The City of Palm Desert is committed to ongoing compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The Strategic Plan is designed to provide an overview of a long term process that will be continuous for several years. The plan will be periodically reviewed and adjusted to stay current with ongoing development in both compliance requirements and with technology that provides compliance.

The Strategic Plan is not a Transition Plan, which details specific actions that will bring compliance with specific identified issues.

STAGE 1: COMMITMENT

The first stage of the Strategic Plan is to re-affirm the City’s commitment to act as a model for ADA compliance for Palm Desert and the Coachella Valley. The City has continuously performed many actions that help bring the public infrastructure into compliance with ADA regulations, but also to assist the public, especially those who are building in the City, to develop long term ADA compliance. Over the course of 2007 the City will begin a new round of modifications in City Hall to improve access to those with disabilities. The City’s long term commitment will be to maintain high standards for accessibility for new projects going forward, and to seek out improvements to existing public infrastructure.

STAGE 2: NEW TRANSITION PLAN

In order to have a solid and appropriate blueprint for the new round of modifications, the next phase of the Strategic Plan is to create a new Transition Plan for 2008 onward. The City first produced a Transition Plan in July 1993 (attached). This plan covered City Hall and other City structures. The 2008 Transition Plan will cover the complete array of City property and public works, and also include the City’s communications with its citizens, and virtual location on the internet. The Transition Plan will also cover structures that are planned and are not yet built to ensure that they meet the most current standards of compliance.

The City will organize its new Transition Plan around five basic areas of City infrastructure and operation. These are:

1. Public Works: sidewalks, bridges, and other public right of way structures
2. Public Buildings: City Hall, Visitor Center, Community Center, and all other buildings the City owns, operates and maintains
3. Parks and Recreation: Parks, playgrounds, pools, including Desert Willow, the City golf courses and clubhouse
4. Redevelopment Agency: RDA properties will be incorporated into the City's Transition Plan as they enter RDA control.
5. Internet, Public Communication and Employee Practices: The City's internet website and standard communications with the public will be accessible for the disabled, and City employee practices will be reviewed regarding ADA compliance.
STAGE 3: IMPLEMENT TRANSITION PLAN

The Transition Plan is, by definition, a long range plan to set priorities and identify actions that will take place according to a schedule that will extend over several years. This is because compliance with the ADA is both complex and multivariate (more than one possible solution to a single issue), and also subject to ongoing modification as regulations, legal decisions, and budget realities change over time.

The 1993 Transition Plan is being updated and expanded to include the results of surveys and assessments of the five areas identified. It will then provide an analysis of all the accessibility issues to address, including the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of potential solutions. The new Transition Plan will also set priorities and a generalized long term schedule for accomplishing accessibility compliance.

The City will have two general priorities in the new Transition Plan. These are to address compliance issues in City Hall, and maintain high compliance standards with all new City buildings and public works going forward. After that, the City will continue to work on the next tier of priority issues in existing buildings, parks and public works.

This action plan is not set in stone, and when circumstances arise, such as new regulations, legal requirements, compliance technology, or changing financial climates, the Transition Plan can be modified to reflect these changing realities. Also on occasion, as a result of input from the public, an issue may be elevated in priority. The City will continuously observe its process to receive public input, and incorporate it into the Transition Plan, to ensure it is a high quality, functional process.