

Glossary

Active Transportation – an integrated transportation network of on-road and off-road facilities that routinely accommodates all travelers in a safe, accessible, convenient manner: drivers, transit users, pedestrians, bicyclists, older citizens, children, and people with disabilities.

Accessible route – A continuous, unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements and spaces of a facility that meets requirements of ADAAG.

Alteration – Modification made to an existing facility that goes beyond normal maintenance activities and affects or could affect usability.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) – A Federal Law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities, requires public entities and public facilities to provide accessible accommodations for people with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) – Provide scoping and technical specifications for new construction and alterations undertaken by entities covered by the ADA.

ANSI A117.1, Making Buildings Accessible to and Usable by the Physically Handicapped – The first American standard developed for accessibility; specifies technical requirements for new construction and alterations

Approach – The section of the accessible route that flanks the landing of a curb ramp. The approach may be slightly graded if the landing level is below the elevation of the adjoining sidewalk.

Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (ABA) – A Federal law stating that buildings and facilities designed, constructed, or altered with Federal funds, or leased by a Federal agency, must comply with standards for physical accessibility.

Arterial road – A major through route; arterials often provide direct service between cities and large towns.

Assistance device – A device that assists users in accomplishing day to day functions. For example, a wheelchair is an assistive device to assist a person who cannot walk.

Audible warning – A warning consisting of words or sounds indicating a potentially hazardous situation.

Barrier curb – A relatively high and steep-faced curb, designed with the intention of discouraging vehicles from leaving the roadway.

Barrier removal – Removal, rearrangement, or modification of objects positioned or structured in a manner that impedes access.

Bicycle – Every vehicle propelled solely by human power upon which any person may ride, having two tandem wheels, except scooters and similar devices. The term “bicycle” for this document also includes three and four-wheeled human-powered vehicles, but not tricycles for children.

Bicycle Facilities – A general term denoting improvements and provisions made by public agencies to accommodate or encourage bicycling, including parking and storage facilities, and shared roadways not specifically designated for bicycle use.

Bicycle Lane or Bike Lane – A portion of a roadway which has been designated by striping, signing and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicycles.

Bicycle Path or Bike Path – See shared Use Path

Bicycle Route System – A system of bikeways designated by the jurisdiction having authority with appropriate directional and informational route markers, with or without specific bicycle route numbers. Bike routes should establish a continuous routing, but may be a combination of any and all types of bikeways.

Bulbout – Another term for a curb extension, which is a section of sidewalk at an intersection or midblock crossing that reduces the crossing width for pedestrians and can help reduce traffic speeds.

Collector Road – A roadway linking traffic on local roads to the arterial ad network.

Community impact assessment – Assessment of the impact of a proposed transportation project on a community; includes informing local residents, businesses, transportation planners, and politicians of thee probable positive and negative effects of a project.

Complete streets – facilities that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users; pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transit riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street

Continuous passage – An unobstructed way of pedestrian passage or travel that connects pedestrian areas, elements, and facilities to accessible routes on adjacent sites.

Crosswalk – Portion of a roadway where pedestrians are permitted to cross the street; can be marked or unmarked.

Curb extension – A section of sidewalk at an intersection or midblock crossing that reduces the crossing width for pedestrians and that can help reduce traffic speeds.

Curb ramp – A combined ramp and landing that accomplishes a change in level at a curb. This element provides street and sidewalk access to pedestrians using wheelchairs.

Design width – The width specification that a sidewalk or trail was intended to meet, usually se by building codes or agency guidelines.

Detectable warning – A standardized surface feature built in or applied to walking surfaces or other elements to warn visually impaired people of upcoming hazards.

Drainage bar – A bar made of wood, rubber, or stone placed across a trail to divert runoff across rather than down the trail.

Drainage inlet – A location where water runoff from the street or sidewalk enters the storm drain system; the openings to drainage inlets are typically covered by a grate or other perforated surface to protect pedestrians and bicyclists.

Existing facility – A structure such as a building, site, complex, road, walkway, parking lot, or other real or personal property.

Feasible – Capable of being accomplished with a reasonable amount of effort, cost, or other hardship. With regard to ADA compliance, feasibility is determined on a case-by-case basis.

Grade - The slope parallel to the direction of travel that is calculated by dividing the vertical change in elevation by the horizontal distance covered.

Greenway – an off-road path or trail, usually a multi-use trail for two-way traffic including pedestrians and cyclists.

Gutter – A trough or dip used for drainage purposes that runs along the edge of the street and curb.

Highway – A general term denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular travel, including the entire area within the right-of-way

Intermodalism - The use of multiple types of transportation to reach one destination; includes combining the use of trains and buses, automobiles, bicycles, and pedestrian transport on a given trip.

Intersection – An area where two or more pathways or roadways join together.

Island – A pedestrian refuge within the right-of way and traffic lanes of a highway or street; also used as loading stops for light rail or buses.

Landing – A level area of sidewalk at the top of a curb ramp facing the ramp path.

Local road – A road that serves individual residences or business and/or distributes traffic within a given urban or rural area.

Long-range transportation plan – A transportation plan developed by States and MPO's to encapsulate 20 years of transportation planning and policy.

Median – An island in the center of a road that provides pedestrians with a place of refuge and reduces the crossing distance between safety points.

Midblock crossing – A crossing point positioned in the center of a block rather than at an intersection.

