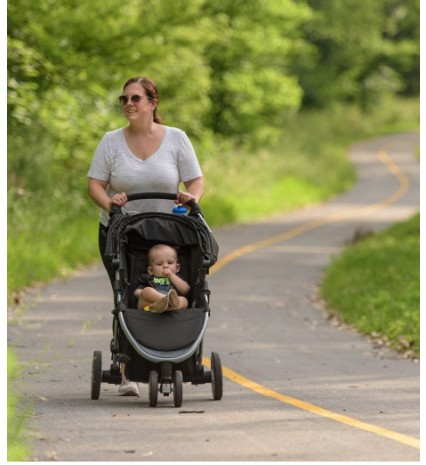
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Regional ADA Coordinators Group

September 9, 2025

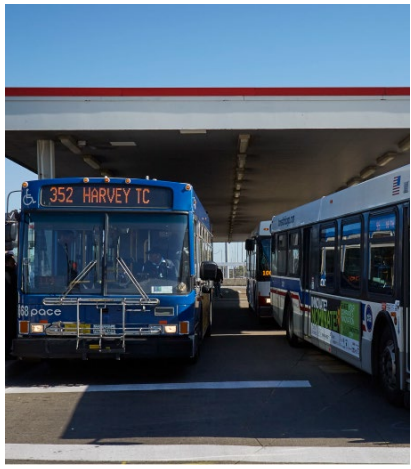






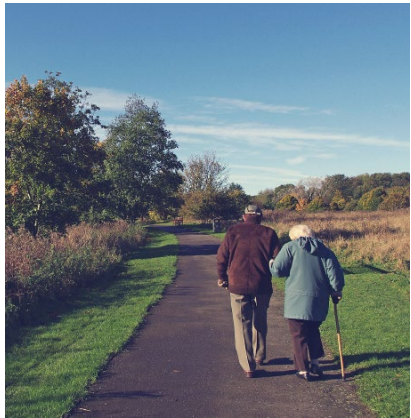










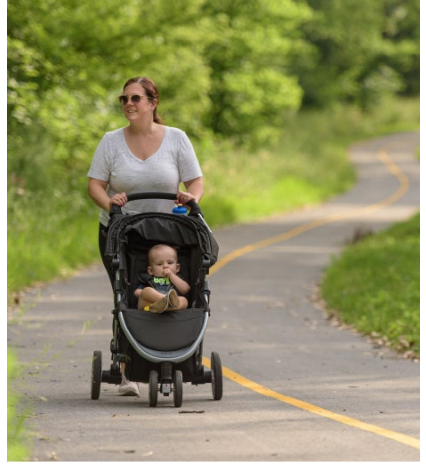


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Maintaining accessibility during construction

Jules Voigt - Planner

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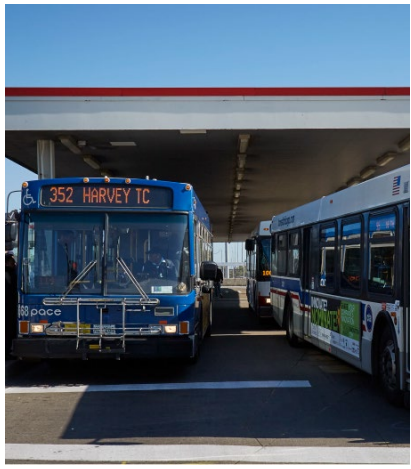






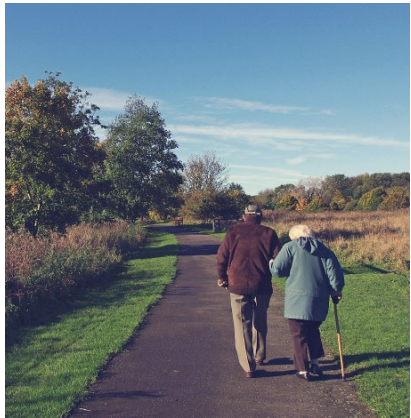












Agenda

- Why accessibility in construction is important
- What to think about
- What you can do as an ADA Coordinator
- Other resources
- Q&A

Who has navigated something like this?





