

# Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility

## Module1 Introduction



# Facilitator(s) Introduction

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# Web Based Tools



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# Module 1 Outline

- Introduction
- Course outline
- Distance Learning
  - Web Conferences
  - Web Based Training
- Participants Introductions
- Why the American Disabilities Act (ADA) exists
- Overarching Laws and Policies
- The Pedestrian Environment
- Wrap up



# Question

- Chat Pod on what you hope to glean from this training



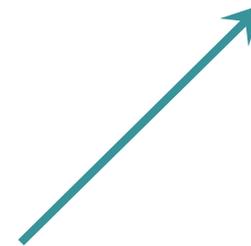
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# Course Outline

Module 1  
Web Conference  
2 hrs

Module 9  
Web Conference  
2 hrs

Module 2-8  
Web Based  
(Self Paced)  
2.5 days



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# Course Modules

1. Introduction - Web Conference
2. Pedestrian Access Route - Web Based
3. Curb Ramps and Blended Transitions - Web based
4. Detectable Warning Surfaces - Web based
5. Pedestrian Crossings - Web based
6. Accessible Pedestrian Signals - Web based
7. Street Furniture and Parking - Web based
8. Maintenance and Work Zones - Web based
9. Wrap up - Web Conference



# Poll Question 1

According to the 2000 Census, what percent of the U.S. population over the age of 15 has a disability?



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# Answer to Question 1

- 20 percent (or approximately 54 million) of the U.S. population over the age of 15 has a disability (2000 Census)
- 17 million Americans have serious hearing disabilities (2000 Census)



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## Poll Question 2

How many Americans would you guess have vision disabilities?



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## Answer to Question 2

- According to the National Council on Disabilities: 10 - 12 million
- There are three times as many people with severe visual disabilities than there are wheelchair users.
- Visual disability can range from total blindness to low vision.
- The Council also estimates that 70 percent of our country's population will eventually have a temporary or permanent disability that makes climbing stairs impossible.



# Legal Background

- Architectural Barriers Act (ABA - originated 1968)
- Rehabilitation Act (1973) - Section 504
- Civil Rights Restoration Act (1987)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (1990)



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# Five Titles of ADA

- Title I Employment
- Title II State & Local Governments
- Title III Public Accommodations (retail, commercial, sports complexes, movie theaters, et al)
- Title IV Telecommunications
- Title V Misc., including requirements for the U.S. Access Board to develop design guidelines



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# Title II - State and Local Governments

## Basic Requirements:

- Must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs, services, and activities (pedestrian facilities are an example of a program)



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# Title II - State and Local Governments

## Basic Requirements:

- Designate an ADA Coordinator
- Development & postings of an ADA Policy Statement
- Development & postings of Grievance Procedures/Complaint Procedures
- Complete a self-evaluation
- Development of a Transition Plan



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# Transition Plan Elements

- Identify/list physical obstacles and their location
- Describe in detail the methods the entity will use to make the facilities accessible
- Provide a schedule for making the access modifications
- Provide a yearly schedule if the transition plan is more than one year long
- Name/position of the official who is responsible for implementing the Transition Plan



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## Pedestrian right-of-way facilities

- Curb ramps
- Parking lots
- Pedestrian signals
- Sidewalks
- Bus stops
- Shared use trails
- Parks/recreational facilities



# Title II - New Construction

## New Construction 28 CFR 35.151

- New construction (and altered facilities) must be designed and constructed to be accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities.



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# Title II - Alterations

## Alterations - 28 CFR 35.151

- DOJ and court decisions consider roadway resurfacing an alteration (1993)
- Roadway resurfacing triggers requirement for curb ramp installations/retrofits (to current standards)



## Title II - Existing Facilities

Goal for structural modifications and program access is a level of usability that balances:

- User needs
- Constraints of existing conditions
- Available resources



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# Title II - Existing Facilities

Alterations to facilities must meet minimum design standards, unless technically infeasible to do so



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# Title II - Alterations & Existing Facilities

## Undue Burden 28 CFR 35.150(a)(3)

- Based on all resources available for a program
- Claims must be proven and accompanied by a written statement of reasons and signed by the head of the public entity
- What constitutes undue burden will often be decided in courts



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# Title II - Maintaining Accessibility

## 28 CFR 35.133

- State & local governments must maintain the accessible features of facilities in operable working conditions
- Maintenance examples: sidewalks that are in disrepair; overgrown landscaping, street furniture, snow accumulation; broken elevator; work zone accessibility (if construction activity affects pedestrian facilities - must provide alternate route)



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# ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

- Developed primarily for buildings & on-site facilities
- Do not address all situations (especially those that are unique to the public right-of-way)



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# ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)

- ADAAG Sections applicable to the right-of-way:
- 4.1.1(4) Temporary Facilities
- 4.2 - Space Allowance and Reach Range
- 4.3 - Accessible Route
- 4.4 - Protruding Objects
- 4.5 - Ground and Floor Surfaces
- 4.6 - Parking and Passenger Loading Zones
- 4.7 - Curb Ramps
- 4.8 - Ramps
- 4.29 - Detectable Warnings



# Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)

- Originally intended to supplement the ADAAG to provide standards specific to public rights-of-way; most recently formatted as a stand-alone document
- Applicable to new construction and alterations
- Currently in the rulemaking process



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# Issues in draft PROWAG not adequately addressed in ADAAG

- Pedestrian Access Route (e.g. allows sidewalk running slope to match roadway grade)
- Curb ramps - more design options
- Detectable warnings
- Crosswalks
- APS (Accessible Pedestrian Signals)
- On-street parking
- Roundabouts



# ADAAG-PROWAG Dilemma

- ADAAG - current standards, but developed primarily for buildings and on-site facilities
- PROWAG - developed specifically for PROW, awaiting adoption by USDOJ & USDOT
- Requirement to provide accessibility to the maximum extent feasible



