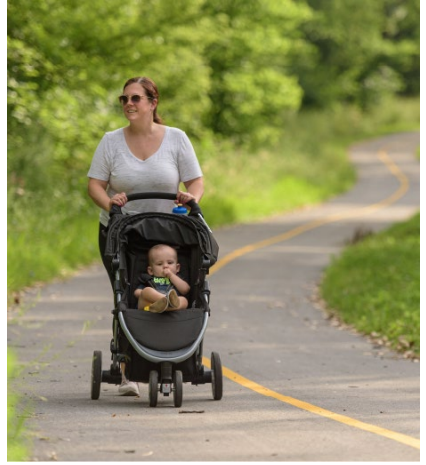
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Regional ADA Coordinators Group

May 13, 2025

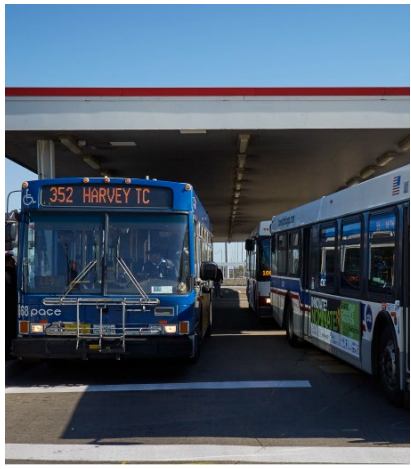






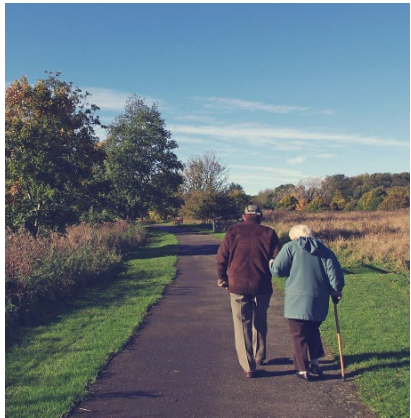












Agenda

1. Level setting
2. Introductions
3. Presentation: Dr. Yochai Eisenberg, UIC
4. Five-minute break
5. Presentation: Travis Helmkamp, Oates Assoc.
6. Open forum
7. Meeting conclusion

If this is your first time attending, please take this quick survey!

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Level setting



Access check

Visibility

- Enable closed captioning
- Let us know if you need more time with a difficult slide!

Acoustics

- Use mics (for in-person attendees)
- Mute when not speaking
- Let us know if we are speaking too quietly, too quickly, etc.

Access check (cont.)

Participation

- Use the chat or raise hand function
- Introduce yourself and your affiliation every time you speak
- Direct message Kaitlin Cernak (CMAP) if you want to ask a question anonymously

Other

- Restrooms located near the elevator bays

Meeting agreement

- This is a safe space to share and learn.
- CMAP is not an enforcement agency or reporting agency; we're here to provide support.
- Conversation is strongly encouraged!
  Please ask questions, share experiences, drop comments, etc.
- Meetings will not be recorded but we will share slides and resource links.

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Introductions



Meet CMAP's Accessible Communities team



Jaemi Jackson
Planning Principal, Program Lead, Accessible Communities



Gilton Cross
Planner



Kaitlin Cernak
Program Lead, Content Strategy and Development



Jeffrey Nolish
Senior ADA Planner



Sema Abulhab
Senior Engagement Specialist

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CMAP's Accessible Communities program

- Completed **16 training workshops**, **460+ attendees** from **140 organizations** including **86 municipalities**
- Technical assistance for public right-of-way ADA self-evaluations and transition plans
- Templates and guidance for ADA public notice, ADA coordinator designation, grievance procedure
- Newsletter – sign up at **cmap.Illinois.gov**

cmap.is/accessibility

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Regional ADA Coordinators Group

- Provide ADA coordinators with practical, actionable knowledge and resources
- Space for ADA coordinators to connect with each other to share lessons learned as well as challenges and opportunities
- Meet 12 times over 2 years (today is meeting 4)

What we've heard

Challenges the group experienced or anticipates in their role:

Time, money/budgeting, "not sure where to start", lack of buy-in, new to the role, engagement

Skills you bring to self-evaluation and transition planning?

Communications: help support public engagement

Connection with disability groups/orgs to obtain input from disability communities

Code knowledge

Attending trainings to stay up to date with most current requirements

Management; organization, preparation
Communication; public engagement

Management/Connections. Knowing who to contact and make decisions about future projects

Knowing who to contact with questions

Public Work - Village Engineer - Coordinate compliance improvements within Capital Projects

Management & HR: Have decision powers, can be a liaison to consultants & know all employees

Identify all facilities and program. For internal self-eval: assign building dept/inspectors to evaluate buildings, and public works to evaluate ROW

Public Engagement, Public Policy, Familiar with Infrastructure planning, broad contact listserv,

Time allocation and resource management.

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Where are we? Research on ADA implementation

