Field Guide for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way
2009 Edition Revised
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ISSUES IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

SIDEWALKS
• Surface (gravel, sand, dirt, cracks, gaps, etc)
• Grade (same as the street)
• Protrusions (4 ft wide by 8 ft high clearance)
• Width (4 ft with passing space, 5 ft continuous)
• Passing space (5 ft by 5 ft at 200 ft intervals)
• Cross slope (2% or flatter)

CURB RAMPS
• Detectable warning (24 inches by full width)
• Landing (4 ft by 4 ft min)
• Protrusions (none allowed)
• Abrupt transition to the road (bottom lip)
• Surface (firm, non-slip)
• Running slope (5% min & 8.3% max)
• Counter slope (8.3% encountering 5% for 24 inches min.)

DRIVEWAYS
• Identification (driveway or ramp)
• Surface (firm, non-slip)
• Grade (same as the street)
• Protrusions (4 ft wide by 8 ft high clearance)
• Clear route (4 ft min)
• Cross slope (2% or flatter)

PUSH BUTTONS
• Button size (2 inches min)
• Directional arrow (positioned correctly)
• Accessible location
• Reach (10 inches to the button from pathway)
• Height (42 inches min, 48 inches max)
• Clear ground space (30 inches by 48 inches)
• Cross slope (2% max.)
ISSUES IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

PROTRUSIONS
• Clearance (4 ft wide by 8 ft high)
• Limits (if between 27 & 80 inches high, 4 inches deep max.)

FLAT OBSTRUCTION
• Holes/depression
• Manhole
• Grates
• Cross slope (steeper than 2% for 50 ft or more)
• Surface (cracks, holes etc)
• Protrusions (none allowed)
• Counter slope (8.3% encountering 5% for 24 inches min.)

UPRIGHT OBSTRUCTIONS
• Poles
• Signs supports
• Tree
• Fire hydrant
• Cabinet
• Mailbox
• Free standing phone booth
• Free standing water fountain
• Stairs or step
• Permanent furniture

PROTRUDING OBSTRUCTIONS
• Sign
• Tree limb
• Recessed wall (over 4” deep and lower than 27” high)
• Guy wire
• Mounted phone booth
• Mounted water fountain
• Mounted cabinet
ISSUES IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

CROSSWALK
• Striping condition
• Obstructions (4 ft minimum of clearance)
• Cross slope with stop control (2% max)
• Cross slope without stop control (5% max)
• Running slope (5% max)

TRANSIT FACILITIES
• Bus stop pads
• 8 ft x 5 ft boarding & alighting area
• Connection to sidewalk
• Cross slope
• Grade
• Protrusions

HANDRAIL
• Both sides
• Continuity
• Surface
• Fitting
• Extensions
• Height
• Cross section
• Handrail clearance
• Walkway clearance

PARKING
• 1-25 slots needs 1 space
• 26-50 slots needs 2 spaces
• 51-75 slots needs 3 spaces
• 76-100 slots needs 4 spaces
• 101-150 slots needs 5 spaces
• 201 + slots needs 4% of total
**SIDEWALKS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY**

**Pedestrian access routes** shall connect pedestrian elements and facilities required to be accessible.

![Figure 1](image)

**Components.** Pedestrian access routes shall consist of one or more of the following components: walkways, ramps, curb ramps (excluding flared sides) and landings, blended transitions, crosswalks, and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses, elevators, and platform lifts.

![Figure 2](image)

**Continuous Width.** The minimum continuous and unobstructed clear width of a pedestrian access route shall be 4.0 ft, exclusive of the width of the curb.
**Width at Passing Spaces.** Walkways in pedestrian access routes that are less than 5.0 ft in clear width shall provide passing spaces at intervals of 200 ft maximum. The minimum dimension of pedestrian access routes at passing spaces shall be 5.0 ft wide for a distance of 5.0 ft.

**Cross Slope.** The cross slope of the walkway of a pedestrian access route shall be 2% maximum.

**Grade.** Where the walkway of a pedestrian access route is contained within a street or highway border, its grade shall not exceed the general grade established for the adjacent street or highway. At other locations, where the grade of the pedestrian access route exceeds 5%, it shall be treated as a ramp per the ADAAG.
**Surface discontinuities** shall not exceed 1/2 inch maximum. Vertical discontinuities between 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch maximum shall be beveled at 1:2 minimum. The bevel shall be applied across the entire level change.