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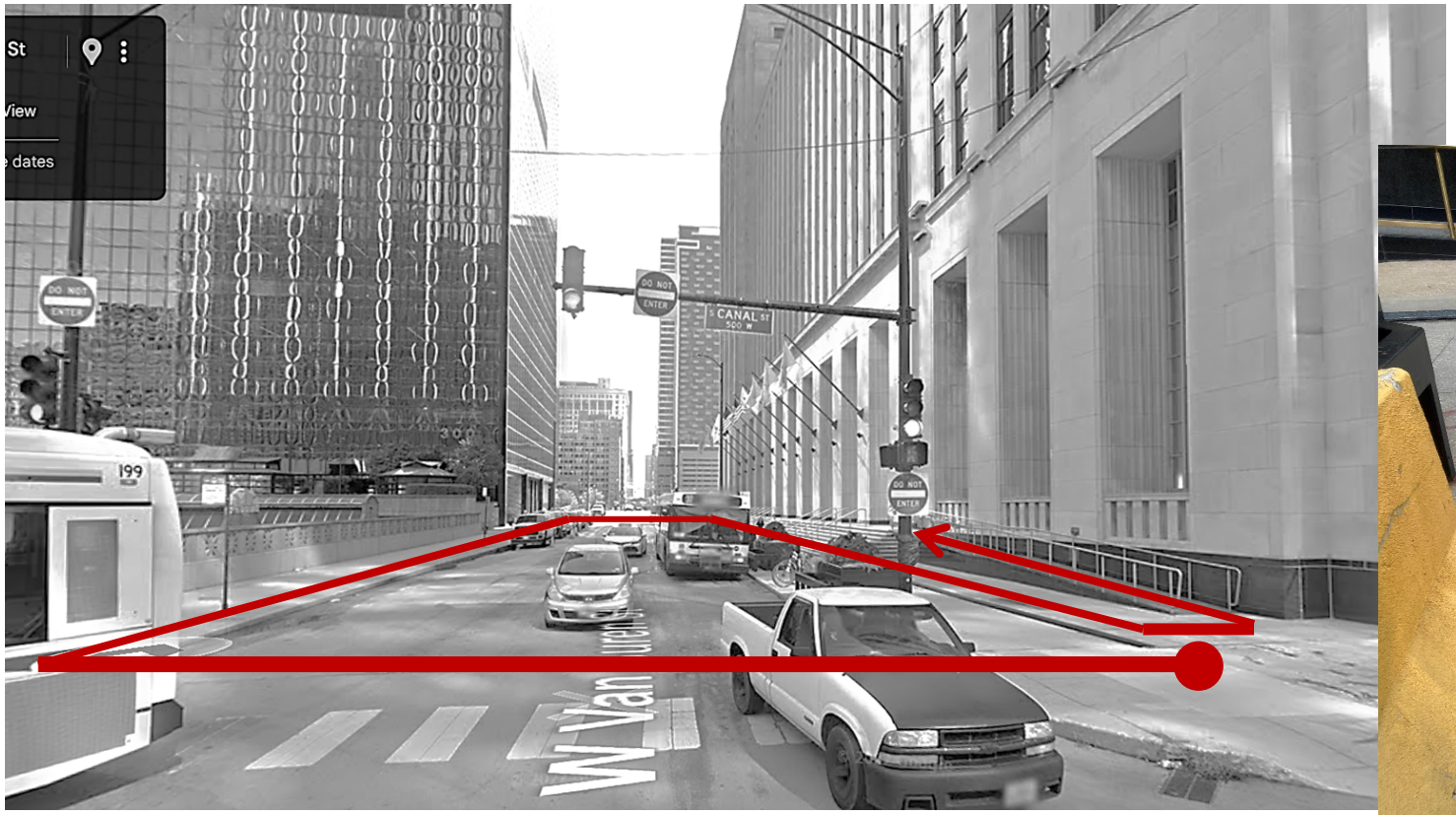
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Why is it important to maintain accessibility during construction?



