvements	Y	Y	N	400,000	-
Fleetwood - East/North Site Improvements	Y	Y	N	600,000	500,000
Fleetwood - Interior Renovations	Y	Y	N	820,000	20,000
Levy Center - Kitchen Upgrade	Y	N	N	500,000	500,000
Levy Center - Lobby Improvements	N	N	N	200,000	200,000
Levy Center - Trash Enclosure Replacement	N	N	N	175,000	175,000
Parking Garages - Structural Repairs	N	N	N	500,000	-
Prieto - HVAC Electrification	N	N	N	1,500,000	1,500,000
<b>Investment and Modernization</b>					
ADA Improvements in Facilities	Y	Y	N	300,000	300,000
Citywide Roof Repairs (locations to be determined)	N	N	N	1,075,000	800,000
Facilities Contingency	N	N	N	700,000	700,000



2026 Capital Improvement Program  
Project Priority Criteria  
ADA Improvements

	Physical Disability Access	Visual Disability Access	Other Disability Access	2026 Funding	2026 GO Bond Funding
Facilities Lighting Modernization	N	Y	N	350,000	350,000
Park Fieldhouse Restroom Renovation	Y	Y	N	370,000	370,000
Roof Repair (Main Library)	N	N	N	2,310,000	1,155,000
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
City Facilities Healthy Buildings Compliance Assessment	N	N	N	500,000	500,000
City Fleet Charging Infrastructure	N	N	N	250,000	250,000
City Solar Infrastructure	N	N	N	200,000	200,000
Fiber Optic System Upgrades	N	N	N	830,000	430,000
Participatory Budgeting Improvements	N	N	N	1,000,000	1,000,000
Public Vehicle Charging Stations	N	N	N	200,000	200,000
<b>Water Treatment, Billing and Storage</b>					
36" Meter and Backwash Tap	N	N	N	250,000	-
4160V Electrical System Reliability	N	N	N	7,475,000	-
A15 Valve Replacement	N	N	N	300,000	-
Corrosion Control Improvements	N	N	N	200,000	-
Filter Plant Reliability	N	N	N	500,000	-
Fire Sprinkler System Study	N	N	N	75,000	-
Grit Separator at WTP	N	N	N	200,000	-
HL 7 Engine Replacement	N	N	N	150,000	-
North Standpipe Parking Lot Resurfacing	N	N	N	50,000	-
Pumping Station Overflow	N	N	N	350,000	-
Retail Water Meter Replacement Program Phase 2 & MIU	N	N	N	1,300,000	-
Roof Improvements	N	N	N	400,000	-
Security Fence	N	N	N	2,188,000	-
Shorewell Safety Improvements	N	N	N	30,000	-
West Plant Dehumidification	N	N	N	250,000	-