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ABSTRACT

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, this transition report identifies architectural barriers at two Amarillo College campuses, recommends modifications to improve facility accessibility for the handicapped, presents an implementation schedule and estimated costs for the modifications, and provides a plan for publicizing facility accessibility. The report first describes the handicapped population of Amarillo and discusses the growing number of handicapped students at Amarillo College and the obligations of the college under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Exterior barriers on each campus, such as the lack of ramps and adequate handicapped parking facilities, are then listed and located on two maps. A list of barriers within each building points out the lack of elevator access in multi-story structures and inaccessible rest room facilities, water fountains, and public telephones. The report then outlines 12 recommendations including the completion of all ramps and curb cuts during the summer of 1979, the preparation of preliminary cost estimates for the construction of elevators during the summer of 1980, the publication of a brochure describing accessible facilities, and the creation of a part-time Coordinator for Handicapped Students. (JP)

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TRANSITION PLAN FOR IMPROVING FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY BY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS AT AMARILLO COLLEGE

August, 1979

JC 790 611

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rehabilitiation Act of 1973, Section 504, specifies that college facilities be accessible to physically handicapped persons--both students and employees. The Act calls for each college to develop a transition plan which locates existing barriers, recommends an approach to providing program accessibility, and provides a schedule for removing these barriers. The need for accessibility is underscored by the presence of increasing numbers of handicapped students at Amarillo College and the serious problems they encounter in moving across the campus and using our learning facilities.

This document is presented as the transition plan for Amarillo College. It was prepared and approved by a special committee which included representatives of two community agencies for the handicapped, three handicapped Amarillo College students, and seven members of the Amarillo College staff. The plan includes the identification of specific barriers to access by handicapped individuals across the campuses and within buildings, and recommendations for improving accessiblity of facilities and educational programs of the College, for support of handicapped students by the College staff, and for publicizing the accessibility of Amarillo College programs within the Amarillo community.

Over recent years Amarillo College has served increasing numbers of handicapped students. During the fall of 1978, approximately 20 serously mobility-impaired students attended--about twice the number of the previous year. This number does not include a much larger group of students with handicaps other than mobility impairment. The number of mobility-impaired people who would attend Amarillo College within a decade is estimated at between 150-180 annually, if our facilities are accessible to them.

The results of an exhaustive survey of barriers to accessiblity on the Washington Street Campus and the West Campus provided the following information about the need for facility improvements. Sixteen permanent ramps to building entrances are needed to replace three temporary ones. Twnety-two adequate ramps are now in place. There is also a need for an estimated 21 curb cuts, relocating and proper sizing of handicapped parking spaces, widening 480 feet of walkway, plus other minor repairs. The facilities of the Polk Street Campus were not included in this survey.

A major type of barrier to accessibility at Amarillo College is the reliance upon stairs to upper floor levels. There are eight such buildings, four of which contain laboratories which are located exclusively on the second floor. In addition to the lack of second floor access, other barriers which prevent accessiblitiy within buildings include door entrances which are too narrow or are difficult to open, stair handrails that do not meet safety requirements, toilet and restroom facilities which are inaccessible, improperly located water fountains.

and public telephones, and the lack of appropriate identification or warning signals for those with hearing or sight impairments.

The plan contains 10 detailed recommendations for a sustained but prudent program to improve accessibility on the Washington Street and West Campuses. The recommendations include improvements to facilities, education of AC personnel and the community at large about the needs of the handicapped and how they can be accommodated at AC, specific assistance to handicapped students and a future evaluation of progress toward accessibility. The specific recommendations are summarized as follows:

1. During summer of 1979 construct ramps, curb cuts, exterior handrails, improvements to walkways and roadways, and design adequate handicapped parking spaces.

2. During fall of 1979, renovate one women's and one men's restroom on the second floor of the Library Building to provide adequate accessibility for wheelchair-bound students.

3. During summer of 1979 identify additional improvements of the type noted in Number 1, but for which construction may be delayed because of less urgent need.

4. By fall of 1979, complete planning and preliminary cost estimates for the installation of elevators to serve Ordway and Biological Sciences Buildings, Durrett and Engineering Buildings, Warren Hall, College Union Building and Administration Building (West Campus). Also, complete similar planning for improving the elevator in the Administration Building (Washington Street).

5. Develop cost estimates for automated or power-assisted doors at entrances of the College Union Building, Library and the first floor of the Business-Technology Building. Construct such doors when they are justified by the enrollment of handicapped students.

6. During summer of 1980 construct at least those elevators which would provide access to laboratories.

7. By spring of 1980, complete a detailed plan for making toilets and telephones accessible.

8. Name a standing AC-community committee to advise on continued efforts to make the programs of AC accessible and to educate staff and provide others about the special needs of handicapped persons.

9. Develop a brochure which describes accessible facilities at AC, and distribute to appropriate community groups.

10. During the fall of 1979 designate a half-time role of "Coordinator for Handicapped STudents," within the office of Student Services.

11. By August of 1979 begin a program of in-service education for AC staff members.

12. By spring of 1981 complete an evaluation report on the quality of facilities, services, and general accessibility for handicapped students.

Although it is not yet possible to determine the cost of improving accessibility, a general estimate of about $300,000 was discussed in September, 1978. A closer estimate will require the services of an architect, and must follow the establishment of design featurs.