**Figure 5b**

**Gaps** shall not permit passage of a sphere more than 1/2 inch.

**Figure 5c**

**Elongated openings** shall be placed so that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.

**Figure 6**
**Surface.** The surface of the pedestrian access route shall be firm, stable and slip resistant.

**Examples** of non compliant surfaces are: split-face stone units, cobble stones, loose sand, dirt, gravel or any similar irregular surfaces.
PERPENDICULAR CURB RAMPS

Definition. Perpendicular Curb Ramps shall have a running slope that cuts through or is built up to the curb at right angles or meets the gutter grade break at right angles.

Running Slope shall be 5% minimum and 8.3% maximum but shall not require the ramp length to exceed 15.0 ft.

The cross slope at intersections shall be 2% maximum. The cross slope at midblock crossings shall be permitted to be warped to meet street or highway grade.

Landing. A landing of 4.0 ft by 4.0 ft minimum shall be provided at the top of the curb ramp and shall be permitted to overlap other landings and clear space. Running and cross slopes at intersections shall be 2% maximum. Running and cross slope at midblock crossings may be warped to meet street or highway grade.

Flares. Flared sides with a slope of 10% maximum, measured parallel to the curb line, shall be provided where a pedestrian circulation path crosses the curb ramp.
**PARALLEL CURB RAMPS**

**Figure 10**

**Definition.** Parallel Curb Ramps shall have a running slope that is in-line with the direction of sidewalk travel.

**Running Slope** shall be 5% minimum and 8.3% maximum but shall not require the ramp length to exceed 15.0 ft.

**The cross slope** shall be 2% maximum.

**Landing.** The landing of 4.0 ft by 4.0 ft minimum shall be provided at the bottom of the ramp run and shall be permitted to overlap other landings and clear floor or ground space. Running slope and cross slopes at intersections shall be 2% maximum. Running and cross slope at midblock crossings may be warped to meet street or highway grade.

**Diverging Sidewalks.** Where a parallel curb ramp does not occupy the entire width of a sidewalk, drop-offs at diverging segments shall be protected.
**BLENDED TRANSITIONS**

**Figure 11**

**Definition.** Blended Transitions shall have a connection with a grade of 5% or less between the level of the pedestrian walkway and the level of the crosswalk.

**Figure 12**

**Running Slope** shall be 5% maximum but shall not require the ramp length to exceed 15.0 ft.

**The cross slope** shall be 2% maximum.
Detectable Warnings surfaces shall be provided, where a curb ramp, landing, or blended transition connects to a street.

Size. Detectable warning surfaces shall extend 24 inches minimum in the direction of travel and the full width of the curb ramp (exclusive of flares), the landing, or the blended transition.

Surfaces of curb ramps, blended transitions, and landings shall be firm, stable and slip resistant (see page 4).

Grade Breaks at the top and bottom of perpendicular curb ramps shall be perpendicular to the direction of ramp run. At least one end of the bottom grade break shall be at the back of curb. Grade breaks shall not be permitted on the surface of curb ramps, blended transitions, landings, and gutter areas within the pedestrian access route.

Counter Slope of the gutter or street at the foot of a curb ramp, landing, or blended transition shall be 5% maximum.
DRIVEWAYS

Design. There are four basic approaches to designing driveway cuts that meet ADA. The most important element of these solutions is to provide a continuous clear route of travel with a minimum width of 4.0 ft.

Option A

Figure 15

Option B

Figure 16
DRIVEWAYS

Option C

Figure 17

Option D

Figure 18
**PUSH BUTTONS**

Figure 19

**Pedestrian Signals.** Each crosswalk with pedestrian signal indication shall have an accessible pedestrian signal which includes audible and vibrotactile indications of the WALK interval. Where a pedestrian pushbutton is provided, it shall be integrated into the accessible pedestrian signal.

Figure 20

**Push Buttons** should be installed on the crosswalk side of the signal pole, with the proper directional arrow positioned correctly.

**Size and Contrast.** Pedestrian pushbuttons shall be a minimum of 2 inches across in one dimension and shall contrast visually with their housing or mounting.
PUSH BUTTONS

Figure 21

Clear ground space. The clear space shall be 30 inches minimum by 48 inches minimum.

Tone duration. The duration of the locator tone shall be 0.15 seconds maximum and shall repeat at intervals of one second. The locator tone shall operate during the DON'T WALK and flashing DON'T WALK intervals only and shall be deactivated when the pedestrian signal is not operative.