Inaccessible infrastructure can slow or stop someone from getting to their destination



Source: Google Maps Streetview



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Accessible construction can help public relations

Change Helps Impacted Western Springs Businesses

The contractor for the Burlington Avenue project will be allowed to work earlier than usual.

WESTERN SPRINGS, IL – Western Springs this week waived its construction hours for a village project to improve Burlington Avenue between Grand Avenue and Wolf Road.

The contractor wanted to start work at 7 a.m. Monday through Saturday, a half hour earlier than allowed.

Two downtown businesses expressed support for the idea.

"It's an aggressive timeframe, not a lot of waste of time in there," Jefferey Koza, the village's engineer, told the board.

He said the village wanted to lessen the project's impact on businesses.

"We're hoping the end result will be a benefit to downtown and the community," Koza said.

Village President Heidi Rudolph said she supported the project.

"The plan looks terrific in terms of the overall feel and accessibility as well as just the infrastructure upgrade, which is very, very needed," she said.

Source: Patch.com

Inaccessible infrastructure can be a safety issue

CTA Closes Bus Stops Near Obama Center Site, But They're Still Being Used Despite Unsafe Conditions

"The riders boarded and got off along Stony Island in gaps between cones or concrete barriers, just steps from oncoming traffic. Several closed stops feature uneven terrain caused by gravel and construction debris."



Source: Block Club Chicago

Lake Forest officials and business owners adjust as Deerpath Road project progresses

As the work continues, the overhaul continues to effect some downtown business owners.

"It hinders a lot of people especially over the age of 60 from getting around because they may fall," noted Mark Roberts, the owner of Mark David Designs, located on the 200 block of Deerpath.

Roberts reiterated the concerns he initially stated to Pioneer Press in January. Two months into the project, he said his business is still feeling the impact of the current phase and fears the streetscape work will only exacerbate customer reluctance to enter the area.

Source: Chicago Tribune

It is required

Guidance source	Legal standard	Best practice
Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)	Y	Y
Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines	Y	Y
Architectural Barriers Act	Y	Y
Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way		Y

"The needs and control of all road users (motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians within the highway, or on a site roadway open to public travel (see definition in Section 1C.02), ***including persons with disabilities***) through a TTC zone shall be an essential part of highway construction, utility work, maintenance operations, and the management of traffic incidents."
– Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (Section 6A.01)

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What does accessible construction look like?



Who is affected by construction?