TRANSITION PLAN FOR IMPROVING FACILITY ACCESSIBILITY BY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS AT AMARILLO COLLEGE

Amarillo College
Box 447
Amarillo, TX 79178

August, 1979

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Introduction

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, SEction 504, requires that facilities of institutions of higher education be open to physically handicapped persons--both students and employees. The Act also calls for the development of a transition plan which indicates the location of barriers and provides a schedule for modification of facilities to remove these barriers. This report presents an account of the development of such a transition plan for Amarillo College. It includes a discussion of the purpose of the project and the need to modify facilites, identification of barriers and substandard facilities in all buildings, and recommendations for modifying facilities including the estimated cost and a proposed schedule for implementation.

Objectives for the Project

The purpose of this project was to determine the barriers that now exist to accessibility of campus facilities by the handicapped and to develop recommendations for a plan to modify these facilities to the extent that they will be accessible. Specific objectives were developed and include the following:

1. Identify existing barriers across campus.
2. Identify barriers and substandard facilities in all buildings as indicated by ANSI Standards.
3. Recommend modifications that will make the campus buildings and educational facilities accessible to the handicapped.
4. Develop an implementation schedule and estimated cost for the recommended modifications.
5. Devise a plan for publicizing accessiblity of facilities and educational programs at Amarillo College to the handicapped.

Organization of the Project Committee

Work on this transition plan began in the spring of 1978 with a general survey of campus barriers. The results were reported to and discussed with the Committee on Space Planning and Use. In the fall of 1978, it was decided to form a special committee to develop the transition plan. The members of the committee were

selected to assure campus-wide and community involvement in the project. Those selected and their areas of representation include:

1. Community agencies for the handicapped:

   Bill Davis, Counseling, Texas Rehabilitation Commission;
   Judith Olsen, Chief Occupational Therapist, High Plains Baptist Hospital and member of the Board, Amarillo Arthritis Foundation.

2. Handicapped Amarillo College students:

   John Curnutt, Sharon Clark, and Bud Walker.

3. Amarillo College Staff:

   Dr. Anogene F. DeVaney, Professor, Mathematics and Engineering (Chairman)
   George Fowler, Director, Physical Plant
   A.M. Johnson, Professor, Geology
   Norman King, Associate Vocational Professor, Related Studies
   Sharon Mitchell, Counselor, Special Services
   Dr. Fred A. Snyder, Vice President, Planning, Evaluation & Development
   Jerry Webb, Director, Student Activities

Need for Facility Modification

During the past decade, increasing attention has been focused upon the accessibility for handicapped people of facilities at colleges and universities. Under the urgency of federal legislation, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, institutions of higher education began a searching review of barriers to accessibility by handicapped people.

Because of recent advances in physical medicine and vocational rehabilitation programs, handicapped people are more mobile. They represent a growing amount of human potential, and they have growing expectations for achieving their potential. It is estimated that more than 1,700 paraplegic veterans from World War II are still living, and 80 percent are now employed. In addition, approximately 75,000 veterans from the Vietnamese War are severely handicapped, with 25,000 totally disabled. Based upon the general categories of handicapped as mild, moderate, or severe, it is estimated that approximately 7,600,000 adult individuals across the United States are severely handicapped.

Handicapped Population of Amarillo

In a survey conducted in February, 1976, the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation concluded that 5.6 percent of

the population in Texas between the ages of 16 and 64 were handicapped. A handicapped person was defined as one who could not utilize mass transportation. An indication of the proportion of handicapped people that are mobility impaired comes from findings by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission; the TRC estimates that approximately 20 percent of the 1,300 clients it serves each year in Amarillo have mobility impairments. Another agency, The Children's Rehabilitiation Center, serves 300 handicapped students, of which 35 percent are estimated to require higher education and an additional 10 percent will need vocational training.

A large percentage of the population becomes disabled because of the aging process. The Arthritis Foundation estimates that 14 percent of the adult population is effected by arthritis; often sufficiently severe to be crippling. In additon, heart disease affects large numbers of the population, especially older adults. Numerous other diseases such as respiratory ailments, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and diabetes affect significant portions of the population. While the disability is usually not severe enough to totally disable the person, it often requires retraining for a different occupation or job.

Over the past several years, Amarillo College has served increasing numbers of handicapped individuals, and because of the growing quality of medical and rehabilitation services available to them and the increasing emphasis on continued education for them by service agencies, we believe that the numbers of handicapped people attending the College will increase many fold.

Handicapped Students at Amarillo College

In order for Amarillo College to serve these growing numbers of people, it is necessary that its educational facilities be made accessible. Unfortunately, most facilities were built during an era when appearance in design was more important than accessibility; buildings were constructed with a brief flight of stairs to entrances rather than locating the entrances at ground level, and laboratories were most often located on the upper floors of buildings to which the only access was by stairs. Other barriers, not readily apparent to the non-handicapped, also impede accessibility by the disabled.

In the fall of 1978, an estimated 20 temporary or permanent mobility-impaired students attended Amarillo College, a number estimated at twice that of the previous year. Of these 20, 17 were granted handicapped parking permits, while additional students were driven to and from the campus by their families. Estimates suggest that the potential number of mobility-impaired students who might attend Amarillo College now is almost 150, and by 1990 this number could grow to 180. These figures include both credit and non-credit students. This estimate of the potential number of such students at Amarillo College is based on figures developed by the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation and

the Texas Rehabilitation Commission. The estimate is based upon the proportion of handicapped people who are mobility impaired, the rate of college attendance by residents of the Amrillo areas, and the population of the Amarillo area (See Appendix A for the method of computation).