Tone decibel value. 2db minimum to 5db maximum over ambient noise level and shall be responsive to ambient noise level changes.
PROTRUSIONS

Protruding objects on sidewalks and other pedestrian circulation paths shall not reduce the clear width required for pedestrian access routes.

Figure 22

The minimum clearance required is 48 inches wide by 80 inches high.

Figure 23

Protrusion Limits. Objects with leading edges more than 27 inches minimum and not more than 80 inches maximum above the finish surface or ground shall protrude 4 inch maximum horizontally into the pedestrian circulation path.
OBSTRUCTIONS

There are three basic types of obstruction, "Flat", "Upright" & "Protruding".

Figure 24

Examples of "Flat" obstructions are: hole/depression, valve cover, grate, slope, lip/gap and manhole.

Figure 25
OBSTRUCTIONS

Examples of “Upright” obstructions are: utility poles, signs supports, tree, fire hydrant, cabinet, mail box, phone booth, stand, water fountain, stairs and furniture.

Examples of “Protruding” obstructions are: guy wire, tree limb, sign, wall phone, water fountain and mounted cabinet.
CROSSWALK

Figure 28

**Crosswalk marking options.** The three basic options are: transverse, longitudinal and diagonal.

Figure 29

**Obstructions limits.** Cross walk shall have a continuous unobstructed clear width of 4 ft. minimum.

Figure 30

**Dimensions.** For more referance and dimensions see page T-38.1.3 of the standard plans.
TRANSIT FACILITIES

**Bus boarding & alighting areas.** Bus stop pads can be located either within or outside of the shelter:

**Surface.** Bus stop boarding & alighting areas shall have a firm, stable surface.

**Dimensions.** Bus stop boarding & alighting areas shall provide clear minimum dimensions of 8.0 ft deep and 5.0 ft wide.

**Connection.** Bus stop boarding & alighting areas shall be connected to streets, sidewalks, or pedestrian path by an accessible route.

**Slope.** The slope parallel to the roadway at the bus stop boarding & alighting areas shall be the same as the roadway, perpendicular to the roadway, the slope shall not be steeper than 2%.

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* Slope shall be the same as the roadway

Figure 31
**General.** Handrails are not required where walking surfaces comply with grade criteria (see page 5) or if the running slope is less than 5%. Handrails are required on ramp runs with a rise greater than 6 inches or steep walking surfaces (where running slope is greater than 5%).

**Handrails** shall be provided on both sides of ramps and steep walking surfaces.
**HANDRAIL**

**Figure 34**

**Continuity.** Handrails shall be continuous within the full length of each ramp run or steep walking surface.

**Height.** Top of gripping surfaces of handrails shall be 34 inches minimum and 38 inches maximum vertically above ramp run or steep walking surface. Handrails shall be at a consistent height above ramp run or steep walking surface.

**Surface.** Handrail surfaces and any surfaces adjacent to them shall be free of sharp or abrasive elements and shall have rounded edges. Handrail gripping surfaces shall be continuous along their length and shall not be obstructed along their tops or sides. The bottoms of handrail gripping surfaces shall not be obstructed for more than 20% of their length.

**Handrail Extensions.** Handrail gripping surfaces shall extend beyond and in the same direction of the ramp run or steep walking surface. Extensions shall not be required for continuous handrails at the inside turn of the ramp run.

**Top and Bottom Extension at Ramps.** Ramp handrails shall extend horizontally above the landing for 12 inches minimum beyond the top and bottom of ramp runs. Extensions shall return to a wall, guard, or the landing surface, or shall be continuous to the handrail of an adjacent ramp run.
**CLEARANCE.** Clearance between handrail gripping surfaces and adjacent surfaces shall be 1.5 inches minimum. Where provided, horizontal projections shall occur 1.5 inches minimum below the bottom of the handrail gripping surface.

**Circular Cross Section.** Handrail gripping surfaces with a circular cross section shall have an outside diameter of 1.25 inches minimum and 2 inches maximum.

**Fittings.** Handrails shall not rotate within their fittings.

**Non-Circular Cross Sections.** Handrail gripping surfaces with a non-circular cross section shall have a perimeter dimension of 4 inches minimum and 6.25 inches maximum, and a cross-section dimension of 2.25 inches maximum.
The Field Guide for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way

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The content of this guide is based on “The 2008 Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way” in conjunction with the Idaho Transportation Department design criteria. Users are cautioned that transportation design and the associated safety policy, criteria, and technology is a rapidly changing field of study.

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