Yochai Eisenberg, PhD

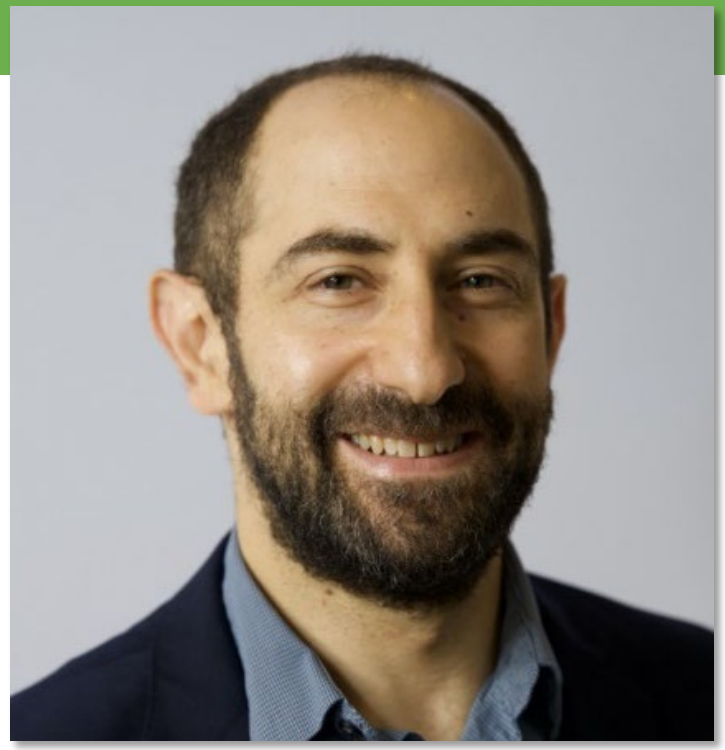


Great Lakes ADA Center

UIC University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Disability and Human Development
College of Applied Health Sciences

Yochai Eisenberg, PhD

- Associate Professor
- UIC in the Dept. of Disability and Human Development
- Research on ADA transition planning since 2016



Presentation goals

- Culture shift to a proactive approach
- Where communities are at across the U.S.
- Lessons from high-quality planning teams
- Tools and resources

Walking and wheeling in the community is a civil right, a human right.

And progress has been made.

Progress




START CROSSING
Watch For
Vehicles
DON'T START
Finish Crossing
If Started
DON'T CROSS
PUSH BUTTON
TO CROSS



But is it enough progress?