The major problems encountered at Amarillo College by these students are caused by an absence of curb cuts across campus streets, ramps from sidewalks to building entrances, cracks and vertical offsets in the sidewalks and curbs; doors that are difficult to open or too narrow, parking spaces of inadequate width, absence of elavators to basement and second floor levels and inadequate restroom facilities.

Handicapped students want to be independent and to move about the campus as freely as possible. Inadequate ramps and curb cuts make this goal impossible. Wheelchair students must travel great distances to locate and utilize an existing curb cut or ramp, and since only 10 minutes is allowed between classes, it is difficult for a wheelchair student to arrive for class on time without assistance. Cracks and holes in sidewalks and streets create a safety hazard and can also damage the wheelchair. Parking spaces have been designated in various areas, but they are not wide enough to provide the for safe transfer of a person into a wheelchair. Many outside doors to buildings are difficult to open, a condition which may be due to the weight of the door or to the absence of a platform in front of the door, and many of the doors are too narrow to allow a wheelchair to enter without great effort.

Another critical problem facing handicapped students at Amarillo College is inaccessiblity to the classrooms, faculty offices, and especially laboratories on the second floors of buildings without elevators. Classes may be arranged to meet on the ground on the basis of individual student needs, but this is often inconvenient for the class and embarrassing for the student. In the case of laboratories located on the second floors, students are carried up flights of stairs at the risk of injury and humiliation for the student.

The inaccessiblity of restroom facilities creates a frustrating and potentially embarrassing situation for the handicapped person who often has a problem of incontinence and bowel control. Some restrooms have bars, but in most cases the stalls are too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair and to allow for a safe transfer.

Amarillo College actively encourages post-secondary education for every resident of the community, and as a result we should be keenly concerned about the inaccessibility of our facilities to the handicapped and make every effort to bring about a barrier-free environment.

Summary of the Law

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, SEction 504, specifies that the facilities of institutions of higher education be open to physically handicapped persons-both students and employees. The term "handicape" includes such diseases or conditions as speech, hearing, visual and orthopedic impairments, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, muscular dystrophy, retardation, emotional illness, and specific learning disabilities such as perceptual handicaps, dyslexia, minimal brain dysfunction and developmental aphasia. The Act apecifies a procedure and timetable for renovation and related activities which are necessary to provide accessibility. The Act specifies that:

1. All new facilities must be barrier free; namely, readily accessible to and usable by handicapped individuals.

2. Programs or activities in existing facilities must be made accessible to the handicapped within 60 days. Accessibility can be effected by reassignment of classes to accessible locations or by other reasonable means. Structural changes which may be necessary must be completed by June, 1980.

3. Employers may not refuse to hire handicapped persons, if reasonable accommodation to them can be made, and if the handicap does not impair the applicant's ability to do the specific job.

4. Recruitment, admissions, and the treatment of students must be free of discrmination. Pre-admission inquiries as to whether an applicant is handicapped are not permitted. However, voluntary post-admission inquiries may be made in advance of enrollment concerning handicapping conditions to enable an institution to provide necessary services.

5. Reasonable modification in academic requirements must be made in educational programs for handicapped students to assure full educational opportunity.

6. Auxiliary aids, such as readers for blind persons and interpreters for the deaf, must be provided to insure full participation by the handicapped.

The Act calls for a "transition plan" to be developed and a subsequent self-evaluation report to be completed six months later. The transition plan should note progress made toward accessiblity through the period ending with the development of the plan, and include the following additional features:

1. Identify the physical barriers and facilities that now limit accessibility.

2. Describe the methods to be used in creating accessiblity of facilities.

3. Specify the schedule for doing what is necessary to achieve full accessibility from the present through June 3, 1980 (and beyond, if necessary).

4. Identify the person(s) responsible for implementing the plan.

The Act specifies that information on college accessibility to facilities, services, and activities be provided to the general public and especially to the handicapped. It specifies the participation of community groups and individuals, particularly those representing the handicapped, in the development and review of the transition plan.

The Act calls for accommodating persons with a variety of handicaps or disabilities. Most consideration is usually given to persons in wheelchairs, on crutches, blind persons, and the hearing impaired. Other types of disability also need to be considered. These include: temporary impairments, which encompasses fractures, pregnancy, convalescence from disease, persons suffering diseases of the heart or lungs, neurological diseases which result in lack of coordinator, arthritis or rheumatism, and extremes in physical size and weight such as dwarfism and obesity; mobility impairments of individuals who are confined to the wheelchair part or all of the time; manual impairments such as partial or total loss of dexterity in one or both hands; visual impairments, either partial or total; hearing impairments, either partial or total; and aging.

Under the mandate of Section 504, barriers must be removed and the needs of all disability groups must be considered. This offers Amarillo College an opportunity to broaden its services to neglected segments of our population. In addition, the College can serve students with temporary disabilities as well as other potential users such as the elderly.

Barriers on the Amarillo College Campuses

A survey was conducted during the fall, 1978, to locate all barriers to accessiblity, across the Washington Street and West Campuses from building to building and within each building. Exterior barriers were noted on campus maps which are included on the following pages as Attachments 1 and 2. Of necessity, the barriers are illustrated by symbols, a list of which is shown in Appendix B.

