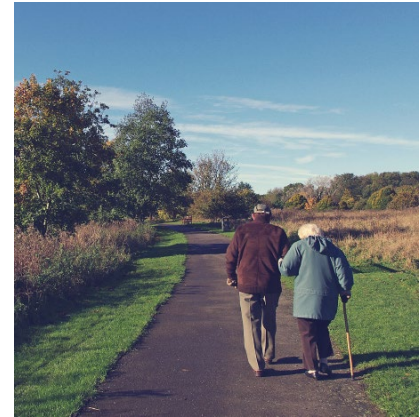
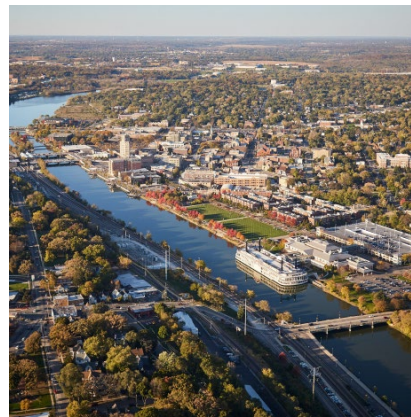
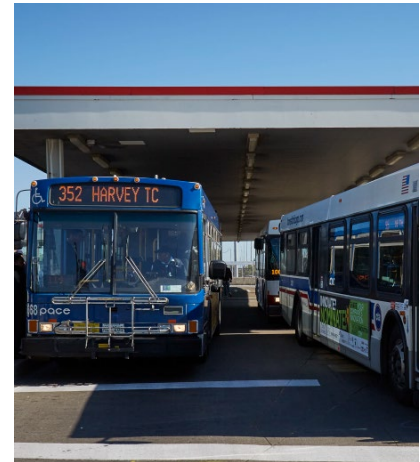


Meeting 1: Regional ADA Coordinator Group

November 19, 2024





Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

Access check





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Introduction

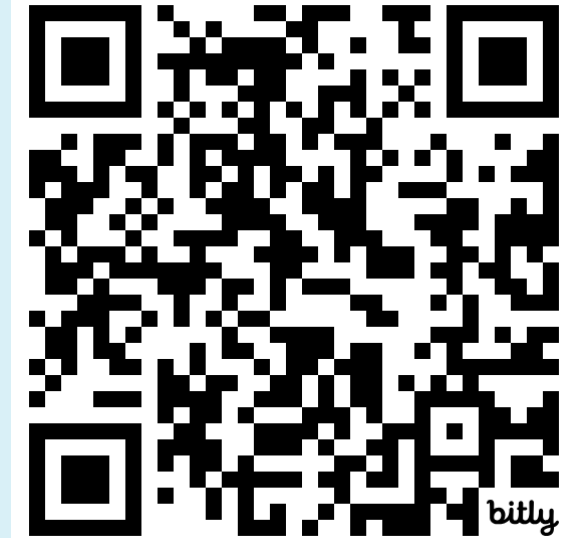


Agenda

1. Introductions and welcome
2. About the Regional ADA Coordinator Group
3. Web and digital accessibility guidelines
4. Break
5. Survey results and discussion (MUSE)
6. Future topics discussion
7. Meeting adjournment



If you haven't completed the ~3 minute survey yet, scan the QR code or click the link in the chat.





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 strongly encouraged!
Please ask questions, share experiences, drop comments, etc.
- Meetings will not be recorded but we will share slides and resource links.