Pedestrians with disabilities continue to be limited by barriers





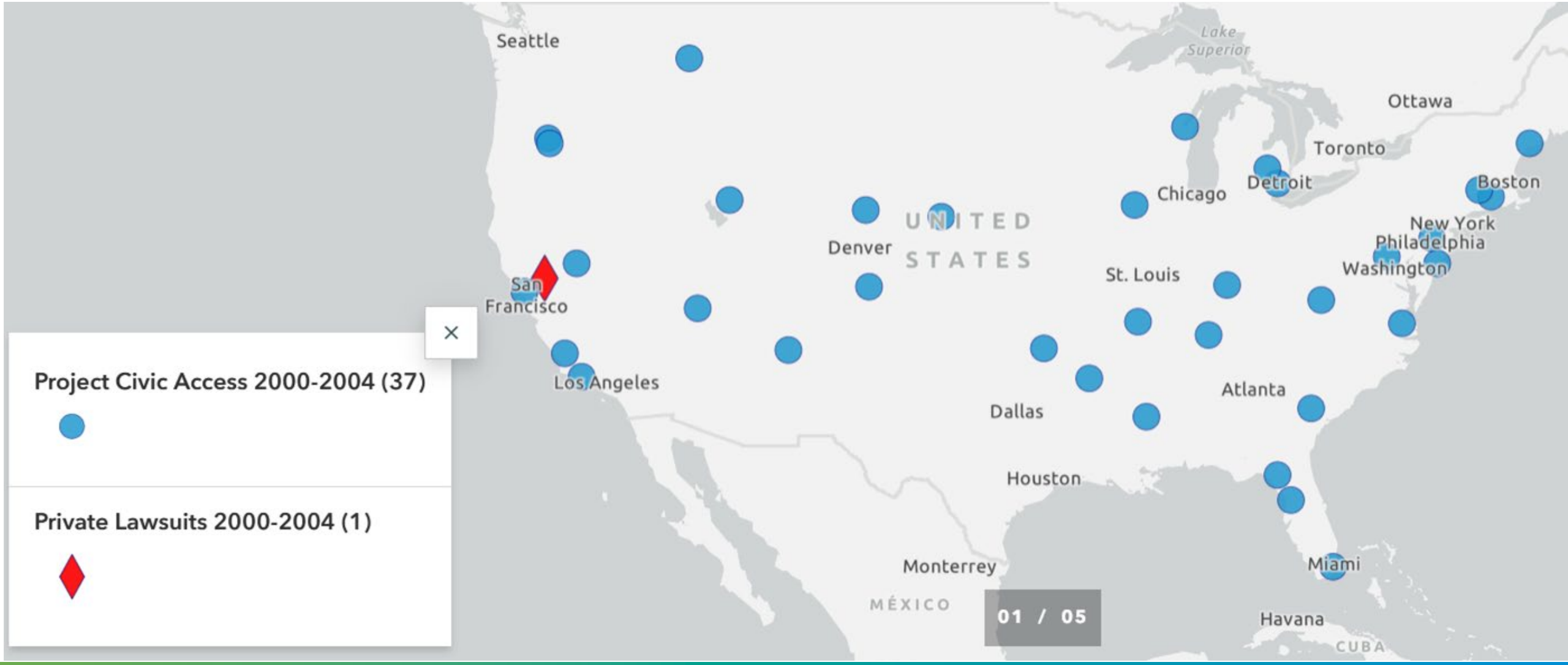




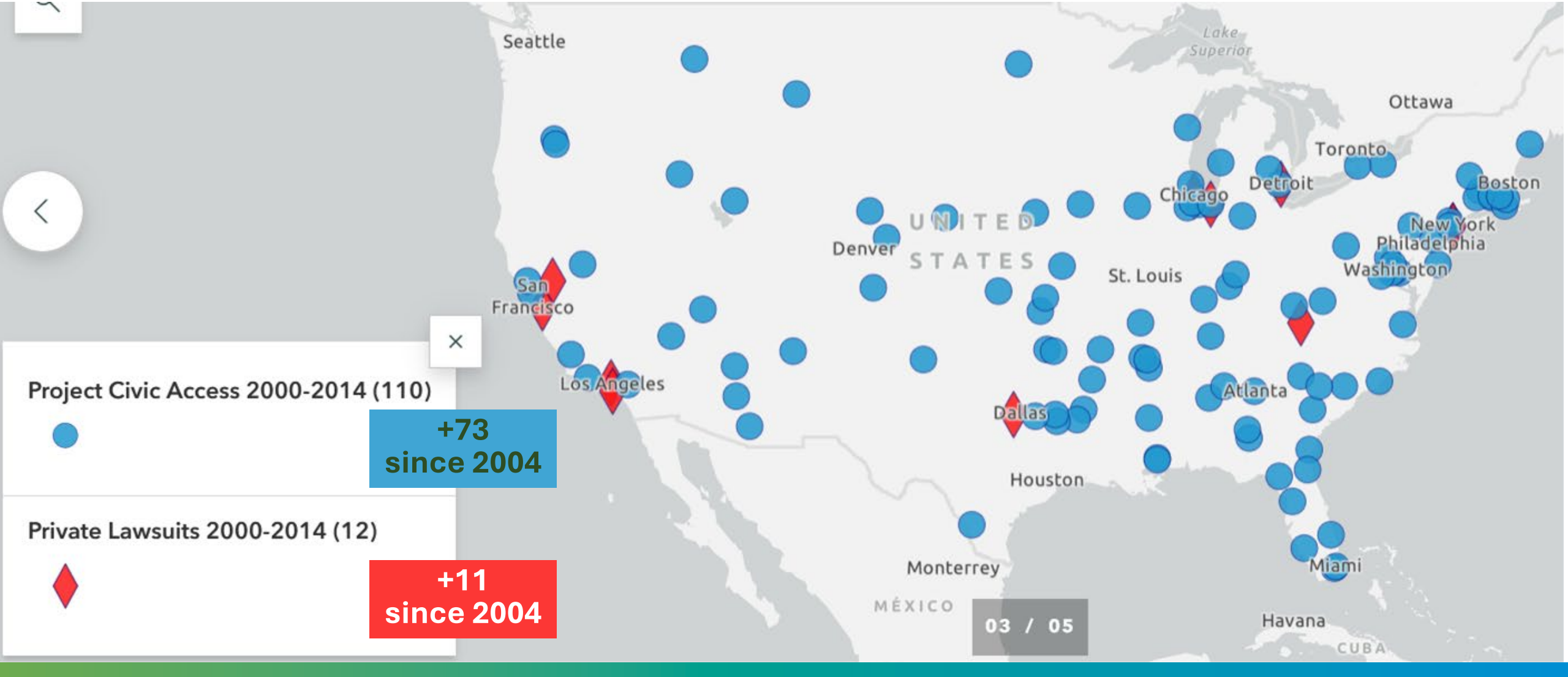
Pedestrian barriers disable people with mobility limitations

- Affecting self-efficacy in walking/wheeling
- Limiting perceived walking/wheeling destinations
- Reducing trips to physically challenging and unsafe environments
- Affecting participation in meaningful activities

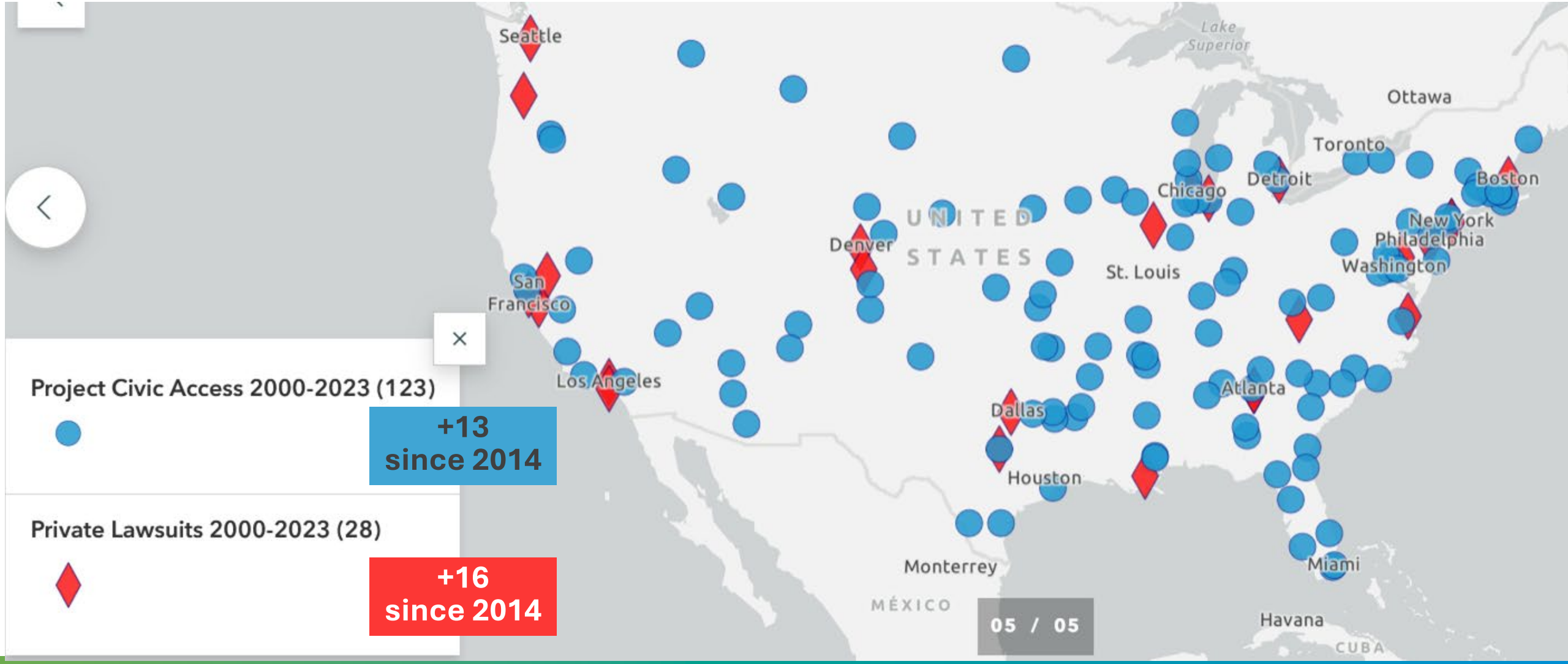
Lawsuits/settlement agreements 2000-2004



Lawsuits/settlement agreements 2000-2014



Lawsuits/settlement agreements 2000-2023



We need a culture shift to a proactive approach for addressing accessibility.