The Polk Street campus was not examined for barriers.

Lists of Exterior Barriers

A complete list of ramps for entrances into each building is shown as Attachment 3. In all, 25 ramps now exist on both campuses, including 3 temporary ones. Sixteen permanent ramps are shown as needed, including replacing the temporary ones. In addition, all existing ramps must be reviewed to determine if handrails are adequate.

A summary of all external barriers is shown for each campus, as Attachments 4 and 5. In addition to entrance ramps, the Washington Street Campus requires 15 curb cuts, relocation and proper layout of handicapped parking spaces, widening of 480 feet of walkway and other minor repairs. The West Campus requires entrance ramps, 6 curb cuts, and one exterior ramp not at an entrance. At the West Campus, although there was no need during 1978-79, it may be prudent to install one handicapped parking space each at the front of the Administration Building and the Biomedical Sciences Building.

Pages 8 and 9 (Attachments 1 and 2--Site plans of the Washington Street and West Campuses) were deleted prior to the document's submission to the ERIC Document Reproduction Service.

ATTACHMENT 3

LIST OF BUILDING RAMPS/ENTRANCES SUITABLE FOR WHEELCHAIRS

Washington Street Campus

	Existing	Needed
Technology-Business	2	-
Radio TV	-	-
Men's Gym	-	2
Women's Gym	3	-
Library	1	-
CUB	1	1 (rear)
Warren	2 (1 temp)	1 (now a temp)
Ordway	1	1
Biology	1	1
Durrett	-	1
Durrett-Engineering	1 (temp)	1 (now a temp)
Engineering	-	1
Administration	2	-
CH Theatre	1 (lower)	1 (upper)
Music	1	-
Art Center	2	-
	18 (2 temp)	10

West Campus

C Building	-	1
Cafeteria	-	2
B Building	3	1
Administration	1 temp	2 (1 now a temp)
Biomedical	3	-
	7	6

ATTACHMENT 4

SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL ACCESS & BARRIERS
Washington Street Campus

	Existing	Needed
Building Entrances, Wheelchair		10 (8 bldgs.)
Existing	16 (11 bldgs.)	
Temporary	2 (2 bldgs.)	
Curb Cuts		15
Existing	0	
Temporary	4	
Handicapped, Auto Parking	15 (4 locat.)	*
Other Barriers		
Autos Overhang Sidewalks (22nd, Jackson)		Widen walk 480' x 36"
Cracks & Gaps in Sidewalks (Misc.)		Minor repairs only
Wheelchair Access Routes (See map)		

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* Additional spaces may be needed in the future. Also, spaces may need to be broadened to 12 foot width.

ATTACHMENT 5

SUMMARY OF EXTERNAL ACCESS & BARRIERS
West Campus

	Existing	Needed
Building Entrances, Wheelchair		6 (4 bldgs.)
Existing	6 (3 bldgs.)	
Temporary	1 (1 bldg.)	
Curb Cuts		6
Existing	1 (ramp, Biomed)	
Temporary		
Handicapped, Auto Parking	1 (Adm. bldg.)	*
Other Barriers		--
Exterior ramps, Admin. Bldg.	--	1 (NW Corner)
Wheelchair Access Routes (See map)		

* Additional handicapped parking can be provided easily as needed.

Accessibility in Multi-Floor Buildings

One of the barriers to movement by the physically handicapped is the existence of only stair access to upper levels in most of the multi-floor buildings. Shown below is a brief summary of the accessibility on the upper floors of buildings at the Washington Street and West Campuses.

Washington St. Campus

Single Floor	Elevator Access	Stair Access
Women's Gym	Library	Ordway
Men's Gym	Administration	Durrett
Maintenance & Child. Care	Business/Technology	Engineering
	Music (2)	Warren
	Art Centers (2)	Biological
		CUB (1)
		Concert Hall
		Theater

West Campus

Automotive	Administration
Shop C.	
Cafeteria	
Biomedical	

(1) The CUB has a freight elevator which is virtually inaccessible to handicapped students.

(2) The Music Building and Art Center are served by an elevator, but access to the building is limited by steep ramps.

Of particular concern are those multi-floor buildings which are not accessible through elevators. There are eight such buildings, four of which contain laboratories which are located exclusively in a given building. These include Durrett Hall, Warren Hall, Biological Building and the West Campus Administration Building. The Act of 1973 requires elevators in these buildings. In addition, the elevator in the CUB is so inconveniently located for handicapped persons that it may be necessary to either install another or provide improved access to the existing one.

It would probably be feasible physically, and result in significant dollar savings, to construct a single elevator to serve two adjoining buildings in instances of (1) Ordway Hall and the Biological Building and (2) Durrett Hall and the Engineering Building. Of the four inaccessible multi-story buildings which contain laboratories, we will probably be required to construct elevators by the 1980 deadline (or negotiate a suitable deadline), and in the process we can provide accessibility to two other buildings (Ordway and Engineering). This action would provide

accessiblity to all multi-story buildings except the Concert Hall-Theater and the CUB, for which accessibility might be delayed, although certain community groups might push for quicker action. In the Theater Building accessiblity might be provided by constructing an interior ramp in the auditorium, at less cost than an elevator.

Barriers Within Buildings

The following paragrphs contain brief descriptions of the barriers to physically handicapped students within individual buildings. In addition to the barriers noted within specific buildings, there are several hazards or limitations common to all buildings, ranging from minor to serious importance. Of these, only the more important will be included within the scope of recommendations for improving accessibility. The detailed reports on barriers within each building are contained in Appendix C.