Meet CMAP's Accessible Communities team



Jaemi Jackson
Planning Principal
Accessibility Program Manager



Jeffrey Nolish
Senior Planner,
ADA Specialist



Caroline Caruso
Planning Intern



Sema Abulhab
Senior Engagement
Specialist



Kaitlin Cernak
Senior Communications
Specialist



Coming soon: Accessible Public Engagement Training

Meet MUSE Community + Design



Chelsa Moore
Senior Associate

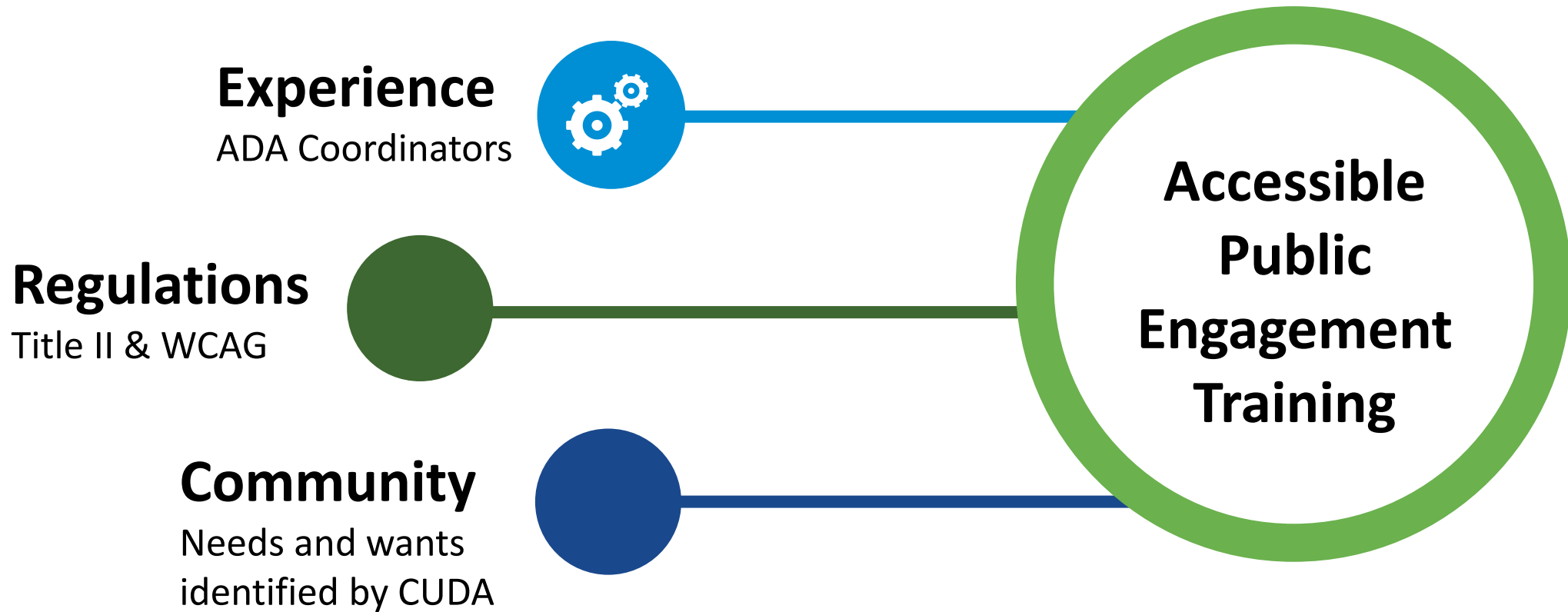


Dhara Shah
Senior Associate

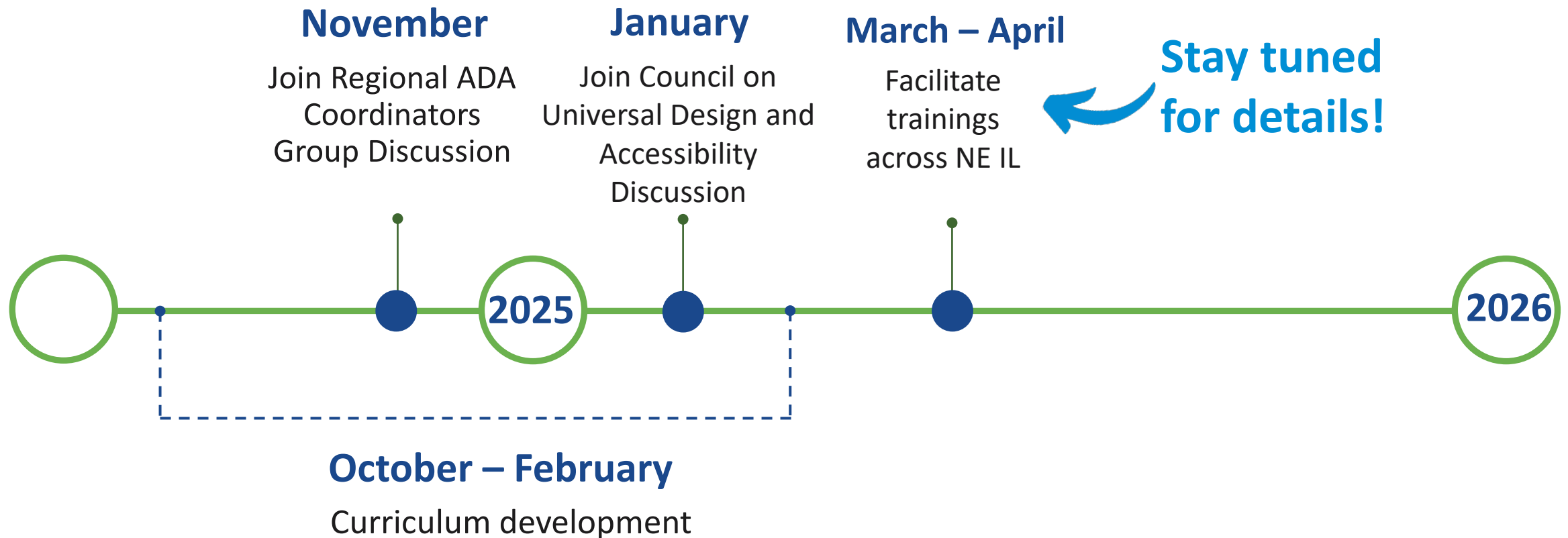


Fiona Kennedy
Associate

MUSE | Building the training: our process



MUSE | Building the training: our timeline



CMAP's Accessible Communities program

- Completed **16 training workshops**, **460+ attendees** from **140 organizations** including **86 municipalities**
 - [Captioned recordings and materials online](#)
- [Technical assistance](#) for public right-of-way ADA self-evaluations and transition plans
- NEW! [Templates and guidance for ADA public notice, ADA coordinator designation, grievance procedure](#)
- [Accessible Communities newsletter sign up](#)



cmap.is/accessibility



Regional ADA Coordinators Group

- Provide ADA coordinators with practical, actionable knowledge and resources
- Space for ADA to connect with each other to share lessons learned and challenges
- Meet 12 times over 2 years



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Guidelines for website and mobile application accessibility





What is website accessibility?

All users can perceive, understand, navigate, interact with, and contribute to your website/app and digital content.

- Title II of the ADA: Equal access to programs, services, and activities
- Accessibility benefits everyone, not just people with disabilities!

What is WCAG?

- “Web Content Accessibility Guidelines”
- Set by the **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)**
- Recommendations for making web content more accessible
- WCAG 2.2 was released October 2023
- WCAG 2.1 AA requirement for government entities

How does WCAG apply to local gov?

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) specifies **WCAG 2.1 Level AA** conformance for all government entities.

- Includes school districts, park districts, police departments, libraries, etc.
- Separate/alternate accessible websites not a solution

By when?

- **April 24, 2026** for municipalities with 50,000+ population
- **April 26, 2027** for municipalities with 49,999 or less



How is WCAG structured?

- 4 principles (Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust)
- 13 guidelines
- 86 success criteria, assigned a level
 - Level A: minimum level, easiest to address
 - Level AA: includes all Level A and AA
 - Level AAA: all Level A, AA, and AAA requirements



WCAG levels at a glance

Level A: Basic

- All images have alt text
- All website functions are usable with a keyboard only

Level AA

- All images have alt text
- Keyboard accessibility
- Color contrast
- Multiple ways of finding pages

Level AAA

- All images have alt text
- Key board accessibility
- Color contrast
- Multiple ways of finding pages
- Sign language interpretation for videos
- 7:1 color contrast ratio

Nonconformance

- Nonconformance with WCAG 2.1 (or any ADA guideline) can result in fines and lawsuits
 - Since 2011, at least [142 local governments have been sued](#) due to website accessibility issues

POUR: Principles of WCAG accessibility

Perceivable

Anyone can distinguish content

Operable

Responsive to user interactions

Understandable

Clear instructions and messaging

Robust









Flexible and adapts to many mediums



Perceivable

- More than one sense
- Captioning and audio descriptions
- Alternative text
- Text color, size, contrast, spacing

WCAG 2.1 AA requires at least 3:1 ratio

	 <p>Low color contrast makes reading difficult</p>	Contrast ratio: 1.63:1
	 <p>Low color contrast makes reading difficult</p>	Contrast ratio: 1.63:1
	 <p>High color contrast makes reading easy</p>	Contrast ratio: 8.69:1
	 <p>High color contrast makes reading easy</p>	Contrast ratio: 8.69:1

Operable

- Keyboard accessible
- Timeouts, authentication, and pause mechanisms
- Flashes and animation