Link to storymap on pedestrian infrastructure lawsuits:

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2a67a89064c946119a817532b81f0baa

The big challenge

Cities	Disability advocates
• Focused on compliance • May not want to know about infrastructure problems • Lack of knowledge and resources • Accessibility is an underprioritized problem until it isn't.	• Want change yesterday • Want to share lived experience and have it valued • Have lawsuits as tool to defend civic rights when advocacy does not work.

Research gap

Lack an understanding of progress made in planning for and implementing changes to the accessibility of the pedestrian infrastructure in the United States.

Research phases 1-3

- Systematic search of ADA transition plans across the US (n=401)

Phase 1
Systematic search
2017-2019

Phase 2
Interviews
2019-2021

- Interviews of ADA coordinators and other urban stakeholders about their ADA implementation process

- Need for resources to support communities in the development of their plans led to the creation of the casebook

Phase 3
Casebook
2022

Study of ADA transition plans among U.S. municipalities (2020)

13% had an ADA transition plan

65% of curb ramps had barriers

13% met minimum requirements

50% of sidewalks had accessibility barriers

Source: Eisenberg, Y., Heider, A., Gould, R., & Jones, R. (2020). Are communities in the United States planning for pedestrians with disabilities? Findings from a systematic evaluation of local government barrier removal plans. Cities, 102, 102720.

Key takeaways

- Lack of ADA transition plans for PROW in the U.S.
- Low quality of existing plans
- Trivial involvement of people with disabilities

=

Limited progress in removing pedestrian barriers

⬇

No impact on community mobility and participation

Successes and challenges with planning for barrier-removal (Phase 2)

- Interviews with **13** ADA planning teams around U.S.
- Questions about their process of developing and implementing their ADA transition plans
- Analysis using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)
    - Context of implementation, barriers, factors of success

The takeaway (Phase 2)

Successful ADA transition planning is supported by factors that are

- Internal to the city
    - Technology, training, and interdepartmental relationships
- External to the city
    - Connections with other organizations
    - Accountability from their state departments of transportation
- Creative budget planning is key to sustainability
- Organizational and cultural change around accessible pedestrian networks
- Need more resources to develop and implement plans

Resources – Great Lakes ADA Center

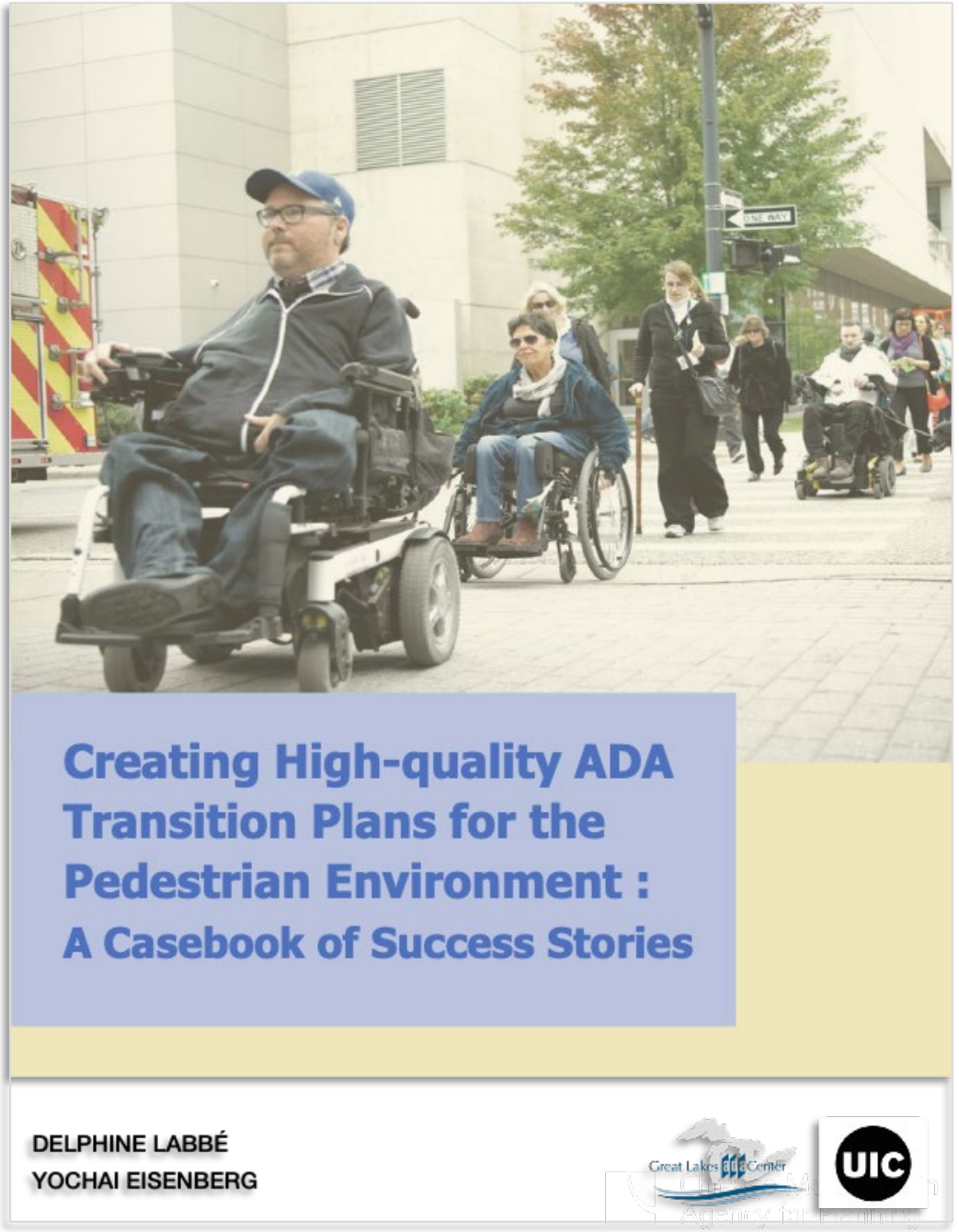
- Quality assessment of transition plans or Q-TAP
- Casebook of success stories
- Performance metrics for monitoring ADA transition plan implementation