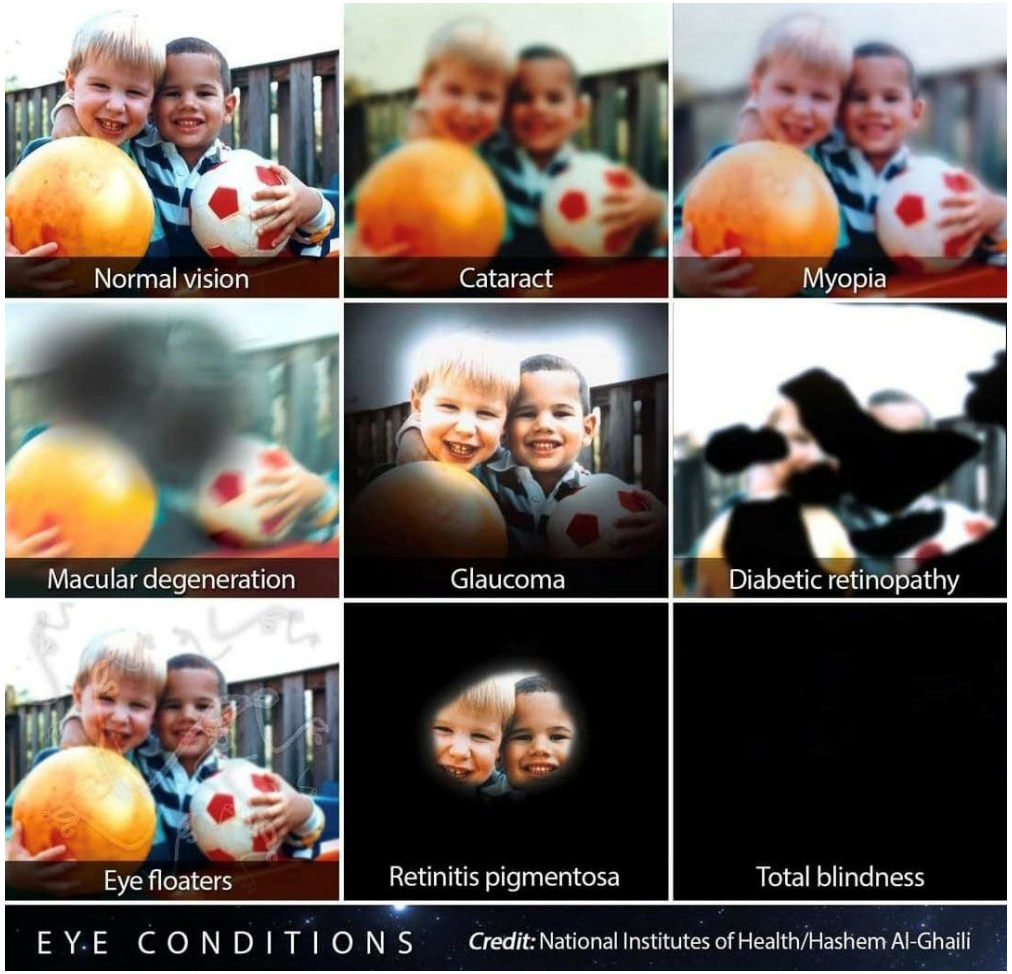
Mobility condition





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Who is affected by construction?



Vision conditions





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“The goal of [temporary traffic control] (TTC) in work zones is safety with minimum disruption to road users.” – MUTCD 6B.01

What are principles to remember?

Create convenient, safe, and accessible paths for pedestrians around and through the construction site.



Separate pedestrians from construction, equipment, and cars



Replicate as much as possible the accessibility of the original path



Provide advance notice about upcoming closures or detours

What does accessible construction look like?

1. Pedestrian route layout
2. Communication
3. Channelizing devices and barriers
4. Surfaces and curb ramps
5. Protrusions and obstructions

1. Pedestrian route layout

- If the construction affects pedestrians, provide adequate pathways* (MUTCD 6C.01)
- Maintain the accessibility of the original path* (MUTCD 6C.03)
- Temporary crosswalks must be accessible* (MUTCD 6G.09)
- Make the path as direct as possible+ (MUTCD 6C.02)
- Maintain access to affected/relocated transit stops* (MUTCD 6N.10)

* legal standard
+ guidance/best practice



1

If a temporary crosswalk is established, it needs to be accessible. There are no curb ramps or audible devices.



2

The temporary route includes accessible elements of the original route, including (temporary) truncated domes, curb ramps, and pavement markings.

Communication

Different kinds of communication:

- Public outreach campaign
- Visual
- Auditory

3

Block Club Chicago

STORIES NEIGHBORHOODS ARTS & CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS PODCASTS NEWSLETTERS DON

TOPICS Business Block Club Eats LGBTQ+ News Weather Things To Do Openings & Closings Neighborhood

LINCOLN SQUARE, NORTH CENTER, IRVING PARK

Lincoln Square Traffic Reroute Begins Wednesday

Construction at Western, Leland and Lincoln avenues will start in March and run through summer, officials said.