Some common barriers to accessibility include door entrances which are too narrow or have thresholds which are an impediment to wheelchair travel, stair handrails that do not meet safety requirements, toilet and restroom facilities that are inaccessible, improperly located water fountains and public telephones, and the lack of appropriate identification or warning signals within each building. Standard requirements for within-building identification include knurled doorknobs and panic bars for doors which open to hazardous areas such as stairwells, equipment rooms, and so forth. Braille room numbers are recommended, mounted at a standards height and location for blind persons. Warning signals to indicate fire, tornado warnings and other emergencies should include flashing light signals for the deaf and buzzers for the blind.

Administration Building, Washington Street Campus. The elevator to the second floor, although adequate for partly ambulatory people, is not of sufficient size to allow a wheelchair and its occupant to enter, turn and have access to the controls, and then exit. Persons using motorized wheelchairs, which are more bulky than hand operated ones, find this elevator inaccessible. Toilet rooms in this building, as in others, do not meet recommended standards in that mirrors, towel dispensers, and soap dispensers are too high.

Ordway Hall. There is no elevator or other means of accessiblity for non-ambulatory people to the second floor. In addition, the first floor hallway on the north end, which provides access to the large auditorium, Social Science faculty offices and some counseling offices, is inaccessible due to a short stairs which separates it from the rest of the building.

College Union Building. There is no access for non-ambulatory students to the second floor of the College Union Building, except in emergencies or extreme conditions, during which individuals may use the freight elevator. The problem is that the freight elevator is accessible only through the

College Union Building (Continued).

kitchen and food preparation area. Difficulties in using this approach are encountered during periods when the kitchen is closed and the door locked, and during periods when freight is temporarily located in the hallways just outside the freight elevator. The elevator is used by the Bookstore to take supplies from the loading dock to a basement storeroom and from there up to the Bookstore area.

Non-ambulatory people who do not have normal upper-body strength often have extreme difficulty in gaining access through the west entrances into the College Union Building. The doors are difficult to open normally, and during high winds virtually impossible. Door openings are too narrow--just 28 inches compared to the recommended 32.

There are two other problems which are general to other AC facilities but which are of paramount importance in a college union building. The toilet rooms do no meet standards in that they are not sufficiently wide or deep, no handrails exist for the handicapped, and mirrors, paper towels and related equipment is too high. Also, water fountains and public telephones in this building are not accessible to wheelchair-bound individuals.

Biological Science Building. Non-ambulatory people have no access to the second floor of this building, a critical lack since all biological laboratories are located on the second floor. Toilet rooms are uniquely inaccessible; wheelchair-bound individuals cannot even enter them.

Durrett Hall. The second floor is inaccessible to wheelchair-bound people, and the entrance is inaccessible to wheelchair people due to small threshold steps at entrances. Other limitations mentioned for buildings in general also apply here.

Engineering Building. The second floor is inaccessible. Although this building does not contain laboratories in the second floor, there are faculty offices as well as classrooms which should ideally be accessible.

Warren Hall. There is no access to the second floor, which contains all chemistry labs, by non-ambulatory individuals. Limitations mentioned generally for other buildings prevail here.

Women's Gym. There is limited accessibility into the Women's Gym through the north side and through the main south entrance. However, once inside the building individuals are restricted to just parts of the building; several steps must be transversed to move from one part of the Gym to another.

Men's Gym. Entrance is not accessible to the handicapped due to exterior steps up to the doorways.

Art Center. The general limits to accessibility which apply to other buildings also exist here.

Theater. The entrance to this building is inaccessible due to steps. Toilet rooms are available only in basement dressing rooms which are not accessible to non-ambulatory people.

Music Building. Accessibility is hampered by existing ramps which are approximately twice as steep as the recommended grade for wheelchair access. Also, door openings are under 28 inches in width, considerably more narrow than the recommended 32.

Maintenance and Security Building. While the west entrance to this building is accessible to the non-ambulatory, accessibility through the east entrance and the entrance to the Print Shop would require the construction of short ramps.

Library Building. An elevator provides access to all floors in the Library Building. However, elevator access to the basement requires the use of a key which must be made available to the individual just for that purpose.

Business/Technology Building. Entrances into this building meet standards, except for the entrance to the elevator area. Here, the building door closers are a heavy-duty type which require more strength than many handicapped individuals possess, particularly during high wind.

Entrance to the Radio-TV area is available through the north door. However, the entrance off Jackson Street can be used only by ambulatory individuals. Since this building attracts a number of visitors including many senior citizens, lack of access through the Jackson Street entrance presents a problem.

Biomedical Building, West Campus. Only those barriers which are mentioned in the introductory paragraphs of this section exist here.

Administration Building, SVA. Entrances are gained only by those who can use the steps or the temporary ramp at the main entrance. Access to the second floor can be gained only by stairs, even though laboratories of certain programs are housed only on the second floor.

B Building, SVA. Only those barriers noted in the introductory paragraphs of this section exist here.

C Building, SVA. Entrance to this building by wheelchair-bound individuals will require construction of ramps to the doorways.

R Building, SVA. Only the general limitations exist here.

Polk Street Gym. Only the general limitations exist here.

Nixson Gym. Entrance to this building requires walking up two steps to the doorways.