Understandable

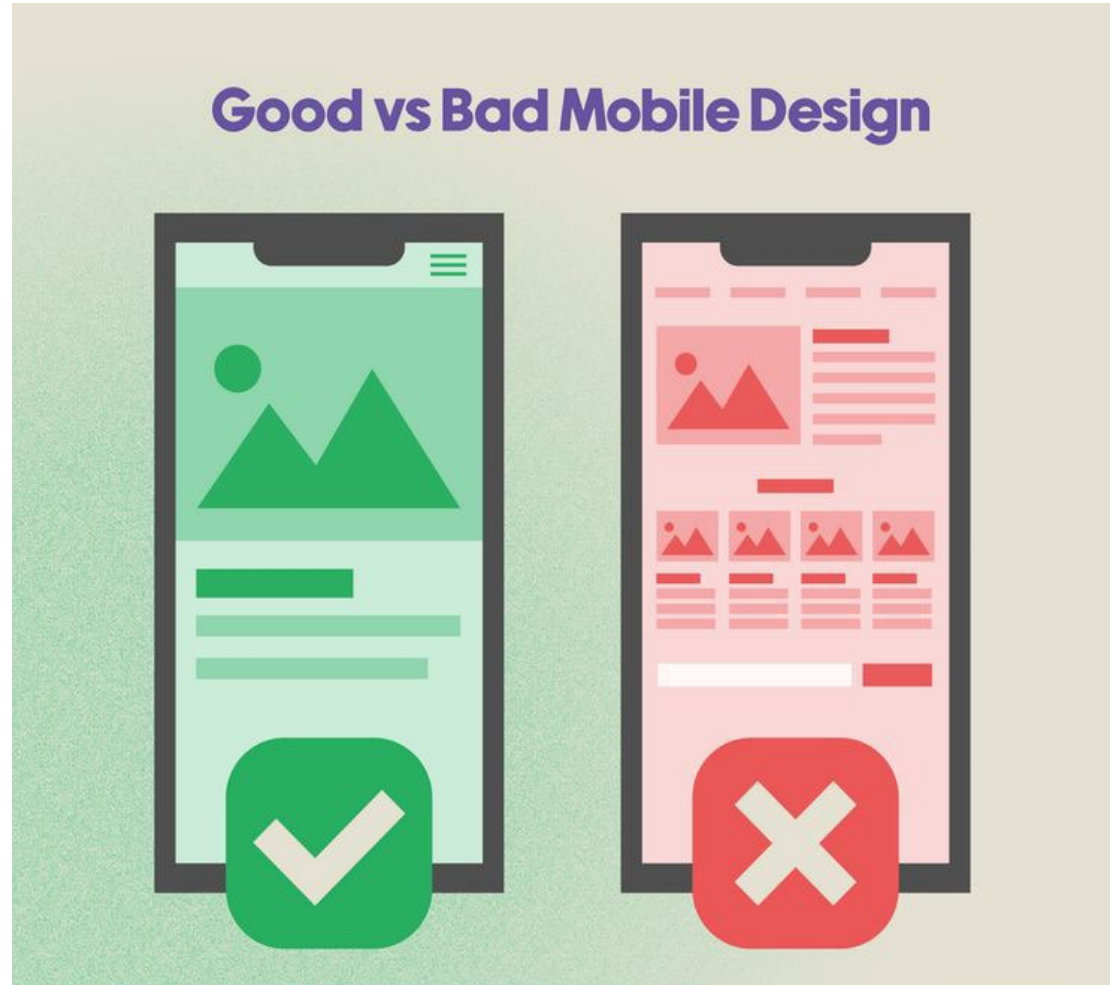
- Avoid abbreviations and technical terms
(plain language!)
- Intuitive interface and navigation
- Consistent labeling
- Help and search functions

***“It’s not
dumbing down.
It’s opening up.”***

-Sarah Richards, content design expert

Robust

- Compatible with assistive technologies
- Website and mobile applications





High-risk nonconformance

- Livestreamed or recorded videos without closed captioning
- Auto-played videos that users with vision impairments or physical disabilities cannot control
- Brightly flashing or fast-moving animations
- Layered or juxtaposed colors with low contrast
- Missing alt text
- <https://www.civicplus.com/blog/wa/local-governments-facing-ada-accessibility-fines>



Uploading accessible documents

- Documents posted online **after the compliance date** must meet WCAG standards
- **Exceptions:** this does not apply to content created before the start date, only if it is archived AND not updated



Accessible documents, examples

Document accessibility **does** apply:

- City council minutes from after the deadline (even if archived)
- Spreadsheets or maps posted before the deadline that are edited and updated

Document accessibility **does not** apply:

- Water quality report in the archive section that is unedited and posted before the deadline



Social media posts

- Not all social media sites are WCAG 2.1 capable
 - Snapchat and LinkedIn mobile app are not compliant
- Use hashtags at the end of the post and capitalize words within
- Provide alt text descriptions in the caption
- Color contrast applies for graphics and images with text
- Avoid critical information text in social graphics
- Provide captions for videos



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Achieving conformance

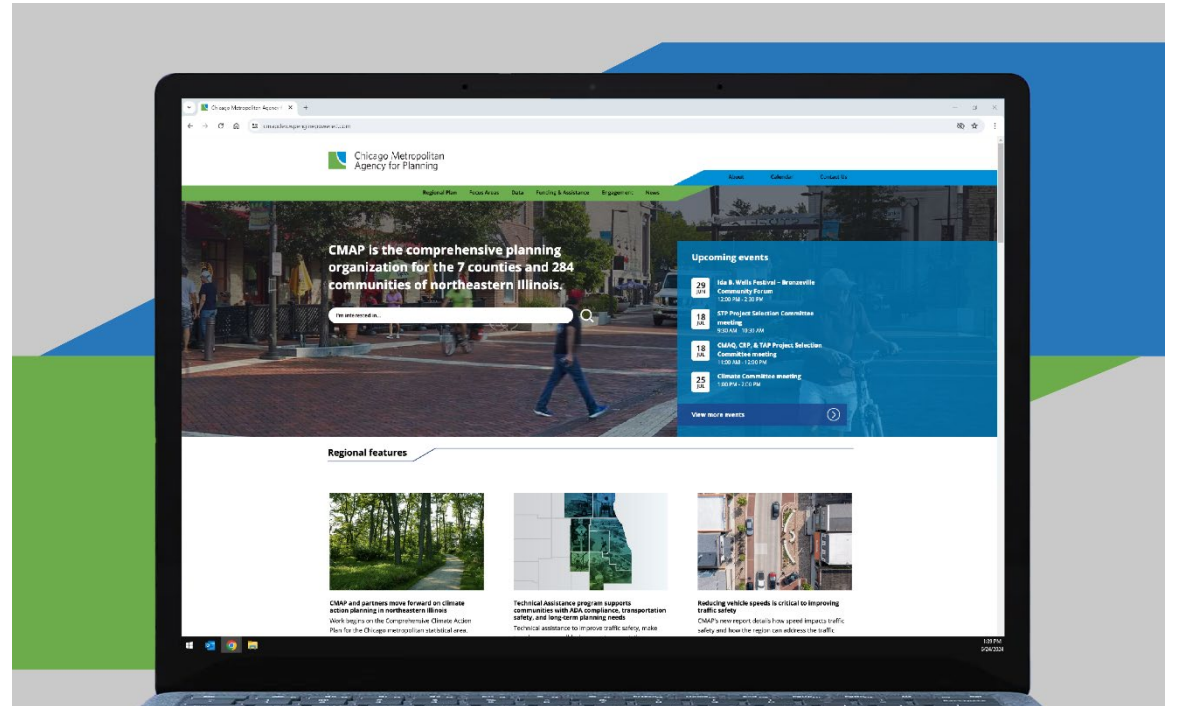


CMAP's new website

award winning!



