

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ROUTE

A Pedestrian Access Route provides a continuous accessible means of passage from one location to another within public right-of-way. New Pedestrian Access Routes (Sidewalks or Sidewalk Space) shall be 5 feet wide excluding the width of curb. However, in unique situations where this is not feasible, a minimum clear width of 4 feet shall be provided excluding the width of curb. Pedestrian Access Routes less than 5 feet excluding the width of curb require the submission of a Design Waiver (See [IIM-LD-227](#)). **Design Exceptions are not applicable for sidewalks less than 4 feet wide.**

New Pedestrian Access Routes (Sidewalk or Sidewalk Space) less than 5 feet in continuous width excluding the width of curb* shall provide a pedestrian passing area a minimum of 5 feet x 5 feet at reasonable intervals not to exceed 200 feet. These passing areas can be provided at street intersections with cross slopes no greater than 48:1 (2%).

Where pedestrian access routes are contained within a street or highway right-of-way, the grade of pedestrian access routes shall not exceed the general grade established for the adjacent street or highway. Where pedestrian access routes are not contained within a street or highway right-of-way, the grade of pedestrian access routes shall be 5% maximum.

The pedestrian access route surfaces shall be firm, stable, and slip resistant and openings that are more than ½ inch in one dimension are prohibited. The pedestrian access route is permitted level changes up to ¼ inch without treatment and level changes between ¼ inch and ½ inch that are beveled with a slope no greater than 2:1.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

All areas of newly designed and newly constructed facilities in public rights of way are subject to these guidelines. This applies to work such as the extension of roadways and sidewalks into undeveloped areas, new subdivisions, and similar types of projects. Full compliance is generally easier in these types of projects because the scope of work is usually extensive enough to allow necessary grading and acquisition of sufficient right of way.

TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE

Existing physical or site development conditions that prohibit the modification or incorporation of elements, spaces, or features which are in full and strict compliance with the minimum requirements for new construction in the public right of way and which are necessary for pedestrian access, circulation, and use (the basis used for exceptions and special technical provisions allowed in alterations). (Source: FHWA Office of Civil Rights Memorandum dated September 12, 2006).

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/guidance/accessibility_guidance/prwa_a.cfm.

* Rev. 7/14