Visit adagreatlakes.org/Research/AccessibleCities.asp

Great Lakes ada Center

Lesson learned from cities with quality ADA transition plans

13 case studies to show how successful cities developed and implemented their plans



Eisenberg, Y., Heider, A., Labbe, D., Gould, R., & Jones, R. (2024). Planning accessible cities: Lessons from high quality barrier removal plans. *Cities*, *148*, 104837.

Performance metrics for ADA transition plans

For cities

- Document progress on implementing ADA transition plans
- Accountability
- Transparency
- Lawsuit prevention

For the public

- Easier to access and understand processes
- Understand progress in barrier-removal

Eisenberg, Y., Hayes, M., Hofstra, A., Labbé, D., Gould, R., & Jones, R. (2024). Performance Metrics for Implementation of Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plans. *Urban Science*, *8*(2), 27. https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci8020027

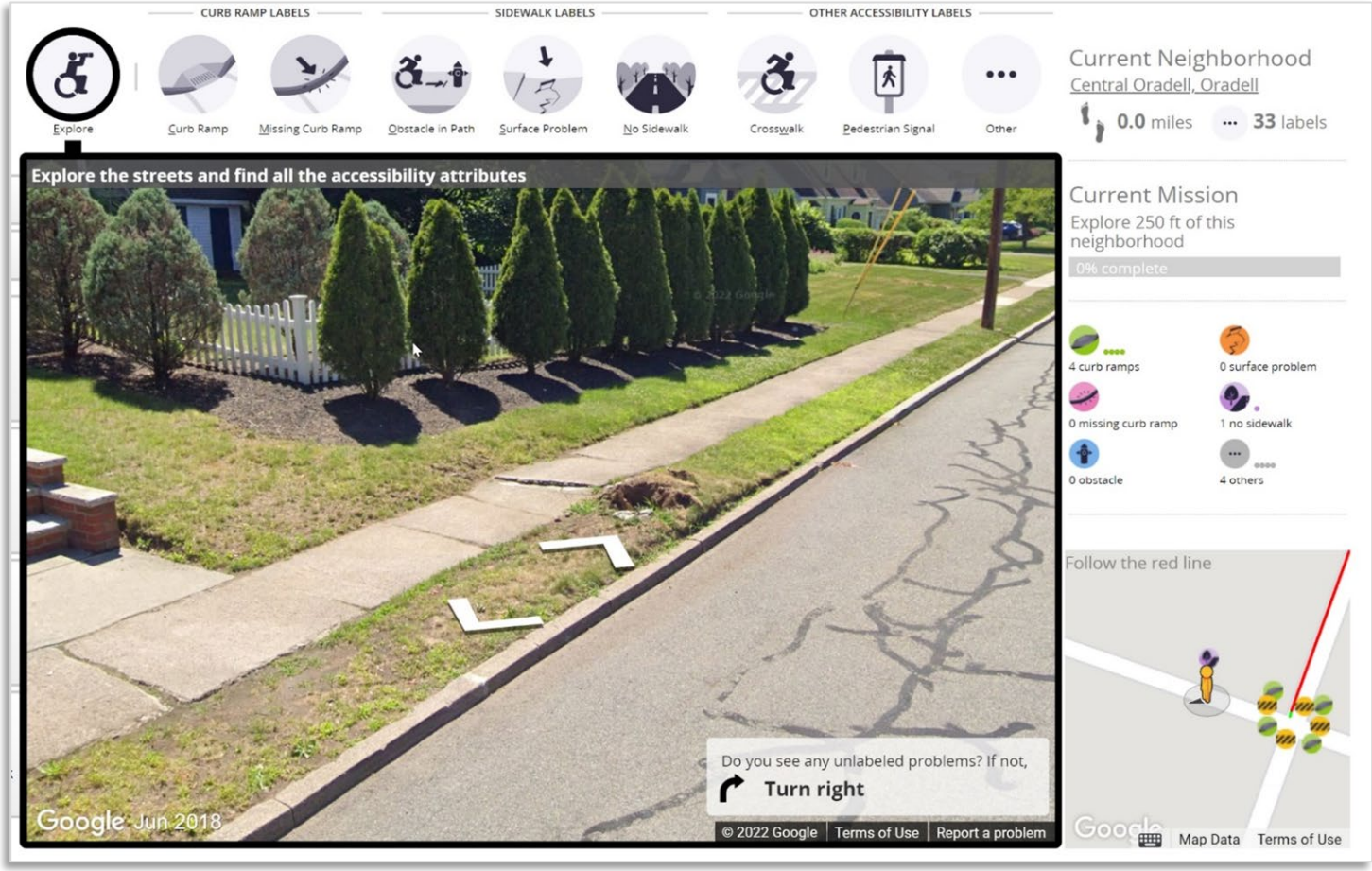
Smart and Connected Communities

National Science Foundation grant

Crowd + AI tools to map, analyze, and visualize sidewalk accessibility for inclusive cities

accessiblecommunities.org

*Collaboration with University of Washington (PI Jon Froehlich)



Thank you!