Joan Smedinghoff
Senior Digital Communications
Specialist





RFP to vendors

“The site must be responsive and accessible, following a mobile-first design and complying at minimum with Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act and WCAG 2.1 level AA standards.”

(from CMAP’s website RFP)

RFP/contract should establish:

- Procurement accessibility policy
- Accountability mechanisms
- Remediation responsibility

[Webinar: Not A Checklist – Building Compliance into your Business Processes - axe-con 2021](#)

- 2021 Webinar with former DOJ Deputy Assistant Attorney General Eve Hill
- Procurement starts at 20:37

Accessibility testing

- Web accessibility audit
- Accessibility conformance report: Voluntary product accessibility template ([VPAT](#))

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<u>1.1.1 Non-text Content</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 501 (Web)(Software)• 504.2 (Authoring Tool)• 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Accessibility Report cmap.illinois.gov Software: Windows, Chrome Authoring Tool: Microsoft Word	Web: This product fully supports this guideline. Electronic Docs: Used to support findings Software: Environment the tests were completed in Authoring Tool: Software used to create this report
<u>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 501 (Web)(Software)• 504.2 (Authoring Tool)• 602.3 (Support Docs)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Accessibility Report cmap.illinois.gov Software: Windows, Chrome Authoring Tool: Microsoft Word	Web: This product fully supports this guideline. Electronic Docs: Used to support findings Software: Environment the tests were completed in Authoring Tool: Software used to create this report

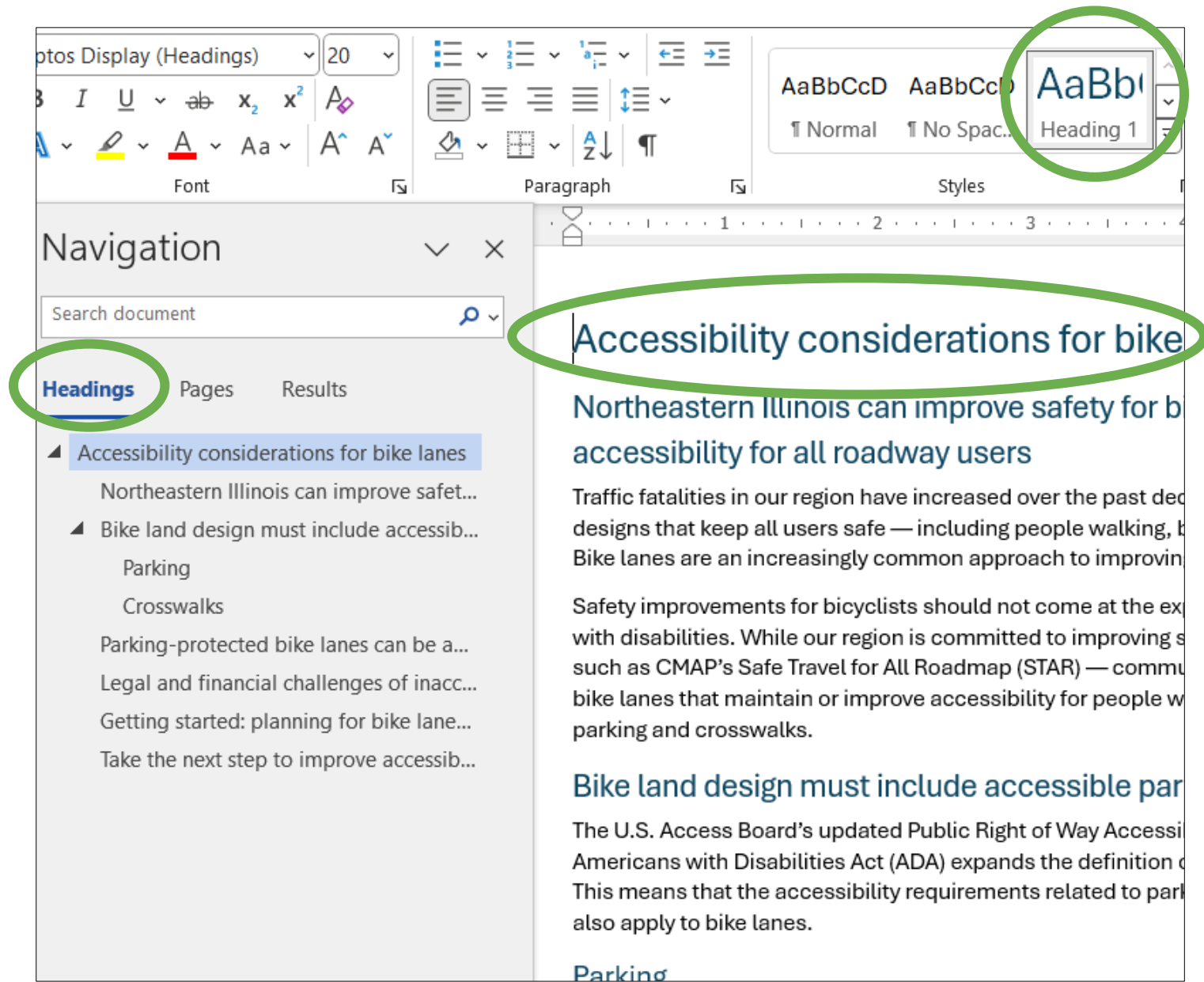


Start with easy wins!