Recommendations

Some effort has already been directed toward improving accessibility of facilities and programs at Amarillo College, but much more needs to be done. The following recommendations represent a substained program which will include substantial resources. The program which will include substantial resources. The recommendations include improvements to facilities, education of AC personnel and the community at large about the needs of the handicapped and how they can be accommodated at AC, specific assistance to handicapped students at AC and a future evaluation of progress.

1. Construct all ramps, curb cuts, exterior handrails, improvements to walkways and roadways and layout adequate parking spaces during summer of 1979 which will allow adequate access across both the Washington Street and West Campuses (A detailed list of these improvements with cost estimates has been prepared as a separate document for review and possible Board action).

2. During fall of 1979, renovate one women's and one men's restroom on the second floor of the Library Building to provide adequate accessibility for wheelchair-bound students.

3. Identify additional improvements of the type listed in Number 1, but for which there is limited need. For example, we believe that the ramp on the northwest corner of the SVA Administration Building will definitely be needed in the future, but no handicapped persons now require this facility. Since this would be an unusually expensive ramp to construct, we recommend that it be delayed until needed. At the point of need, the College could provide this and other delayed exterior improvements within four months.

4. By fall of 1979, complete detailed planning and preliminary cost estimates for the installation of elevators which are recommended in the section of this report "Accessibility in Multi-Floor Buildings." These include elevators in locations as listed below and at the top of the next page:

Buildings	Comments
Ordway and Biological Sciences	Common elevator to serve all
Durrett and Engineering	(same as above)
Warren	One elevator

Buildings	Comments
Administration, West Campus	One elevator
College Union Building	One passenger elevator
Administration, Washington Street	Enlarge existing elevator to accommodate wheelchairs.

5. Develop cost estimates for automated or power-assisted doors at entrances of the College Union Building, Library and the first floor of the Business-Technology Building. Construct such doors when they are justified by the enrollment of handicapped students.

6. Construct at least the first four elevators just listed during the summer of 1980, as they will provide essential access to educational laboratories. If money is available, also construct the passenger elevator for the CUB, as it provides access to many student services and staff personnel which are provided for all AC students. The second floor of the Administration Building, Washington Street Campus, is not visited so frequently by the handicapped persons, but it is highly desirable that this elevator be enlarged (or the door enlarged) to accommodate wheelchairs.

7. A detailed plan should be developed by spring 1980 for making an adequate number of toilets and public telephones accessible. This plan should include (a) a list of the facilities to be made accessible, (b) a brief description of the needed improvements, and (c) a cost estimate.

8. Name a committee of AC personnel, students, and perhaps two representatives of community service agencies to advise on continued efforts to make AC and its educational programs accessible, and to provide education to AC personnel and the community about the special needs of handicapped students and how these can be accommodated.

9. Develop an attractive brochure which describes accessible facilities and equipment at AC, including a campus access plan (map) for wheelchair-bound persons, other special educational facilities, and the commitment by the College to having its programs accessible to the handicapped. This brochure should be available to students, area agencies which serve the handicapped, and the general public.

10. Designate a formal role, perhaps half-time, of "Coordinator for Handicapped Students." This role should be assigned within the Student Services organization. Duties should include:

    a. Assembling each semester or quarter accurate information about the numbers and types of handicapped students.

    b. Providing assistance to handicapped students and prospective students in learning about and using special facilities and services which are available to them. Also, serve as a liaison with other College staff members to help resolve special problems of handicapped individuals which may arise from day to day.

    c. Provide assistance to student organizations and the College staff in understanding the special needs of handicapped students.

    d. Assist with projects, organizations and committees which are intended to improve the quality of education of handicapped AC students.

11. Beginning in August, 1979, implement a program of in-service education for all AC staff members on the special needs of handicapped students and employees. This responsibility should be coordinated by the Dean of Student Services.

12. By spring 1981, complete an evaluation report on the quality of facilities, services and general accessibility for handicapped students. This report shall compare potential and existing levels of service and enrollment of handicapped students.

Cost

Since it is not possible at this time to list costs, the recommendations in Numbers 3, 4, and 5 include developing cost estimates. Meanwhile, a general estimate of about $300,000 was discussed in September, 1978. A closer estimate will require the services of an architect, based on design considerations which have not yet been developed.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

NUMBER OF POTENTIAL NON-AMBULATORY HANDICAPPED STUDENTS AT AMARILLO COLLEGE

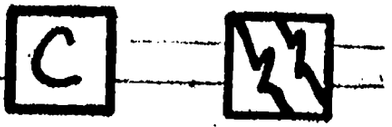
Ratio of 16 to 64 age group to total population (based on 1970 census data) =	0.6024
Percent of handicapped among 16-64 age group = (5.6 percent, based on Texas Department of Highway and Public Transportation)	0.0560
Percent of handicapped which have mobility impairments = (20 percent, based on Texas Rehabilitation Commission data)	0.2000

.6024 x .056 x .2 = .006746

1977-78 AC credit unduplicated HC	=	8,354
1977-78 AC non-credit unduplicated HC	=	13,331
1979 Amarillo population	=	156,308
1980 Amarillo population	=	160,160
1990 Amarillo population	=	190,320
1977-78 Potential credit non-ambulatory handicapped students	=	56
1977-78 Potential non-credit	=	90
1977-78 Total Potential		146
1989-90 Total Potential		178