Mobility impairment – A condition limiting physical ability; generally considered to include loss of limb or loss of limb use due to disease, amputation, paralysis, injury, or development condition; or limitation of movement due to cardiovascular or other disease.

Multi-use – a space that accommodates more than one mode of transportation

Multiple threat crash – Involve a vehicle in one lane stopping to allow a pedestrian to cross the street while the driver of an oncoming vehicle travelling in the same direction, in an adjacent lane, strikes the pedestrian. A major contributing factor is the fact the yielding vehicle stops too close to the crosswalk, screening the pedestrian from view of another motorist approaching in the lane that the pedestrian is crossing next.

New construction – A project in which entirely new facility will be built from the ground up

Obstacle – An object that limits the vertical passage space, protrudes into the circulation route, or reduces the clearance width if a sidewalk or trail.

Passing space – A section of path wide enough to allow two wheelchair users to pass one another or travel abreast.

Path or Pathway - A track or route along which people are intended to travel.

Pedestrian – a person who travels on foot or who uses assistive devices, such as a wheelchair, for mobility.

Pedestrian-actuated traffic control – A push-button or other control operated by pedestrians that is designed to interrupt the prevailing signal cycle to permit pedestrians to cross an intersection.

Places of public accommodation – Facilities operated by private entities that fall within the following 12 broad categories defined by Congress: places of lodging, food establishments, entertainment houses, public gathering centers, sales establishments, service establishments, transportation stations, places of recreation, museums and zoos, social service establishments, and places of education.

Private Entity – An individual or organization not employed, owned, or operated by the government.

Program access – Access provided to a program, service, or activity conducted or funded by a public entity.

Public entity – Any State or local government; department agency, special-purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or States or local government, and any commuter authority.

Ramp – A sloped transition between two levels.

Readily achievable – Easily accomplished and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense; refers to the criterion for barrier removal under Title III of the ADA.

Reasonable accommodation – Modifications or adjustments to a program, work environment, or job description that make it easier for a person with a disability to participate in the same manner as other employees.

Rest area – A level portion of a trail that is wide enough to provide wheelchair users and others a place to rest and gain relief from prevailing grade and cross-slope demands.

Rest area interval – distance between rest areas

Right-of-way - Real property rights(whether by free-simple ownership, by easement, or by other agreement) acquired across land for a purpose, usually transportation.

Roadway – The portion of the highway, including shoulders, intended for vehicular use.

Rural – Areas outside the boundaries of urban areas.

Scoping specifications – Describes where accessibility is appropriate, when it is required, and how many aspects of a building, facility, or site must be accessible.

Section 14 (1994) – Proposed accessibility guidelines for public rights-of-way (now reserved).

Section 504 – The section of the Rehabilitation Act that prohibits discrimination by any program or activity conducted by the Federal government.

Shared-use path – A trail that permits more than one type of user, such as a trail designated for use by both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Shared Roadway – A roadway which is open to both bicycle and motor vehicle travel. This may be an existing roadway, street with wide curb lanes, or road with paved shoulders.

Shoulder – The portion of the roadway contiguous with the traveled way for accommodation of stopped vehicles, for emergency use and for lateral support of sub-base, base and surface courses.

Shy distance – The area along the sidewalk closest to buildings, retaining walls, curbs, and fences generally avoided by pedestrians.

Sidewalk – The portion of a highway, road, or street intended for pedestrians.

Sight distance – The length of roadway visible to a driver or pedestrian; the distance a person can see along an unobstructed line of sight.

Signed Shared Roadway (Signed Bike Route) – A shared roadway which has been designated by signing as a preferred route for bicycle use.

Surface Transportation Program (STP) – A Federal program that provides grants to States for federally funded roadways and enhancement projects.

Suburban – Refers to an area surrounding a city that is closely settled.

Switchback – A trail or road that ascends a steep incline by taking a winding course to reduce the grade of the path.

Tactile warning – A change in surface condition that provides a tactile cue to alert pedestrians of a hazardous situation.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – The section of the ADA of 1990 that prohibits State and local governments from discriminating against people with disabilities in programs, services, and activities.

Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 – The section of the ADA of 1990 that prohibits places of public accommodation and commercial facilities from discriminating on the basis of disability.

Trail – A path of travel for recreation and/or transportation within a park, natural environment, or designated corridor that is not classified as a highway, road, or street.

Transportation enhancement - Projects that include providing bicycle and pedestrian facilities; converting abandoned railroad rights-of-way into trails; preserving historic transportation sites; acquiring scenic easements; mitigating the negative impacts of a project on a community, by providing additional benefits; and other projects.

Transportation Improvement Program or Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP or STIP) – A transportation plan that encapsulates planning and policy for a minimum of 3 years. Includes a prioritized list of all projects that will be constructed with Federal transportation funding.

Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards – Accessibility standards that all Federal agencies are required to meet; including scoping and technical specifications.

Urban – Refers to places within boundaries set by State and local officials that have a population of 50,000 or more. Urban areas are more densely populated and contain a higher density of built structures

Unpaved Path – Paths not surfaced with asphalt or Portland cement concrete.

Vertical clearance – The minimum unobstructed vertical passage space required along a sidewalk or trail.

Visual warning – The use of contrasting surface colors to indicate a change in environment, such as at a curb ramp where the sidewalk changes to the street.