Image credit: Block Club Chicago



4

Image credit: Parakeet Innovations



5

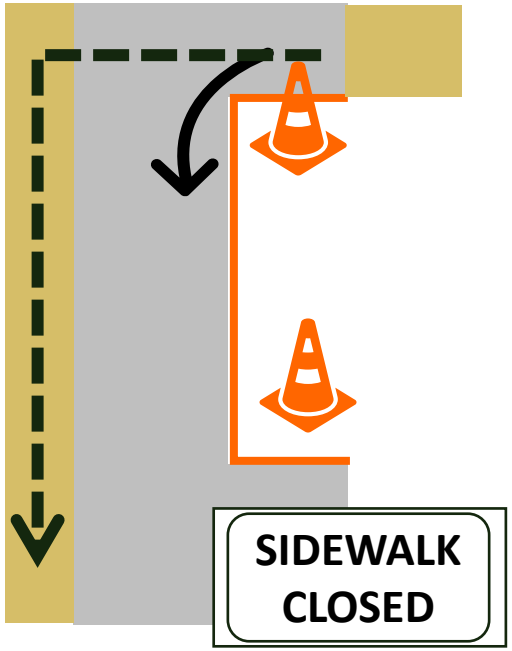
2. Communication

- Provide communication with audible information devices* (MUTCD 6C.03)
- Provide advance warning+ (MUTCD 6N.02)
- Convey information clearly+ (MUTCD 6A.02, 6G.12)

* legal standard
+ guidance/best practice



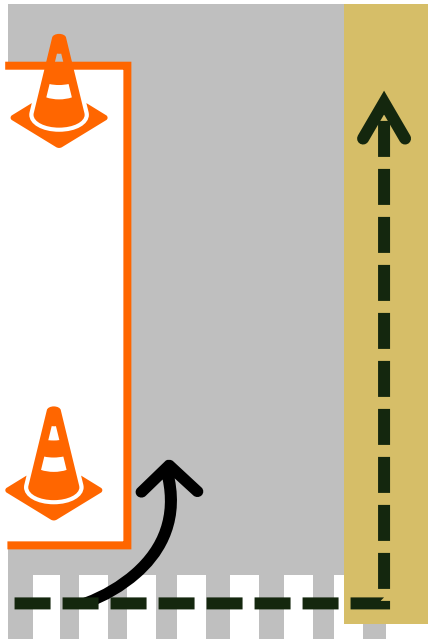
6



There is a “sidewalk closed” sign on one end of the construction, but not on the other end of the construction. This could lead pedestrians into areas that aren’t safe or accessible.