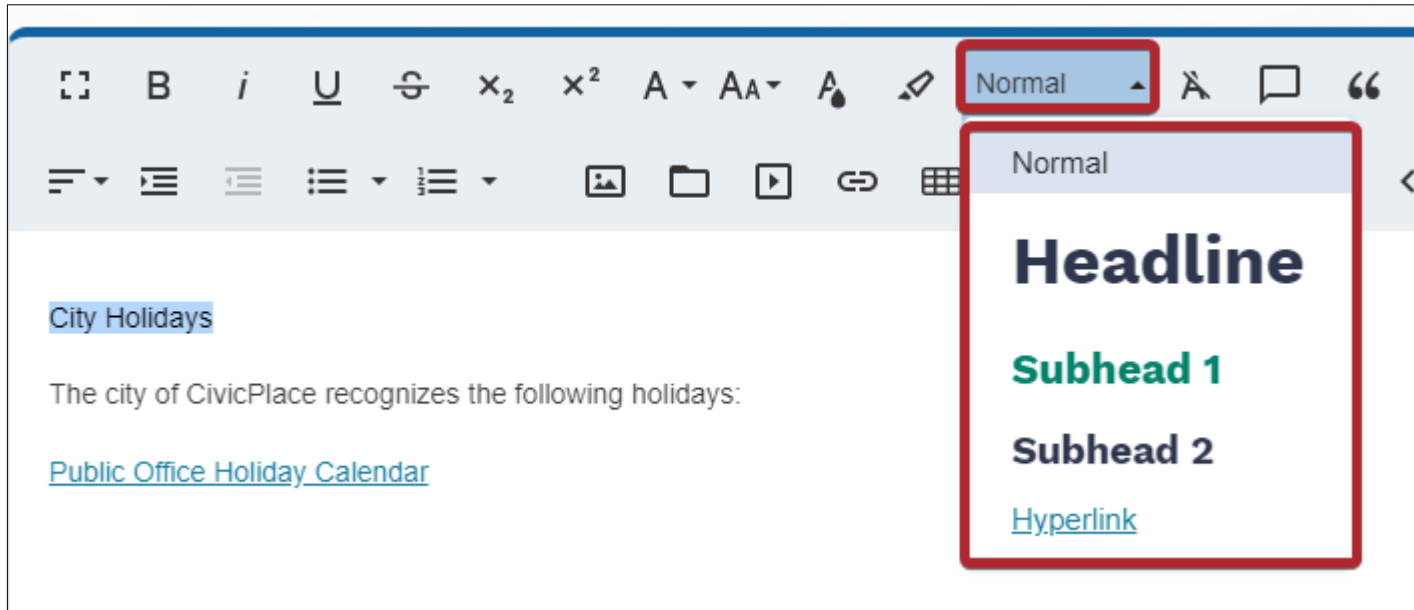
- Headings
- Alt text
- Color contrast
- Subtitles
- Descriptive links

Headings

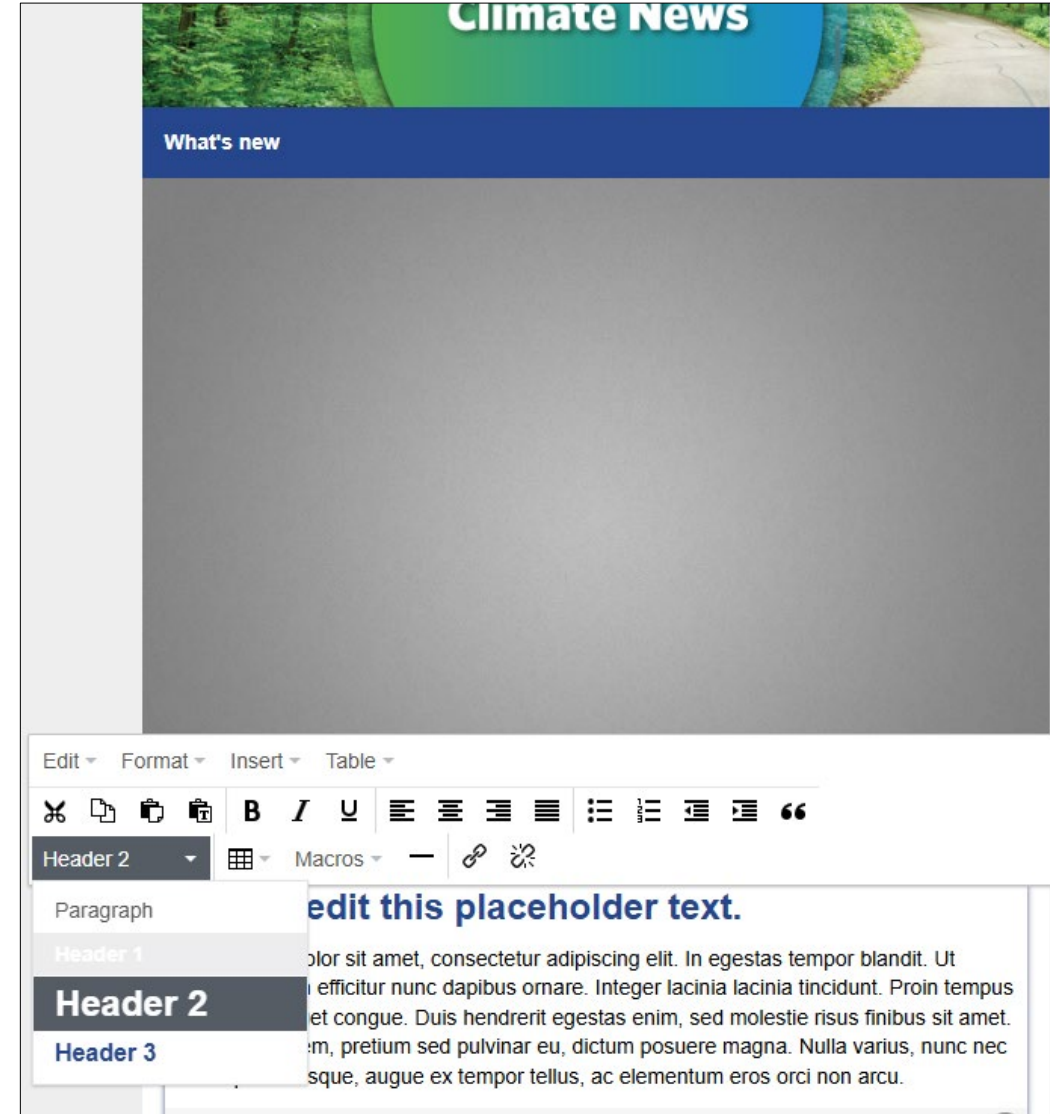
Specific styling/coding in documents, newsletters, and web pages



Headings



Civic Plus



GovDelivery

Alt text

Tells a screen reader what the image is

Illinois positions itself for the clean technology economy

Northeastern Illinois' economy is changing. An [inclusive growth analysis](#) by TIP Strategies encouraged the region to become a national leader in the clean energy economy. Our industrial base has evolved to meet global demand for services and to leverage our historic strengths in goods development, production, and movement. And with an influx of state and federal investment, the region is ready to lead.