Yochai Eisenberg, PhD

yeisen2@uic.edu

UIC UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO Department of Disability and Human Development
COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Questions?



5-minute break

If this is your first time attending, please take this quick survey!

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Travis Helmkamp, PE, ADAC



- Project Manager at Oates Associates
- 12 years assisting municipalities with self-evaluations and transition plans
- Completed plans for communities from 5,000 to 300,000 residents

Presentation goals

- Developing the scope of work
    - Community engagement
    - Completing the self-evaluation
    - Development of the transition plan
    - Lessons learned

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Scoping the project



Scoping the project

A complete transition plan encompasses the entirety of programs and services throughout the City/Village.



Elements of the plan

ADA transition plan covers every aspect of community government

Example elements to consider:

- Buildings, properties, parks
- Accessible information technology
  - Website, TV stations, payments
- Policies
  - Police, City Council, vendors



EVANSTON ACCESS TV CHANNEL 6

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Additional elements

(Examples continued)

- Emergency procedures
  - Including temporary shelters
- Temporary events
  - City sponsored or events on city property





Focus today is on public right-of-way

What makes a good plan?

- Community engagement is key
- A transition plan is intended to be a living document
- Final document is available for public comment prior to final approval
- Guidance has been provided as to what is included in a transition plan
  - Steps to develop a transition plan

Steps of an ADA transition plan

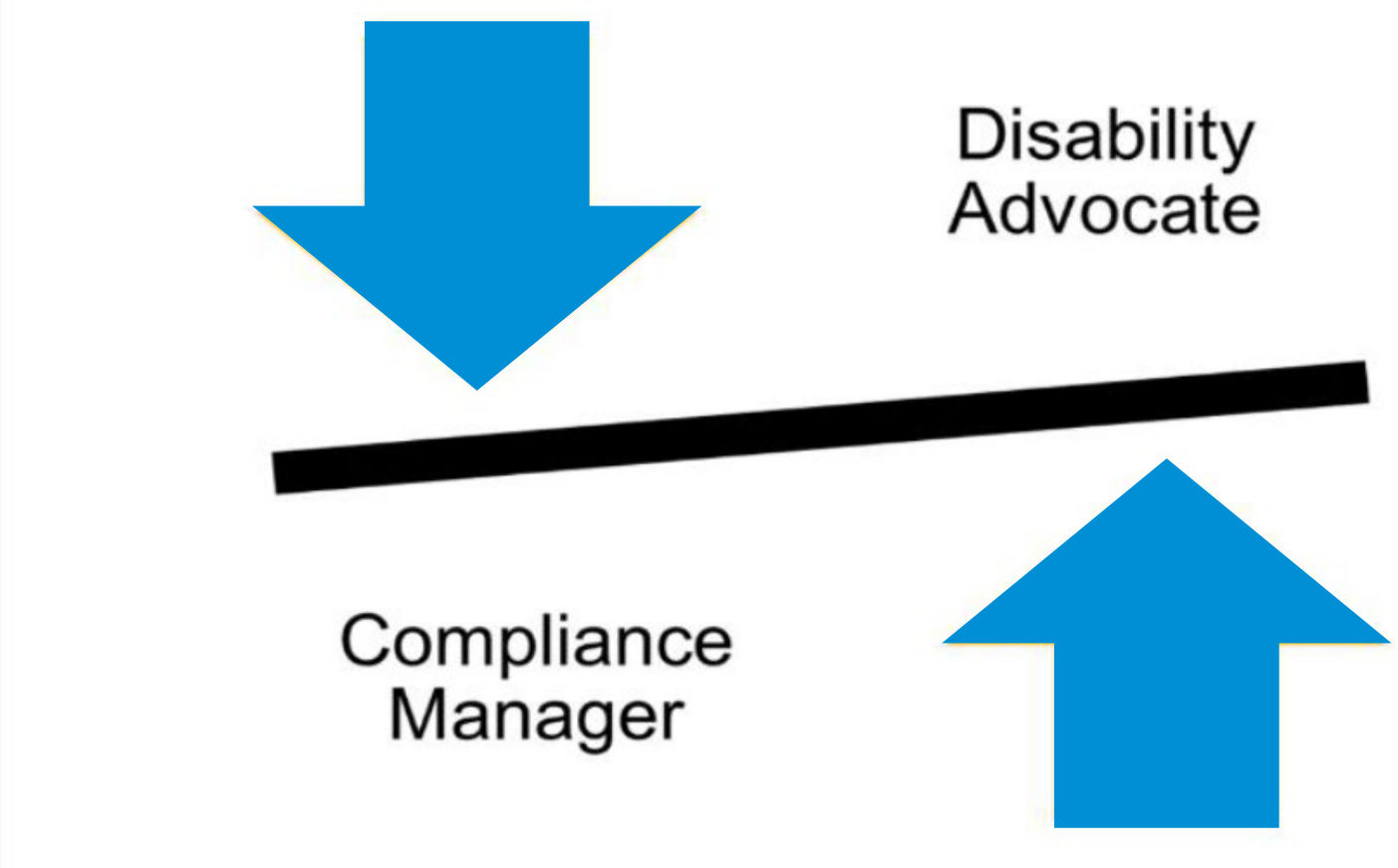
- Designate an ADA coordinator
- Provide notice to the public about ADA
- Establish a grievance procedure
- Develop ADA internal standards
- Complete self-evaluation
- Approve a schedule and budget
- Monitor the progress of the plan
- Update the plan for progress/new barriers

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Community engagement



ADA/accessibility coordinator



Why community engagement?

