

# ADA Policy and Standards

## DEFINITIONS:

### Accessible

A facility in the public right of way that is approachable and usable by persons with disabilities. {Accessibility Design for All, 7-98} and {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05}

### Accessible Pedestrian Signals

A device that communicates information about the WALK phase in audible and vibrotactile (a vibrating surface, located on the accessible pedestrian signal button, that communicates information through touch) formats. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

### Alternate Pedestrian Access Route:

(Same as Alternative Circulation Path) A temporary accessible route to be used when the Pedestrian Access Route is blocked by construction, alteration, maintenance, or other temporary condition. The alternate route must meet standards to the maximum extent feasible. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Alterations

A change to a facility in the public right-of-way that affects or could affect access, circulation, or use. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

Alterations include, but are not limited to, renovation, rehabilitation, reconstruction, historic restoration, resurfacing of circulation paths or vehicular ways, or changes or rearrangement of structural parts or elements of a facility. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

Pavement patching and liquid-applied sealing, chip seal, (case law) lane restriping that does not involve modal (ie. Changing a shoulder to bikeway) or lane configuration changes, and short-term maintenance activities are not alterations. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Blended Transition

A connection with a grade of 5 percent or less between the level of the pedestrian walkway and the level of the crosswalk. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Counter Slope

Any slope opposing the running slope of a curb ramp. {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003}

### Cross Slope

The grade that is perpendicular to the direction of accessible pedestrian travel. On a sidewalk, shoulder, or blended transition, it is measured perpendicular to the curb line or edge of the street or highway; on a curb ramp, it is measured perpendicular to the running grade. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}{Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Crosswalk

(Same as “Pedestrian Crossing.”) A marked or unmarked pedestrian crossing, typically at an intersection, that connects the designated pedestrian walkway (i.e. sidewalk, shoulder, or pathway) on opposite sides of a roadway. A crosswalk must meet accessibility standards. Note: see also the MUTCD.

### Curb Flare

The sloped area that may occur between the curb ramp and the sidewalk to accommodate the change in grade. Apply curb flares to curb ramps and driveways. (SA created based on language in Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

### Curb Line

A line at the face of the curb that marks the transition between the curb and the gutter, street, or highway. { Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

### Curb Ramp

(Same as sidewalk ramp) A ramp that cuts through or is built up to a curb. { Accessibility Design for All, 7-98 }

#### Perpendicular curb ramp

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. { Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

#### Parallel curb ramp

Parallel curb ramps shall comply with R303.2.2, and shall have a running slope that is in-line with the direction of sidewalk travel. { Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

#### Diagonal curb ramp

Diagonal or corner type *curb ramps* with returned curbs or other well-defined edges shall have the edges parallel to the direction of pedestrian flow.

### Detectable Warning Surface

A surface feature of truncated dome material built in or applied to the walking surface to advise of an upcoming change from pedestrian to vehicular way. { Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05 }

### Driveway

A vehicular access point to the roadway. Where there is a curb, a slope, typically perpendicular to the curb, that cuts through or is built up to the curb to allow cars to effectively negotiate the elevation change between the street and the sidewalk. { SA & KS created this definition because there is guidance pertaining that will need to be referenced }

### Element

An architectural or mechanical component or design feature of a space, site, or public right-of-way. { Accessibility Design for All, 7-98 } { Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004 }

### Facility

All or any portion of buildings, structures, improvements, elements, and pedestrian or vehicular routes located in a public right-of-way. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05} {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Grade Break

The intersection of two adjacent surface planes of different grade. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Gutter Slope

The counter slopes of adjoining gutters and road surfaces immediately adjacent to the *curb ramp* {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2006}

### Hand Rails

A narrow rail for support along walking surfaces, ramps and stairs. {Webster's}

### Highway:

Every way, lane, road, street, boulevard, and every way or place in the state of Washington open as a matter of right to public vehicular travel both inside and outside the limits of incorporated cities and towns. {RCW40.04.010}

A general term for denoting a public way for purposes of travel by vehicular travel, including the entire area within the right-of-way. {Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – 11-20-03}

### Intersection:

The junction of two or more roadways

### Island

A defined area between traffic lanes for control of vehicular movements or for pedestrian refuge {Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – 11-20-03}

### Landing

A level (0 to 2% grade) area within or at the terminus of a stair or ramp. {Accessibility Design for All, 7-98}

### Maintenance Activity

Work performed on existing highway facilities or highway system features so that the facility or feature substantially retains its original intended use and function. {WSDOT Maintenance Office}

### Medians

(Shall have the meaning in MUTCD Section 1A13.48) {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05}

The area between two roadways of a divided highway measured from edge of traveled way to edge of traveled way. The median excludes turn lanes. The median width might be different between intersections, interchanges, and at opposite approaches of the same intersection {Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – 11-20-03}

### Mid Block Crossing

A marked pedestrian crossing located between intersections. {WSDOT Design Manual 1025.03}