There are many opportunities that come with developing a clean economy — from less air and water pollution to more innovation and investment in our region — and CMAP is committed to helping create an equitable, strong, clean economy.

As a region, northeastern Illinois has the most diverse economy of any large U.S. metropolitan area — which makes us well positioned to seize new opportunities. [ON TO 2050](#), the region's long-range plan, seeks to improve our ability to adapt to a changing economy and to thrive by supporting the competitive, export-oriented industries.



There is an unprecedented level of state and federal funding for the clean technology sector through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, and Reimagining Energy and Vehicles in Illinois Act. And now, a new partnership, the Chicagoland Climate Investment Alliance, will help support and grow a clean tech regional economy.

Alt text

Websites



Uploaded on: March 12, 2024

Uploaded by: [Gillian King](#)

File name: img_details_cm-solar-panel-farm.jpg

File type: image/jpeg

File size: 637 KB

Dimensions: 1806 by 1012 pixels

Alternative Text

Aerial view of solar panel farm

[Learn how to describe the purpose of the image.](#) Leave empty if the image is purely decorative.

Title

img_details_cm-solar-panel-farm

Caption

Description

File URL:

https://cmap.illinois.gov/wp-content/uploads/img_details_cm

[Copy URL to clipboard](#)

Required fields are marked *

Replace media

[Upload a new file](#)

Alt text

Social media



Create post

Post to Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Media
Share photos or a video. Instagram posts only.

900 x 506

Add photo

Post details

Customize post for Facebook and Instagram

Text

Collaborator
Add a collaborator to your Facebook post and they will automatically be invited.

Cancel Apply

Edit photo

Creative text

Crop

Filter

Aa Text

Stickers

Alt text

Alt text

Two people walk on sidewalk next to three houses.

Add collaborators

Share to

Accessibility

Alt text describes your photos for people with visual impairments. Alt text is automatically created for your photos or you can choose to write your own.

Two CMAP staff stand behind table

Advanced settings

Alt text

Word processors

or roll down a narrow buffer between the parked vehicles and bike lane to reach the crosswalk/sidewalk curb ramp. Alternatively, they may need to cross a busy bike lane onto the curb where no curb ramp exists. The illustration below shows these barrier solutions.

BEFORE

- Far from crosswalk because no designated space
- Narrow access aisle
- No crosswalk in bike lane
- Inaccessible curb

AFTER

Alt Text

How would you describe this object and its context to someone who is blind or low vision?

- The subject(s) in detail
- The setting
- The actions or interactions
- Other relevant information

(1-2 detailed sentences recommended)

