

## Municipal ADA Improvement Grant

Due: September 9, 2020

**Grant Scope:** The Town proposes to use construction grant funding to improve access to the Town's public safety buildings. This will include constructing a short "bridge" from the front entrance of Town Hall, which is ADA accessible, to the front entrance of the Police Station, which is not currently ADA accessible. The Town Hall Common that fronts the Town Hall and Police Station was recently renovated and included the addition of two handicap accessible parking spaces and an ADA compliant walk and ramp from the parking area to the Town Hall front entrance. The Town would also address facility access to the Fire Station including signage, handrails and a van accessible parking space as identified in our 2020 ADA Transition Plan.

**Cost Estimate:** The estimated cost of improvements is \$165,000. We are asking for \$150,000 and would provide a \$15,000 match.

**Project Timeline:** If approved for the grant, the Town would immediately secure the services of an architect/engineer to develop project plans and specifications. The Town would have a bid package prepared and out to bid for construction by the end of February with award in March. Construction would occur April thru early June with all invoices submitted by June 30, 2021.

**Proposed Use:** All improvements made through the grant would be facility improvements and therefore would not have any user fees or programing.

**Staffing and Maintenance Plan:** All of the facility improvements would require minor periodic maintenance which will be completed by the Town's custodians, DPW, or applicable tradesman.

**Renovation and Construction History:** The Manchester Police Station built in the 1970's is within the Town Hall, sharing the basement and first floor but with separate main entrances. The Town installed an elevator in Town Hall in the early 90s and made other minor accessibility improvements in that time frame. The Police Station has been updated minimally to meet accreditation standards but has considerable accessibility challenges. The Town completed the reconstruction of the Town Common in September 2020 which included the construction of two ADA compliant parking spaces directly adjacent to Town Hall and an ADA compliant walkway and ramp from the new accessible parking spaces to the Town Hall front entrance. The project also included improvements to a steep and narrow pathway from the parking area to the Police Station entrance. This access route, while not wheelchair accessible, now includes several sets of steps to reduce the steep grade and handrails that improve overall safety.

**Additional Funding Sources:** The Town will allocate \$15,000 (10% in matching funds) to supplement the funding for these projects. \$30,000 in accessibility improvements to the Town Hall entrance in 2020 now allow for the proposed connection to the Police Department.

**Impact on People:** Under current conditions, wheelchair access to the Police Station counter requires traveling to the rear of the Town Hall, taking an elevator to the main floor, traversing through the central corridor of Town Hall and requesting permission to access the Police Station through a locked door. Implementing the ADA Study's recommendations for improving accessibility at the Fire Station as well as the construction of a bridge from the front entrance of Town Hall to the Police Station will

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significantly improve the ADA accessibility and use of the Town's public safety facilities for all people with disabilities.

Impact on Access: Construction of a bridge from the Town Hall front entrance to the Police Station front entrance would provide ADA access to the police station. Currently there is no acceptable ADA access to the Police Station front entrance. Signs, extended handrails and an accessible parking space at the Fire Department would improve facility access at the Fire Station.

Monthly Usage: Police Department records indicate around 60 – 80 walk-in reports monthly. In addition to the individuals that use the entrance for reporting an incident, the entrance is used by staff and residents for other business as well. The Fire Station front entrance is used daily, primarily by staff, but also by a limited number of visitors to request or pick up permits, schedule inspections or handle other business.

Census Data: 357 Total Persons with Disabilities

### Applicant Team

Sue Brown - Town Planner [browns@manchester.ma.us](mailto:browns@manchester.ma.us) - 617-429-9439

Chuck Dam - DPW Director [damc@manchester.ma.us](mailto:damc@manchester.ma.us) - 978-526-1242

Nate Desrosiers - Town Engineer, Facilities Manager - [desrosiersn@manchester.ma.us](mailto:desrosiersn@manchester.ma.us) 978-526-1242

Gregory Federspiel - Town Administrator and ADA Coordinator, [federspielg@manchester.ma.us](mailto:federspielg@manchester.ma.us) 978-526-2000

Beth Heisey - Chair of ADA Committee, [bbheisey@hotmail.com](mailto:bbheisey@hotmail.com) on behalf of the ADA Committee Team:

Architectural Board History: N/A

State and Federal Agency History: N/A