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or



**Chat**

# The Pedestrian Environment



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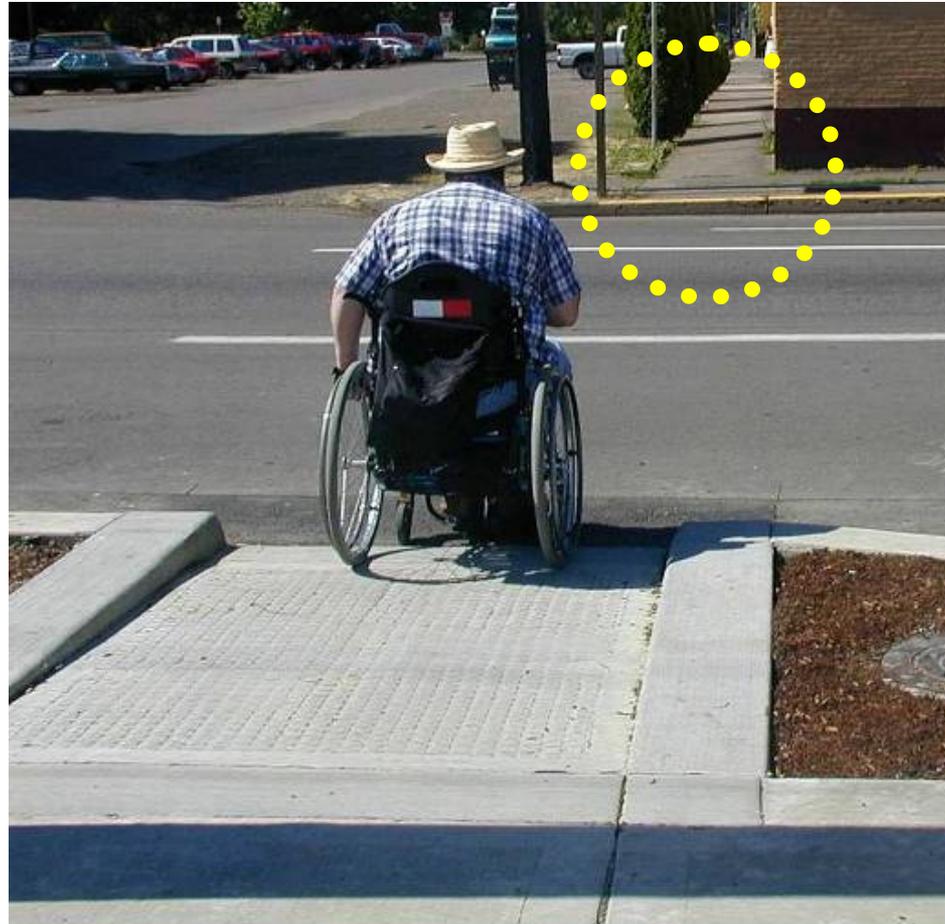
# Characteristics of Pedestrians

- People with mobility disabilities may have limited agility, speed, endurance
- They benefit from
  - Firm level surfaces
  - Adequate clear width
  - Curb ramps
  - Limited cross slope



# Movement Barriers

Restrict a person's ability to physically move or progress along or within an environment



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# Examples of Movement Barriers

A



B



C



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# Characteristics of Pedestrians

- People with vision disabilities get information from sounds, textures, contrast
- They benefit from information in non-visual formats:
  - Audible/vibrotactile crossing information
  - Tactile indication of boundary between ped and vehicular way
  - Clearly defined pathways
  - High color contrasts



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# Information Barriers



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# Examples of Information Barriers



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# Characteristics of Pedestrians

- People with hearing disabilities rely on vision
- They benefit from:
  - Good sight lines for assessing street crossing conditions
  - Information in visual or vibrotactile format



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# Characteristics of Pedestrians

- People with cognitive disabilities have different processing and decision-making skills
- They benefit from:
  - Straightforward, direct environments
  - Uncomplicated street crossings
  - Easy to understand symbols



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# Accessible Design Principles

- Design the built environment to be usable by a broad spectrum of users
- Enable users to travel independently
- Integrate pedestrian facilities in planning and design - not as an afterthought



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# Recap

- This web training will focus on State and local agency Section 504/ADA responsibilities as they pertain to the public right-of-way.
- 6 Basic Requirements:
  1. Must ensure that individuals with disabilities are not excluded from programs, services, and activities (pedestrian facilities are an example of a program)
  2. Designate an ADA Coordinator
  3. Development & postings of an ADA Policy Statement
  4. Development & postings of Grievance Procedures/Complaint Procedures
  5. Complete a self-evaluation
  6. Development of a Transition Plan



# References

- Title II of ADA, with analysis
  - <http://www.ada.gov/taman2.html>
- Draft Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines, November 23, 2005
  - <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/draft.htm>
- FHWA memo - Clarification of FHWA's Oversight Role in Accessibility, September 12, 2006
  - [http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/ada\\_memo\\_clarificationa.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/ada_memo_clarificationa.htm)
- AASHTO Guide for Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities
  - [https://bookstore.transportation.org/item\\_details.aspx?id=119](https://bookstore.transportation.org/item_details.aspx?id=119)
- Public ROW Access Advisory Committee's Report on Accessible Public ROW Planning & Designing for Alterations
  - <http://www.access-board.gov/prowac/alterations/guide.htm>



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# What's Next

- Go to the following link
  - Will provide in chat pod
  - Login: email address you registered with
  - Password: whatever you entered during registration
- Set aside time to go through the web based modules
  - 8 hours



- Send in your questions ahead of time if you like
  - In Meeting Room
    - Chat Pod