Timeline

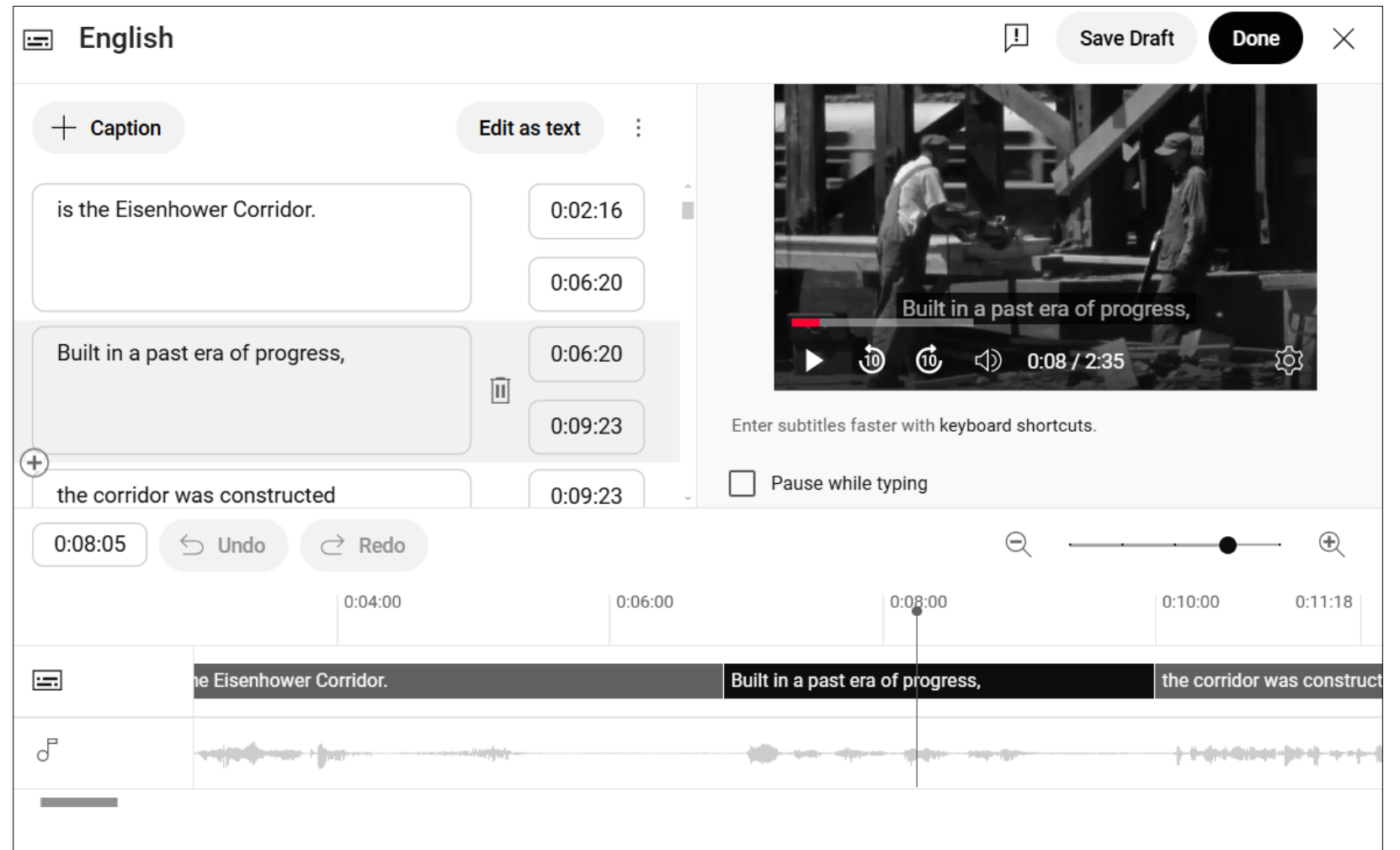
Description automatically generated

Generate alt text for me



Subtitles

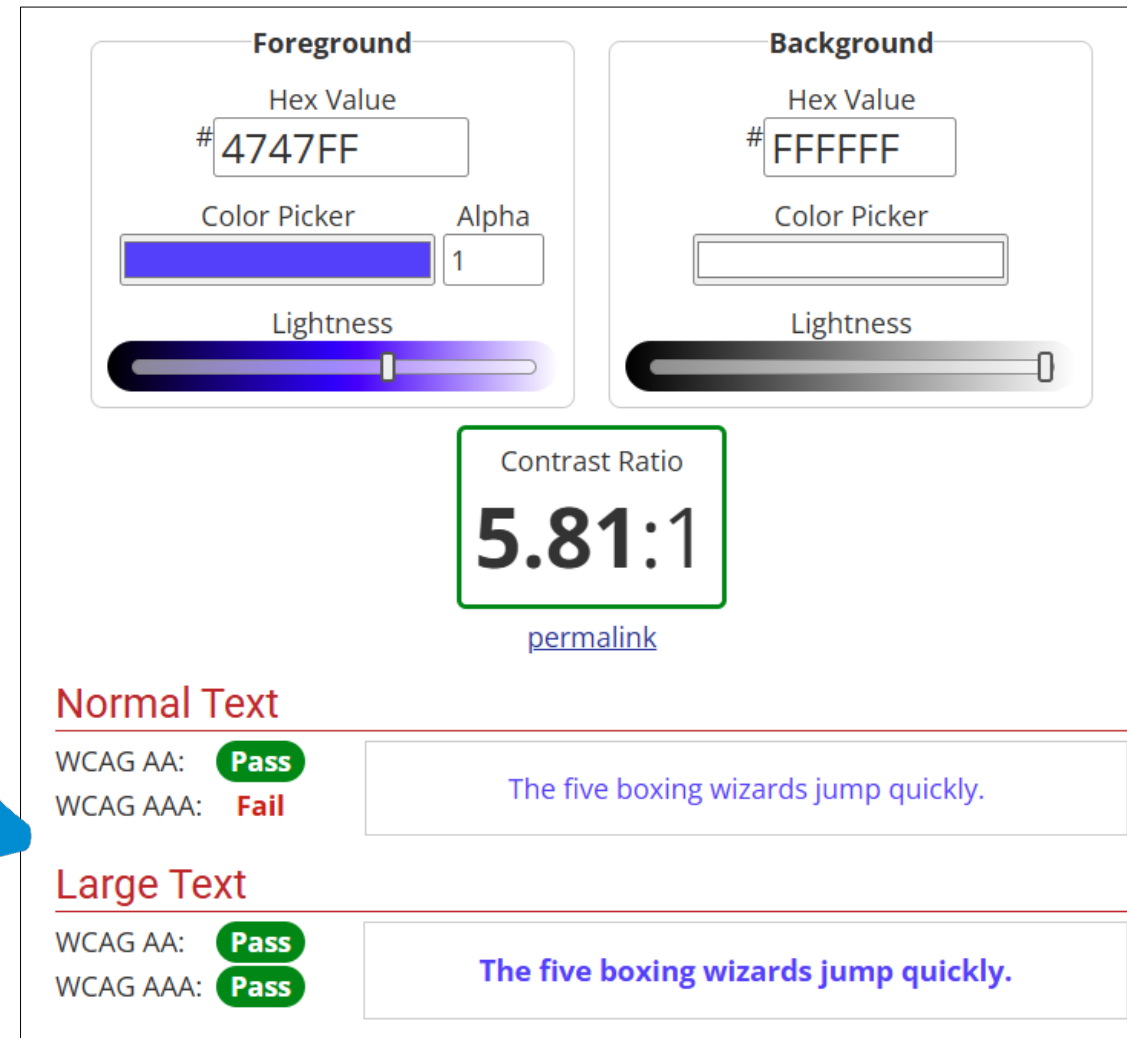
Edit auto-generated
YouTube subtitles



The screenshot displays the YouTube subtitle editor interface for an English video. At the top, there are buttons for "Save Draft" and "Done", along with a language selector set to "English". The main editing area contains a list of subtitle lines, each with a text input field and a time selection box. The current line being edited is "Built in a past era of progress," with a time of 0:06:20. Below the list, there are "Undo" and "Redo" buttons, a time display of 0:08:05, and a "Pause while typing" checkbox. On the right, a video player shows the current frame with the subtitle "Built in a past era of progress," overlaid. The video player includes standard controls like play, previous, next, volume, and a progress bar showing 0:08 / 2:35. At the bottom, a timeline shows the video's duration with markers for 0:04:00, 0:06:00, 0:08:00, 0:10:00, and 0:11:18. Below the timeline, there are tracks for the subtitle text and an audio waveform.

Color contrast

- WCAG 2.1 AA requires at least 3:1 ratio
- Browser widget tests webpage for color blindness
- [WebAIM Color Contrast Checker](#)
- [Adobe Color Accessibility Tool](#)
- [Web Disability Simulator Chrome extension](#)



Foreground
Hex Value: #4747FF
Color Picker: [Color Picker]
Alpha: 1
Lightness: [Slider]

Background
Hex Value: #FFFFFF
Color Picker: [Color Picker]
Lightness: [Slider]

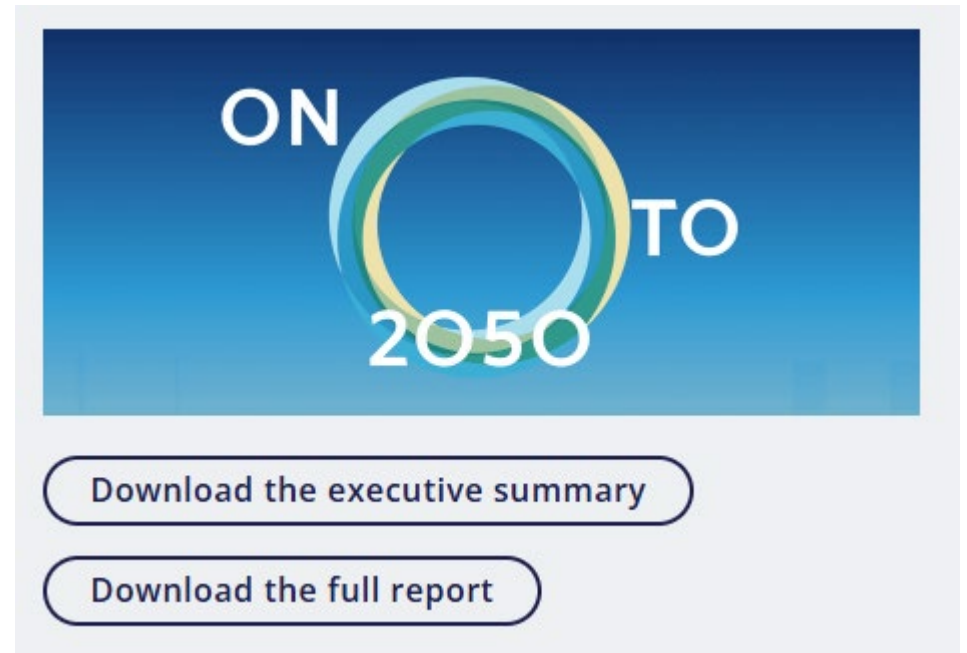
Contrast Ratio: **5.81:1**
[permalink](#)

Normal Text
WCAG AA: **Pass**
WCAG AAA: **Fail**
The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Large Text
WCAG AA: **Pass**
WCAG AAA: **Pass**
The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Descriptive links

Avoid “click here,” “learn more,” etc.



