Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

Module 8
Maintenance of Pedestrian Facilities and Alternate Pedestrian Access Routes in Work Zones
• Title II (28 CFR 35.133(a)) of the ADA requires public entities to maintain equipment and features of facilities that are required to provide ready access to individuals with disabilities.
• Sidewalk maintenance problems that can pose barriers for persons with disabilities include:
  - Buckled/cracked sidewalks
  - Depressed sidewalk segments
  - Overgrown vegetation
  - Snow/Ice accumulation
Potential Solutions

Module 8: Maintenance & Work Zone

- Sidewalk Grinding
- Flexible Pavements
Potential Solutions

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- Who owns the curb ramps?
- What about ice?
Equipment Maintenance

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- Pedestrian Signals
  - Buttons, signal heads, APS operational

- Elevators/lifts
  - Operating mechanisms
Buckled/cracked sidewalks

• Warren, Pennsylvania

Before

After
• Alternate Pedestrian Access Route is required when an existing pedestrian circulation path is temporarily closed by construction, alteration, maintenance, or other condition.
• Unfortunately, too many bad examples...
Pedestrian Considerations

Really?

And so I should walk where?

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Closing Sidewalks

Not so good

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Closing Sidewalks

Abysmal

- Both sides closed
- No advance signs
- No ADA accommodation
Closing Sidewalks

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Closing Sidewalks

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

Closing Sidewalks

Much better
Closing Sidewalks

Better still?

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Pedestrian Access Routes/Features

- Features within the PAR include:
  - Sidewalks
  - Shared Use Paths
  - Crosswalks
  - Pedestrian Signals
  - Access to Transit Stops and Shelters

- Location on the same side of roadway as the closed route is desirable
Readily Accessible to & Usable by Persons with Disabilities?
Designed Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

Readily Accessible to & Usable by Persons with Disabilities?
Readily Accessible to & Usable by Persons with Disabilities?

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
• Alternate pedestrian access routes shall comply with Section R302 (among other things) of the PROWAG. R302 specifies that the alternate circulation path shall be:
  - Provided on the same side of the street as the disrupted route, to the maximum extent feasible
  - Where exposed to adjacent construction, traffic or other hazards, shall be protected with a pedestrian barricade or channelization device
    • Continuous, stable, non-flexible
    • Consist of features identified in the MUTCD Chapter 6F
• Alternate pedestrian access routes shall comply with MUTCD 6D.01, 6D.02 & 6G.05:
  - Advance notice of sidewalk closures required
  - Alt route shall be as detectable and accessible as the closed facility
  - Temporary facilities shall be detectable

• Where provided, pedestrian barricades & channelizing devices shall comply with MUTCD 6F.63, 6F.68 & 6F.71, including:
  - Channelizing devices shall be detectable by cane, with continuous bottom & top surfaces
  - Longitudinal channelizing devices shall be interlocked (no gaps)
Alternate Pedestrian Access Routes

- **Section R302 of PROWAG**
- Alternate routes should:
  - Be located on same side of street if possible
  - Provide smooth, continuous hard surface
  - No curbs or abrupt changes in grade/terrain
  - Provide access to temporary transit stops
  - Maintain existing width (or 60” min) & limit protrusions
  - Work zone communications should be audible and/or detectable
  - Separate pedestrians from worksite with appropriate devices that maintain accessibility
  - Protect peds from excavations, equipment, etc.
Tools to Minimize Impacts

- Phasing of Construction
- Utilize Detailed Plans
- Effective Communication/Signage
- Effective Barriers
- Alternate Routes
- Public Information
• Build new sidewalk early in multi-lane projects
• On bridges, build sidewalk wide enough to accommodate temporary bicycle-pedestrian travel
• In reconstruction of existing sidewalk, only work on one side of street at a time
• Maintain accessible crossings at beginning & end of work zone
Utilize Detailed Plans

- Crosswalk Closure Figure from MUTCD
- Sidewalk Detour Figure from MUTCD
Temporary Traffic Control Guidance

PDF Files of General Special Provisions and Amendments

The General Special Provisions presented here are in PDF format. They are for viewing only and are not in a format that can be copied to use in Contract Provisions. To view them will require the Adobe Acrobat Reader.

NOTE: These Amendments and General Special Provisions are always up-to-date.
Placement of Work Zone Signage

- Sign placement should be in advance of construction site at beginning of block at accessible crossing point
- Appropriate in communicating to persons with visual impairments
- Adequate illumination & reflectors
Examples of Effective Temporary Barricade Design

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Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Temporary Accessible Barricades

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
• Provide detectable alternate routes when the pedestrian access route is detoured; same-side is best, if feasible...
Alternate Routes

Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility
Public Information

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- Community announcements
  - Residents, businesses, schools
- Project web sites
  - Particularly useful with major projects, heavily used facilities
- Other languages, as appropriate