APPENDIX B

SYMBOLS FOR INDICATING BARRIERS ON MAPS

CATEGORIES	SYMBOL	COLOR CODE
Wheelchair Building Entrances		
Existing		Red
Needed		Red
Ramps Attached		
Existing Ramps		Red
Existing Temporary		Red
Needed		Red
Cuts, or Curb Access		
Existing		Red
Needed		Red
Other Barriers		
Walkway Blocked by Automobiles		Red
Major Cracks, Gaps, Etc.		Red
Steps		Red
Exterior Detached Ramps		
Existing		Red
Needed		Red
Automobile Parking, Handicapped		Orange
Wheelchair Routes		
Accessible & Proposed		Yellow
Art Complex, Lower Level		Yellow

APPENDIX C

Barriers Within Buildings

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

First floor is accessible to handicapped. Doors and doorways meet all specifications with the exception that stair rails are too high and do not extend 18 inches beyond top and bottom steps.

Floors meet minimum standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards. Mirrors, towel dispensers, etc. are too high.

Water fountains do not meet minimum standards.

There are no public telephones in this building.

There is an elevator to the second floor, however, it is not of sufficient size to allow wheelchair students to go to the second floor.

Controls in this building are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

ORDWAY HALL

Entrance into this building does not meet minimum standards.

The one accessible door is on the northeast side and the opening is only 31 inches.

Doors and doorways inside the building meet minimum standards with the exception of stair rails and handrails which are too high and do not extend 18 inches beyond top and bottom step.

There is no elevator in this building for accessibility to the second floor.

Floors meet minimum specifications.

Toilet rooms do not meet specifications due to size, height of mirrors, towel holders, etc.

Water fountains in this building do meet minimum standards.

Public telephone in this building does not meet the standards.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

The auditorium portion of this building is not accessible due to size of doors and steps.

COLLEGE UNION BUILDING

Entrances to the College Union Building do not meet minimum standards.

Door openings are only 28 inches. Doors and doorways do not meet minimum standards. Stairways into the basement and to second floor--handrails are too high--do not extend 18 inches beyond top step. Floors meet all minimum standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards. Stalls are not wide enough. No handrails for handicapped. Mirrors, paper towel dispensers are too high.

Water fountains do not meet minimum standards. They are too high for wheelchair students.

There are two public telephones in this building, neither of which meet the minimum requirements. They are not accessible to handicapped persons in a wheelchair.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

Freight elevator to second floor.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING

Biological Sciences Building has an accessible entrance for all types of handicapped, southwest corner of building. There is no accessibility for wheelchairs to the second floor of this building.

Doors and doorways, Biological Sciences Building, meet the minimum standards with the exception of stair rails which do not extend the required 18 inches beyond the top step. Floors meet all the required specifications.

Toilet rooms do not meet any of the specifications for the handicapped.

Doors are not wide enough; stalls are not wide enough; commodes are not high enough from the floor. Water fountains do not meet the specifications for persons in wheelchairs. There are no public telephones in the building.

Controls for light switches are too high for anyone in a wheelchair to reach.

There are no identification signs or warning signals for the handicapped.

DURRETT HALL

Entrance into this building is not accessible for wheelchair students due to small steps. Doors and doorways meet minimum specifications with the exception of stair rails are too high and do not extend 18 inches beyond bottom and top step.

Floors meet minimum standards.

Toilets do not meet minimum standards due to size, height of mirrors, towel racks, etc.

Water fountains in this building meet standards.

There are no public telephones.

No elevators.

Control switches are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

ENGINEERING BUILDING

Entrances into the first floor are accessible to the handicapped.

There are no elevators or accessibility to the second floor. Doors and doorways meet minimum standards with the exception of stair rails being too high and do not extend 18 inches beyond the top and bottom step.

Floors meet minimum standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet minimum standards due to size, height of mirrors, towel dispensers, etc.

Water fountains do not meet minimum standards.

There are no public telephones in this building.

Control switches are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

WARREN HALL

Entrance to this building does not completely meet standards due to entrance doors being only 31 inches.

Doors and doorways inside the building meet all standards with the exception of handrails on the steps are too high and do not extend 18 inches beyond the top and bottom step.

Floors in this building meet standards.

WARREN HALL (Continued)

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of mirrors, towel dispensers, etc.

Water fountains in this building do not meet standards.

There are no public telephones in this building.

There is no elevator for access to second floor.

Control switches are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

WOMEN'S GYM

Entrances into this building do not completely meet the standards.

Entrance to the new part of the gym is accessible through the north side (both east and west doors) however once inside they are restricted to the new part of the gym. Entrance into the old part of the gym is available through the main south entrances, however, there is a ramp inside the entrance to the main floor which rises 8 inches in 10 feet which does not completely meet minimum standards.

Doors and doorways meet minimum standards.

Floors meet minimum standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet minimum standards due to height of mirrors and paper towel dispensers, etc.

Water fountains in this building are not accessible to the handicapped.

There are no public telephones in this building.

No elevators.

Controls, switches are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

MEN'S GYM

Entrance into this building is not accessible to the handicapped. There are steps up to the doorways. Doors and doorways inside the building meet standards. Floors meet standards.

Toilets do not meet the standards. Mirrors, paper towel dispensers are too high.

MEN'S GYM (Continued)

Water fountains are not accessible to handicapped in wheelchairs.

There are no public telephones in this building.

There are no elevators.