Not accessible:

[Click here](#) for a list of accessibility and ADA compliance resources to help local governments understand federal regulations.

Accessible:

This [list of accessibility and ADA compliance resources](#) helps local governments understand federal regulations.

Communicating to staff

- Buy-in from leadership!
- Provide an **accessibility checklist** and/or **toolkit**
 - Approved color/color combinations
 - Blank templates
 - Links to accessibility checker tools
- Designate a system or process of review

		Background color										
		Midnight	Pine	River	Forest	Lake	Grass	Sunrise	Prairie	Leaf	Snow	White
Text color	Midnight	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
	Pine	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
	River	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
	Forest	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕
	Lake	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊕
	Grass	⊖	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖
	Sunrise	⊕	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊖
	Prairie	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	Leaf	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	Snow	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗
	White	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊖	⊖	⊖	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗

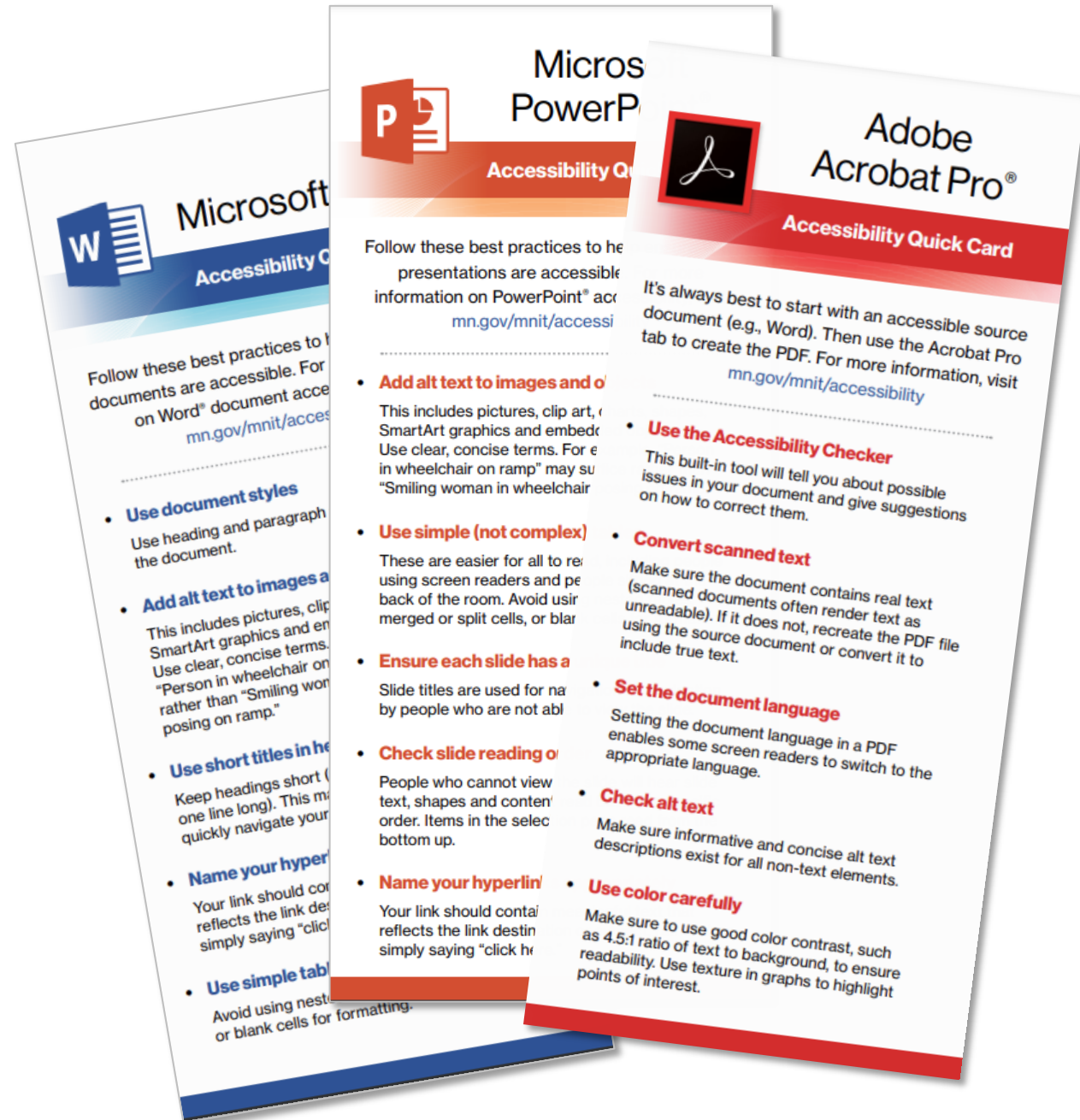
⊗ Inaccessible ⊖ Use bold font. Seek designer approval. ⊕ Accessible

Cross referenced using www.webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker

Software accessibility resource:

Minnesota IT Services Office of Accessibility [quick reference cards](#)

- Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook
- Social media
- Adobe Acrobat Pro, InDesign



Discussion: successes and challenges

Break

If you haven't completed the ~3 minute survey yet, scan the QR code or click the link in the chat.





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MUSE | Survey results and future meeting topics



Discussion: survey results

If you haven't completed the [~3 minute survey](#) yet, scan the QR code or click the link in the chat.



Survey results: barriers and challenges

- Time
- Financial constraints
- Staff capacity
- Lack of knowledge
- Educating others



Discussion: future meeting topics

Stay informed!



Sign up for CMAP's Accessible Communities newsletter



- cmap.is/ADAnewsletter

Upcoming Regional ADA Coordinator Group meetings

- February 11, 2025
- March 11, 2025



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Thank you!

@cmapillinois |    