- Required under the ADA
- The goal is to collaborate with the community
- Foster relationships and build bridges



Keys to meaningful engagement

- Engage the entirety of the community
- Purposeful engagement
- Engage community prior to forming opinions
- Use community feedback to guide prioritization not to confirm assumptions



Disability community

- Broad range of disabilities
  - Remember hidden disabilities
- The community includes individuals with disabilities and those that support people with disabilities
- Aging community who may not identify as “disabled” but needs/benefits from accessibility



Stages of engagement

- Planning stage
- Self-evaluation stage
- Transition plan
- On-going engagement



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Completing the self-evaluation



Self-evaluation: what is included

What is included in a self-evaluation?

- All programs, services, policies, and practices
- Sidewalk and curb ramps are considered a program of a municipality
  - Kinney vs. Yerusalim
  - Barden vs. City of Sacramento
  - Ability City of Greater Toledo vs. Sandusky

Develop a plan: public rights-of-way

- In-house staff vs. outside consultant
  - Expertise to lead the process
  - Available time to dedicate
  - Available resources
- Develop a budget and schedule for completing the self-evaluation



Establishing self-evaluation criteria

- Compare federal vs. state vs. local criteria
- Most-stringent criteria governs
- Identify criteria for future data collection

Level of detail

Consider establishing levels of non-compliance to assist in future prioritization





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Identifying barriers to access: methods of completing assessments

- There is no defined method to complete the self-evaluation
- Multitude of methods are available
- Identify methods that works best for your community
- The method that can be executed best is more critical than the “perfect” method

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Development of a transition plan



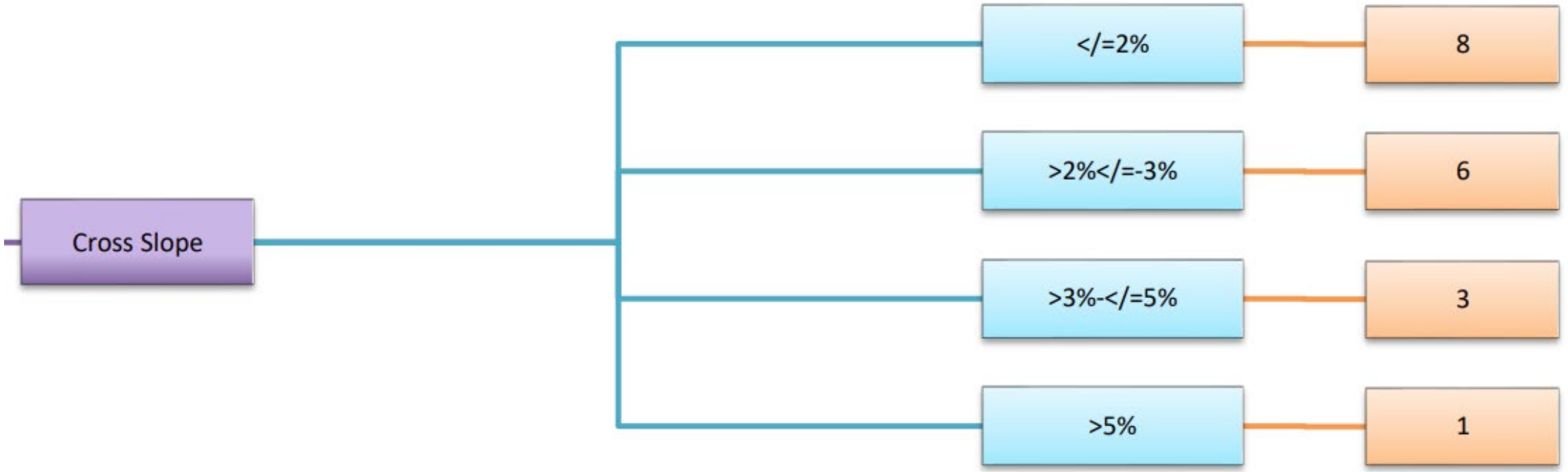
Development of a transition plan

6.0 Sidewalk Transition Plan 9
6.1 Inventory Methodology 9
6.2 Sidewalk Data Collected 9
6.3 Obstruction Data Collected 9
6.4 Curb Ramp Data Collected 9
6.5 Scoring and Ranking 9
6.6 Prioritization 11
6.8 Potential Funding Sources / Programming 13
6.9 Monitoring of the Plan 14
6.10 Recommendations 14

OATES ASSOCIATES

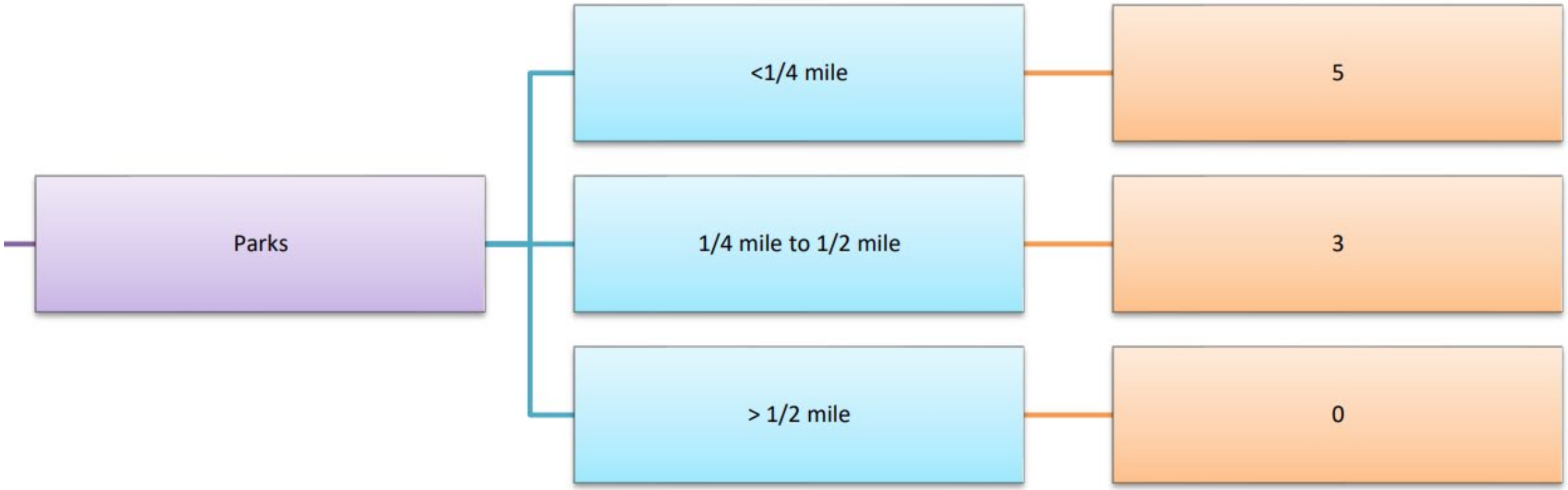
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Prioritization of physical condition