7

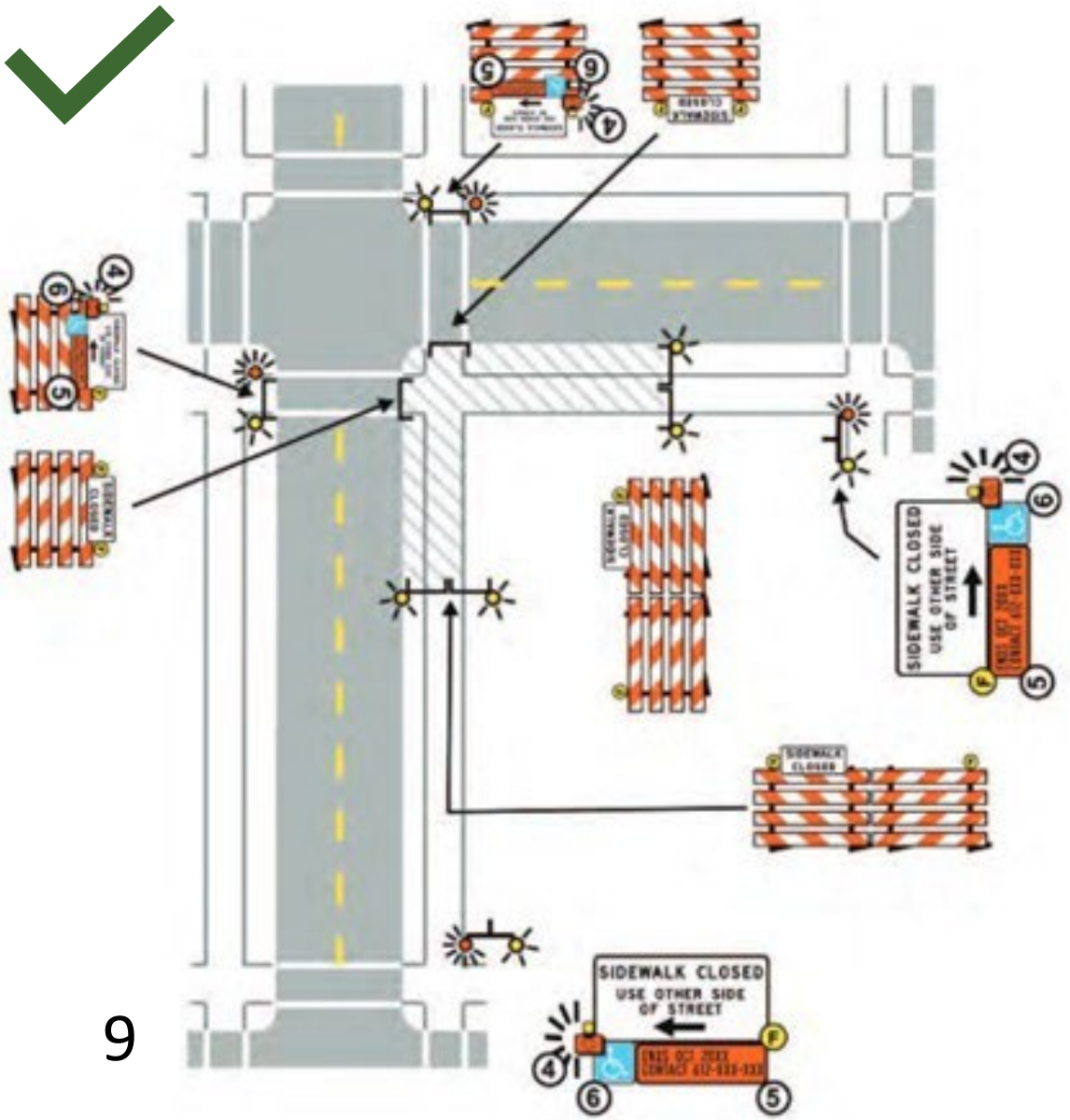


The “closed” and “detour” signs indicate to pedestrians that the original route is closed, but without directing pedestrians to “Use other side”, there is confusion about which route pedestrians should take, which could route pedestrians into live traffic.


TransUnion
F.H. PASCHEN

Communication

- Provide advance warning and convey information clearly



A flasher mounted on the sign or barricade shall be used on all nighttime sidewalk closures.

Source: Minnesota Dept. of Transportation

“Is it accessible” activity #1

In your breakout group, refer to the worksheet and discuss if the examples are accessible. Explain why or why not.

3. Channelizing devices and barriers

- Ensure that closures and/or detours are detectable* (MUTCD 6K.02)
- Channels should be continuous* (MUTCD 6K.02, 6K.10)
- They should be crashworthy if exposed to traffic* (MUTCD 6K.02)
- Fully barricade all closed paths* (MUTCD 6K.02)

* legal standard
+ guidance/best practice



10

The sidewalk closure is not detectable and there is no full barrier closing the path from entry. Someone could enter or trip into the site.



11

There is no detectable and continuous barrier around the construction site. Tape is not an allowable barrier device, because it is not detectable to a cane. Someone with a vision disability could find this route difficult to navigate.


BOWLING



13

Source: Applying the Americans with Disabilities Act in Work Zones: A Practitioner Guide

Devices are detectable to a cane user and continuous with no gaps.



14

4. Surfaces and curb ramps

- Make surfaces firm, stable, and slip-resistant* (2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design)
- Ensure that surfaces are drainable+

* legal standard
+ guidance/best practice



15

The surface of the curb ramp is unstable and cracked. Someone could have difficulty or be deterred from navigating the ramp.