### Operable Part

A component of an element used to insert or withdraw objects, or to activate, deactivate, or adjust the element. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05} {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003} {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Passenger Loading Zone

An area where persons with disabilities can enter a vehicle safely {SA created definition based on {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}}

### Pedestrian:

Any person afoot or who is using a wheelchair, power wheelchair, or a means of conveyance propelled by human power other than a bicycle (i.e.: skates or skateboard). {RCW 47.04.010 and a bit from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices- 11-20-03}

### Pedestrian Access Route:

\_(Same as Accessible Route). The continuous and unobstructed walkway within a pedestrian circulation path that provides accessibility. {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}{Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05}

The pedestrian access route is connected to street crossings by curb ramps or blended transitions. The pedestrian access route may include walkways, sidewalks, street crossings and crosswalks, and overpasses and underpasses, courtyards, elevators, platform lifts, stairs, ramps and landings. Where sidewalks are not provided, pedestrian circulation paths maybe provided in the street, highway, or shoulder unless pedestrian use is prohibited. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

Not all routes need to be accessible, but there needs to be an accessible route.

### Pedestrian Circulation Path

A prepared exterior or interior way of passage provided for pedestrian travel. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05}

### Pedestrian Design Clear Zone

The area within the Pedestrian Access Route that is to remain free of obstructions. {SA referenced from Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Pedestrian Overpasses and Underpasses

A grade separated pedestrian facility, typically a bridge structure, over/under a major highway or railroad that allows pedestrians to cross at a different level. {SA adapted from AASHTO guidance 2004}

### Pedestrian Travel Zone

Same as Pedestrian Circulation Path: A continuous and unobstructed walkway within a pedestrian circulation path that provides accessibility. {Accessible Sidewalks and Street Crossings — an informational guide”}

### Person with Disability

An individual who has an impairment, including a mobility, sensory, or cognitive impairment, which results in a functional limitation in access to and use of a building or facility. {Accessibility Design for All, 7-98}

### Pictogram

A pictorial symbol that represents activities, facilities, or concepts. {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003} {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Public Right-of-Way

Public land or property, usually in interconnected corridors, that is acquired for or devoted to transportation purposes. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Rail Platforms

A level area for entry and exiting a light rail, commuter rail and intercity rail system. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05, adapted from Section R414.1}

### Railroad Track Crossings

Locations where an accessible route intersects and crosses a rail road track.

### Ramp

A walking surface between two landings that has a running slope steeper than 1:20. Note: Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights-of-Way, 11-23-05, Section R301.4.2 states “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. {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004} {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003}.

### Roundabout Intersections

Circular intersection with yield control of all entering traffic, channelized approaches, and appropriate geometric curvature, such that travel speeds on the circulatory roadway are typically less than 50 km/h (30 mph). {Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – 11-20-03}.

### Running Slope

The grade that is parallel to the direction of travel, expressed as a ratio of rise to run or as a percent. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Sidewalk

That portion of a street between the curb line, or the edge of a roadway, and the adjacent property line or on easements of private property that is paved or improved and intended for use by pedestrians. {Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices – 11-20-03}

### Sign

An architectural element composed of displayed textural, symbolic, tactile, or pictorial information. {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003}

### Site

A parcel of land bounded by a property line or a designated portion of a public right-of-way, {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003} {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Street Furniture

Sidewalk equipment or furnishings such as garbage cans, benches, etc. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Tactile

Describes an object that can be perceived using the sense of touch. {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003}{Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Traveled Way

(Same as Vehicular Way)

The portion of the roadway intended for the movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders and lanes for parking, turning, and storage for turning. {WSDOT Design Manual 640.03}

A route provided for vehicle traffic. {American National Standard, ICC/ANSI, Nov. 26, 2003}

A route provided for vehicle traffic, such as a street, driveway, or parking facility. {Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines, July 23, 2004}

### Terminology: “to the maximum extent feasible”

From the U.S. Department of Justice title III regulation at 28 CFR 36.402 Alterations: "The phrase ‘to the maximum extent feasible,’ applies to the occasional case where the nature of an existing facility makes it virtually impossible to comply fully with applicable accessibility standards through a planned alteration. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Walk Interval

That phase of a traffic signal cycle during which the pedestrian is to begin crossing, typically indicated by a WALK message or the walking person symbol and its audible equivalent. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Walkway

The continuous portion of the pedestrian access route that is connected to street crossings by curb ramps or blended transitions. {Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Wheeled Mobility Device

A wheelchair, scooter, walker or other wheeled device that provides mobility to those with limited physical abilities. {SA adapted from Revised Draft Guidelines for Accessible Public Rights Of Way, 11-23-05}

### Work Zone

An area of a highway with construction, maintenance, or utility work activities. A work zone is typically marked by signs, channelizing devices, barriers, pavement markings, and/or work vehicles. It extends from the first warning sign or high-intensity rotating, flashing, oscillating, or strobe lights on a vehicle to the END ROAD WORK sign or the last temporary traffic control device. {WSDOT Design Manual, 8-10.03}