Switches and controls are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

ART CENTER

Entrance to this building at all levels does not meet standards due to door widths. Doors and doorways meet standards except for stairways--do not meet the standards for height or do not extend the required 18 inches above and below steps.

Floors meet all standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of paper towels, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains are not accessible.

There are no public telephones in this building.

Elevator in this building meets standards for access to all floors.

Controls do not meet standards--they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

THEATER

Entrance to this building does not meet specifications due to steps, entrances are completely inaccessible to area for wheelchair students. Doors and doorways--widths are not 32 inches.

Stairway railings are not proper heights, nor do they extend the required 18 inches above and below steps.

Floors meet all specifications.

Toilet rooms in this building are only available in the basement dressing rooms and do not meet specifications due to size, height of paper towels, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains do not meet specifications.

There are no public telephones in this building.

THEATER (Continued)

There are no elevators in this building.

Controls do not meet specifications--they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

MUSIC BUILDING

Entrance to this building does not meet standards, due to two reasons:

1. The ramp to this building does not meet specifications.

2. Door openings into the building are only 27 1/2 inches.

Doors and doorways inside the building meet all specifications.

Stairwells to second and third floors do not meet specifications due to handrails not extending 18 inches beyond top and bottom step.

Floors meet all standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size and height of paper towels, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains do not meet specifications.

Public telephones in this building: none.

The elevator in this building meets specifications for access to all floors.

Controls do not meet specifications because they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

MAINTENANCE AND SECURITY BUILDING

West entrance to this building is accessible to the handicapped, only exception being those handicapped using the Print Shop. Would require a ramp northeast corner of the building, Print Shop area. The rest of the building is accessible through the west entrance.

LIBRARY BUILDING

Entrances to the Library Building are accessible--meet all minimum requirements. All four floors are accessible, by elevator--requiring the use of a key for accessibility to the basement.

Doors and doorways meet all minimum requirements, with the exception that stair rails are too high and do not extend the required 18 inches beyond top step.

Floors meet all standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards--stalls are too small.

Paper towels, mirrors are too high.

Public telephone in this building is not accessible to the handicapped.

Water fountains do not meet minimum standards. They are too high for wheelchair students.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY

Entrance into this building meets standards.

Doors and doorways meet standards with the exception--entrance to elevator area of this building door closers are heavy-duty type and may be too strong for handicapped entrance.

Elevator ground level makes all floors of the building accessible.

The stairwells within the building meet all the specifications with the exception that the handrails are too high.

Floors meet standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards. Mirrors, towel holders, etc. are not accessible to handicapped.

Water fountains are not accessible to handicapped.

Public telephone, ground level, this building is not accessible to the handicapped.

Controls, light switches are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

TV DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS/TECHNOLOGY

TV Department of Business/Technology is a single level building.

Entrance is available through the north door, however, this area is not completely accessible due to some doors do not meet the required 32 inch openings.

The rest of the TV Department is the same as Business/Technology.

BIOMEDICAL ARTS AND SCIENCES BUILDING

Entrance into this building meets standards. Doors and doorways meet standards.

Floors meet standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of mirrors, towel holders, etc.

Water fountains do not meet standards.

Public telephones: none.

There are no elevators in this building.

Controls do not meet standards--they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, SVA

Entrances to this building does not meet the standards, due to the widths of the entrance doors, which are only 31 inches.

Doors and doorways meet standards with the exception of stairways to second floor handrails do not meet height standards and do not extend 18 inches beyond top and bottom steps.

Floors meet standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of towel dispensers, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains do not meet standards.

Public telephones do not meet standards.

There are no elevators in this building.

Controls do not meet standards because they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

"B" BUILDING, SVA

Entrances meet standards. Doors and doorways meet standards.

Floors meet standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of towel dispensers, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains do not meet standards.

There are no public telephones in this building.

Elevators: none in this building.

Controls do not meet standards because they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

"C" BUILDING, SVA

Entrance to this building is acceptable. Would require construction of ramps for the three steps going up to the doors.

Doors and doorways meet standards.

Floors meet standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of towel dispensers, mirrors, etc.

Water fountains do not meet standards.

There is one public telephone in this building which is too high for handicapped.

Elevators: none.

Controls do not meet standards because they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

"R" BUILDING, SVA

Entrance to this building does not meet standards due to width of doors.

Floors meet all standards.

Toilet rooms do not meet standards due to size, height of towel dispensers, mirrors, etc.

There are no public telephones in this building.

"R" BUILDING, SVA (Continued)

Water fountains do not meet standards.

There are no elevators in this building.

Controls do not meet standards because they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

POLK STREET GYM

Entrance into this building does not meet standards, due to two steps.

Doors and doorways meet standards.

Floors meet standards.

Toilets do not meet standards, due to size, height of mirrors, towel dispensers, etc.

Water fountains do not meet standards.

There are no public telephones in this building.

There are no elevators in this building.

Controls do not meet standards due to being too high.

NIXSON GYM

Entrance into this building does not meet standards, due to two steps up to the doorways. Doors and doorways inside the building meet the standards.

Stairwells to the dance studio in this building does not meet standards due to height of rails, and they do not extend the required 18 inches above and below.

Floors in this building meet standards.

There are no toilets in this building.

Water fountains meet standards.

Public telephones: none.

Elevators: none.

Control switches do not meet standards--they are too high.

There are no identification or warning signals in this building.

JAN 11 1980