16

The surface material is more rough gravel, with chunks of concrete scattered throughout.



17

A temporary curb ramp with truncated domes.



18

Surface covers to ensure a stable surface.

“Is it accessible” activity #2

In your breakout group, refer to the worksheet and discuss if the examples are accessible. Explain why or why not.

5. Protrusions and obstructions

- Maintain the same width of the existing path in the temporary path+ (MUTCD 6C.02)
- Minimize protrusions into the pedestrian circulation route+ (MUTCD 6K.07)
- Maintain clear space for pedestrians for sign placement* (MUTCD 6F.02)

* legal standard
+ guidance/best practice



19

The fence footings protrude into the walkway, creating a tripping hazard.



20

The sign leaves limited space in the path if a car were parked in the parking lot.

The walkways are clear of all obstructions, both vertically and horizontally.



21



22

“Is it accessible” activity #3

In your breakout group, refer to the worksheet and discuss if the examples are accessible. Explain why or why not.

Other

- If transit stops are affected or relocated, pedestrian and vehicular access to the affected/relocated transit stops should be provided* (MUTCD 6N.10)

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What can I do as an ADA Coordinator?



What can I do as an ADA Coordinator?

1. Make sure your public works staff and local contractors know their ADA obligations
    a) Review your contracts to ensure accessibility is included in public works construction documents
    b) Hold trainings with staff and local contractors
2. Have work zone plans included as part of the design phase of projects
    a) This helps ensure that designers think through the steps of pedestrian detours and isn’t left to contractors
3. Get your disability advocates involved
4. Conduct pilot projects for treatments
    a) Purchase or hold some equipment that staff/contractors can use

How can I overcome challenges?

- Construction workers can assist someone through a site
- Free bus service around the construction site
- Removing equipment in the evening when construction is completed for the day

Who should be included in conversations about construction?

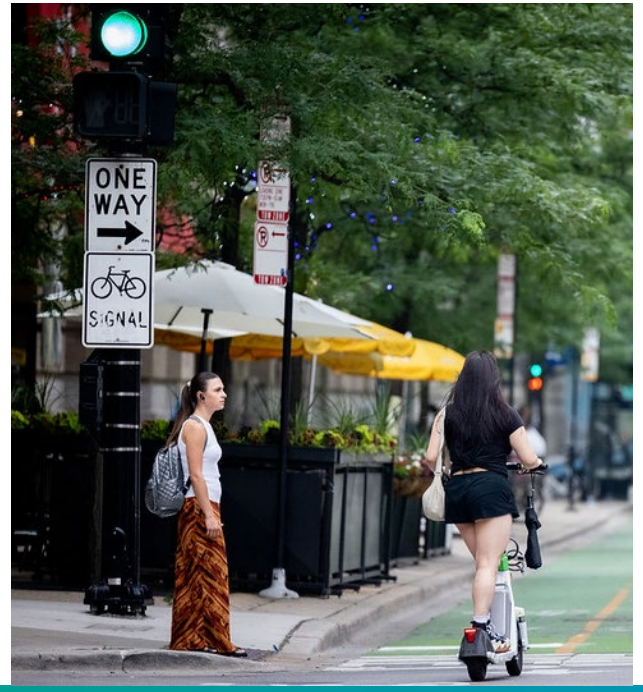
- Stores and businesses
- Transit service providers
- Property owners
- School administrators

What are resources to reference?

- Applying the Americans with Disabilities Act in Work Zones: A Practitioner Guide (American Traffic Safety Services Association, 2012)
- Guidelines for Work Zone Designers: Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodation (Traffic Operations and Safety Laboratory, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 2023)
- Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Part 6: Temporary Traffic Control (U.S. Department of Transportation, 2025)
- Pedestrian Considerations: Updated Checklist for Temporary Traffic Control Zones - American Traffic Safety Services Association, 2021

CURB CUT EFFECT







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Questions?



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Thank you!

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