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City-wide prioritization



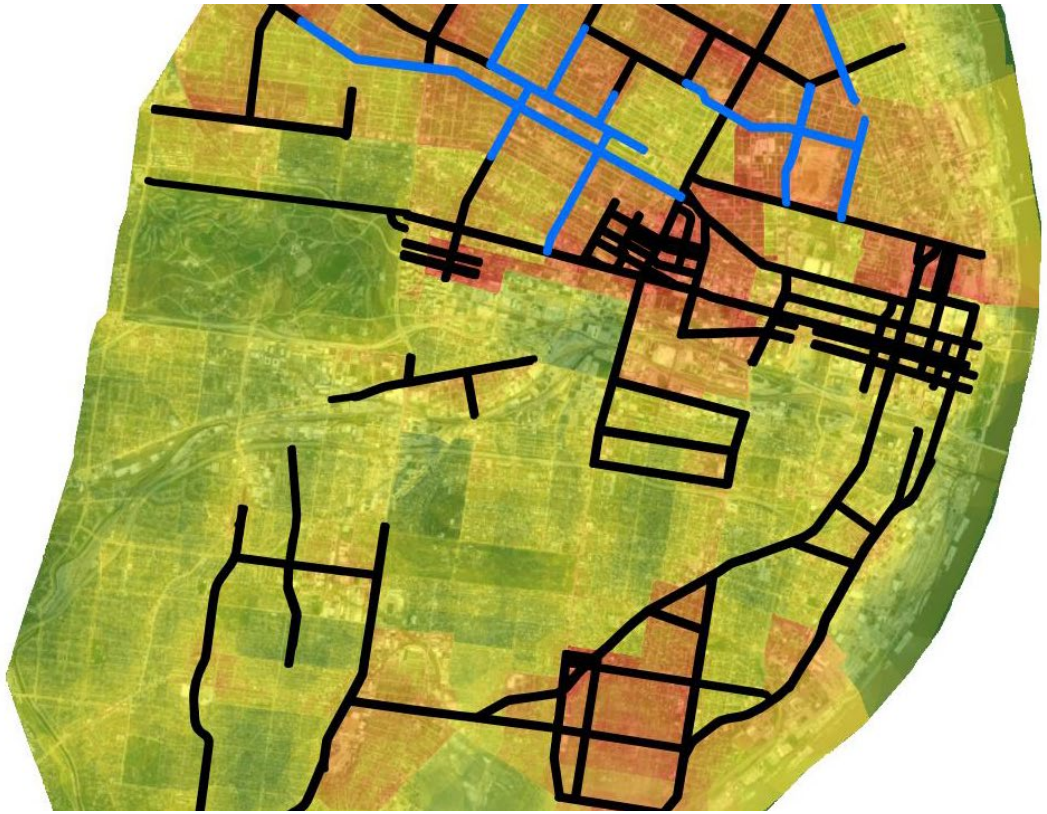
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City-wide Prioritization – 0% Socio



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City-wide Prioritization – 50% Socio



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Final prioritization



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Developing a budget

Establish standard construction costs

- IDOT bid tabs
  - Watch out for order of magnitude
- Local bid tabs
  - Coordinate with other municipalities
- Include contingency for unforeseen costs



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Ancillary costs

- Effort of municipal staff
- Ancillary costs:
  - Relocation of utilities
  - Driveway reconstruction (significant cost)
  - Right-of-way
  - Mobilization / traffic control

Developing a schedule

- Overall cost to bring into compliance
- What is an appropriate timeframe?
- Does funding currently exist?
- Starting today is better than starting tomorrow



Developing a schedule (cont.)

- The schedule will most likely require several years
- Sidewalks that are compliant today won’t be in the future
- There is no end to the obligation

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Lessons learned



Questions to ask before starting the planning process

- Who from the community is going to lead the planning process?
- Who from the community is going to lead the execution?
  - Include them in the planning process
- How are we going to use all the data that is collected?
  - Will determine the data collection methodology

A solid scope of work is critical to a successful project

Items to include in the scope of work:

- Miles of sidewalk to be assessed (how will additional miles be handled)
- Expectations for community engagement
- Time to train community staff
- Schedule and budget

Questions to answer before the consultant leaves

- Who from the community is going to handle the data?
  - Does the scope of work include time for them to be trained?
- Do we clearly understand the commitments made in the plan?
  - Do the decision makers also understand the commitment?
- Where is the money coming from to execute the plan?

Thank you!

Travis Helmkamp, PE

Travis.Helmkamp@OatesAssociates.com



Questions?



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Open forum



Next meeting

July 8 – Construction Guide

cmap.is/ADAnewsletter

Sign up for CMAP's Accessible Communities newsletter

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Thank you!

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