

# Maine Department of Transportation

## Highway Program

### Design Guidance

Title: Minimum ADA Requirements for Pedestrian Facilities	Issue Date: November 1, 2017
Discipline: General Engineering	Revised Date: August 2, 2021
Originator: Highway Program	
Approved By: Bradford Foley, P.E.	

### **Background:**

The MaineDOT updated ADA Title II Transition Plan specifies what ADA standards MaineDOT has adopted. The MaineDOT ADA Compliance Policy specifies what improvements will be required, based on project scope. This document is intended to provide guidance on what makes each individual element of a pedestrian facility ADA compliant. It should be the basis for determining if an existing pedestrian facility is ADA compliant and for designing and constructing new or improved pedestrian facilities.

### **Guidance:**

#### Existing Pedestrian Facilities

If an existing pedestrian facility meets the requirements listed in Table 1 it is considered an ADA compliant facility. Such facilities do not need to be improved if it is beyond the planned scope of work to do so. Consideration should be given to the overall system of pedestrian facilities on the project to make sure there are no non-ADA safety issues that need to be addressed. Examples of such non-ADA safety issues include cross walk locations, refuge areas, and visibility.

#### New or Reconstructed Pedestrian Facilities

New pedestrian facilities, or existing facilities that must be reconstructed, shall be designed and built to meet the minimum requirements listed in Table 1.

More detailed guidance for the design of pedestrian curb ramps can be found in the [Standard Details](#).

## Exceptions

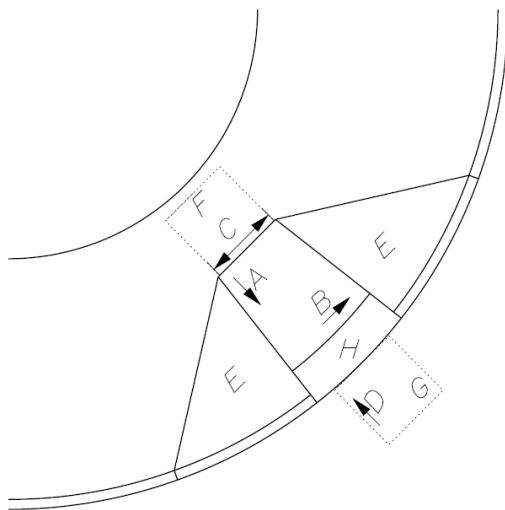
The ADA Compliance Policy allows exceptions to be made when it is “technically infeasible” or “physically impractical” to meet all current ADA requirements. In some cases, there may be physical constraints that are beyond project scope to modify or remove that make it infeasible to meet ADA requirements. Examples of these constraints include, but are not limited to, underground and overhead utility structures, bridge structures, building entrances at back of sidewalk, retaining walls, and established landscaping such as large trees. In such cases, the facility must be upgraded to the maximum extent possible. Technical infeasibility or physical impracticality may not be determined solely based on cost.

The ADA Compliance Policy requires that locations where full compliance with current ADA standards is not feasible be documented according to the following established procedure:

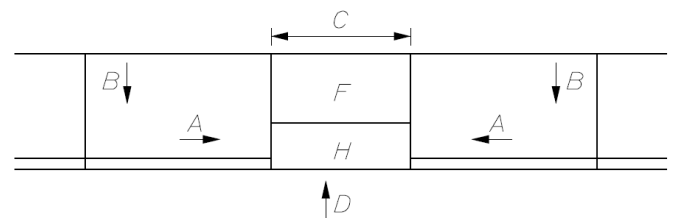
- If an element does not meet the minimum requirements for pedestrian facilities listed in Table 1, include discussion in the ADA compliance section of the Preliminary Design Report and submit an [ADA Technical Infeasibility Form](#) for review to the appropriate Program Manager or Region Manager and the Title II ADA Coordinator. Approval may be granted at the Program or Region level or forwarded to the Engineering Council for further review.

Minimum Requirements for Pedestrian Facilities		
SIDEWALKS		
Cross Slope		Max. 2% (1:50)
Clear Width		5 feet, excluding curb (standard) 4 feet, excluding curb (minimum) <i>3 feet, excluding curb, may be acceptable if waived by the Chief Engineer. Widths less than 5 feet require a 5 foot by 5 foot passing space every 200 feet.</i>
CURB RAMPS		
Running Slope	A	Max. 8.33% (1:12)
Cross Slope	B	Max. 2% (1:50) <i>Ramp cross slope at street crossings without stop or signal control may match roadway profile.</i>
Clear Width	C	Min. 4' – 8" <i>Provide 5'-8" clear width when feasible. Existing ramp width may remain 4 feet.</i>
Counter Slope	D	Max. 5% (1:20) <i>Adjacent surface must be flush with the ramp.</i>
Flared Sides	E	Max. 10% (1:10)
Turning Space	F	4 feet by 4 feet <i>Maximum slope of 2% in any direction. May include Detectable Warnings.</i>
Clear Space	G	4 feet by 4 feet <i>Located at the bottom of the ramp outside active travel lanes.</i>
Detectable Warnings	H	<i>Required at traffic-controlled intersections and mid-block crossings. Extend the full width of curb opening except for a 4" maximum border.</i>

**Table 1. Minimum Requirements for Pedestrian Facilities**



**Perpendicular Ramp**



**Parallel Ramp**