ADA Considerations: Pedestrians with Disabilities in Work Zones

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- Requires facilities to be accessible to individuals with disabilities
- Requires maintenance of accessible facilities
- To meet those requirements, MUTCD Part 6 provides standards and guidance
Pedestrians with disabilities

- Mobility disabilities
- Visual disabilities
- Cognitive disabilities
Key Work Zone Issues for Pedestrians with Disabilities

- **Q1:** Is there an alternate route?
- **Q2:** Is the alternate route accessible?
Q1: Is there an alternate route?
Is the sidewalk blocked with no marked alternate route?
Is there a barrier preventing pedestrians from entering work zone?
Is an alternate route defined? ...detectable?
Defined and detectable
Defined and detectable
Route information in usable formats?

Not if you can’t read the sign or see across the street
Route information may be provided by a clearly delineated path.
Information in usable formats

Barrier + audible information device to provide alternate route information
Information in usable formats

- Audible information device messages
  - Select and record messages carefully
  - Recommendations for message wording in report by Brooke Ullman, Marcus Brewer, Kay Fitzpatrick, and Gerald Ullman

- FHWA/TX-08/0-5237-1
Same-side route...or cross?
If crossing, may need accessible pedestrian signal

- New types are pushbutton-integrated
- Sounds come from pushbuttons
- Have to be able to reach pushbuttons to use them
Extent of the detour...where does it start...and end?
Q2: Is the alternate route accessible?
Is the alternate route accessible?
Is the route continuous and unobstructed?
Wide enough for passage?

- Need to provide room for people traveling in opposite directions to pass each other
  - Should be at least five feet wide
  - Six feet more comfortable
Usable curb ramps?
Usable curb ramps....
Free of hazardous protruding objects?
Examples

- Following slides show some examples
- Some good points and some bad points but none completely “right”

If anyone has photos of good examples, please share them with me
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Better than some, but ......?

- Problems??
- Good guidance from lower and upper rail for most of it, but missing a key piece
- Oops! Lip in sidewalk section
Again... Almost...
Another view
Not a good start...
With a little feedback...big improvement
Ramped with delineated path for pedestrians
Resources and Information

- MUTCD Part 6
- Draft Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines
  - US Access Board Technical Assistance at (800) 872-2253 or row@access-board.gov
Questions?

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