The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities. Title II of the Act specifically addresses the subject of making public services and public transportation accessible to those with disabilities. Public agencies are required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities, relative to the accessibility requirements of the ADA. Agencies are then required to develop an ADA Transition Plan to address any deficiencies.

The ADA Transition Plan should –
- Identify physical obstacles that limit the accessibility of facilities to individuals with disabilities,
- Describe the methods to be used to make the facilities accessible,
- Provide a schedule for making the access modifications, and
- Identify the public officials responsible for implementation of the Transition Plan.

CHALLENGE
Streamline data collection by developing a process to accurately and uniformly collect all necessary project data for ADA Transition Plan inventory and inspections using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

SOLUTION
Using Esri’s Collector for ArcGIS product and an ArcGIS Online subscription, B&W designed a template and configured a unique, efficient ADA Inventory and Inspection App tool.

RESULTS
This app streamlines inventory and inspection of ADA assets using a smart phone or tablet device. In addition to collecting required attributes for each asset, a photo can be taken to add more content to the field data collected. Beyond the Collector App tool, B&W developed a standardized data template to ensure all critical information is recorded in a uniform and compatible format. Working directly with IDOT staff, we created a one-of-a-kind ADA asset data template. This template ensures all necessary project data is collected and can easily be shared with IDOT in a format consistent with IDOT expectations. This ADA data template is transferable and can be reused to assist any community with ADA Transition Plan compliance.

Contact Andy Zaletel at 815.459.1260 orazaletel@baxterwoodman.com for additional information on how this solution can be implemented in your community.
In the last few years the popularity of drones has grown substantially. Technological advances, increased ease of use, lower costs, and improved overall functionality have turned drones into valuable tools for a variety of industries. What was once considered a hobbyist dominated technology has quickly shifted to commercial applications.

WHAT APPLICATIONS ARE DRONES IDEAL FOR?

High resolution images and video - Drones can collect a wide variety of useful imagery for varying applications. Drones can take photos to help monitor project progress, collect ortho-imagery (for mapping), and even conduct inspection work. Some cameras are capable of taking 36 megapixel images, providing 1mm resolution ortho-mosaics and 4k video.

3D Data Collection – Drones are capable of creating 3D data sets (LIDAR, Point Clouds, etc.) for use in volume measurements, planimetrics, and modeling.

Thermal Imagery – Some drones have Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) available. FLIR can be used for many applications from search and rescue to utility inspections.

Repetitious Flights - Through the use of pre-programmable flight plans, drones can be configured to fly the same path again and again. Repeat flights offer the opportunity to capture the exact same data set repeatedly over a period of time allowing for temporal change detection analysis.

Long Distance Flight - Fixed wing drones are capable of flight times up to 50 minutes at speeds of up to 80 mph. They can cover up to 300 acres of area per flight.

HOW CAN A DRONE ASSIST MY ORGANIZATION?

• Collect data quickly and cost efficiently
• Capture aerial imagery
• Monitor project progress
• Proactively identify potential issues such as algae blooms, invasive species, etc.
• Enhance worker safety by being used instead of staff in high-risk environments

WHAT LIMITATIONS AND REGULATIONS EXIST WITH REGARD TO DRONE USAGE?

The largest barrier to entry for commercial drone usage is the ever-changing legal regulations. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has had to quickly adapt to this rapidly-growing technology by creating new rules that both protect the public and allow for successful commercial operations. In June of 2016, the FAA released “Part 107” which clarifies how a drone can be used commercially.

WHO CAN FLY A DRONE COMMERCIALLY?

To operate the controls of a small UAS under Part 107, you need a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating, or be under the direct supervision of a person who holds such a certificate. For more information visit www.faa.gov/uas/media/Part_107_Summary.pdf

Baxter & Woodman, Inc. has commercially certified drone pilots and drone industry experts on staff. Looking to learn more about how a drone can take your next project to new heights? Contact Andy Zaletel at 815.444.4490 or azuletel@baxterwoodman.com

Below: B&W’s Peter Ferretti recently spoke at Techweek Chicago Summit 2016 on Drone Usage.
IS YOUR CIP UP-TO-DATE?

A Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will help save money by providing a solid foundation for maintaining infrastructure, prioritizing projects, and moving forward in a proactive manner.

WHY CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN?
Lots of Reasons! A comprehensive CIP will allow you to plan your revenue streams over the next 5-10-20 years and budget accordingly. Recently, a client of ours mentioned that their long-time Director of Public Works (DPW) was getting ready to retire. After many years of service, the DPW had accumulated a wealth of knowledge about the state of the government entity’s infrastructure and equipment. Unfortunately, most of this information was stored in the DPW’s head and not somewhere readily accessible to other staff. A CIP can help ensure important information is retained even when staff changes occur.

HOW CAN A CIP HELP?
• Know What You Have
• Know the Condition
• Know What You Plan to Do and When – (Rehab, repair, replace? Today, next year or 5 years?)

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A CIP?
• Allows for a systematic evaluation of all potential projects at the same time.
• Provides opportunity to consolidate projects to reduce borrowing costs.
• Serves as a public relations and economic development tool.
• Focuses on preserving a governmental entity’s infrastructure while ensuring the efficient use of public funds.
• Fosters cooperation among departments and an ability to inform other units of government (school districts and parks and recreation departments, etc.) of the entity’s priorities.

WHAT INFORMATION IS TYPICALLY INCLUDED?
• A listing of the capital projects or equipment to be purchased.
• The projects ranked in order of preference.
• The plan for financing the projects.
• A timetable for the construction or completion of the project.
• Justification for the project.
• Explanation of expenses for the project.

HOW CAN B&W ASSIST?
• Help develop costs for improvements
• Assist with the process of prioritizing needs
• Implement GIS asset management tools to allow CIP to be easily updated

For additional information on the benefits of a CIP contact Jim Sparber at 815.444.3385 or jsparber@baxterwoodman.com
BWCSI OFFERS SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR YOUR SCADA OR IT NETWORK!

BAXTER & WOODMAN, INC. SUBSIDIARY BWCSI IS NOW OFFERING SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACTS to quickly and efficiently respond to all of your information technology (IT) and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) needs. From peace-of-mind preventative maintenance to emergency break/fix repair and comprehensive consulting/planning, BWCSI can tailor a Support Services agreement specifically for your organization.

BENEFITS OF A SUPPORT SERVICES CONTRACT:
1. **Consistent Support** - Maintains a consistent level of support, minimizing downtime and maximizing staff productivity
2. **Simplified Budgeting** - Encourages budget planning and on-time software/support renewals by providing a single-point of contact
3. **Saves Time** - Reduces administrative involvement by consolidating hardware, software, and services
4. **Saves Money** - discounts offered on billing rates and materials

For additional information on creating a Support Services Agreement that is just right for your organization, contact Jessica Kuiper at 815.444.4453 or jkuiper@bwcsi.com