

17.18.100: AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT INFORMATION AND STANDARDS:

In 1990, congress passed the Americans with disabilities act. Among other provisions, the act prohibits state and local governments from discriminating on the basis of disability and requires government services, programs, and activities to be accessible to people with disabilities. Technical assistance concerning the law's application is available by calling 1-800-USA-ABLE. Where potential use and/or ADA access needs warrant, provide trail access through, around, over or under major barriers. For pedestrians, add or improve sidewalks, create safe crossings, add ADA compliant ramps, and modify signalization and intersections where needed.

Almost fifteen (15) years ago, William Whyte wrote, "If circulation and amenities are planned with (the disabled) in mind, the place is apt to function more easily for everyone".

ADA guidelines recommend that to accommodate people in wheelchairs and with other disabilities, each street corner should include two (2) curb ramps. Midblock crossings should have curb ramps at each end. The city of Seattle now installs about four hundred (400) wheelchair ramps at pedestrian crossings per year.

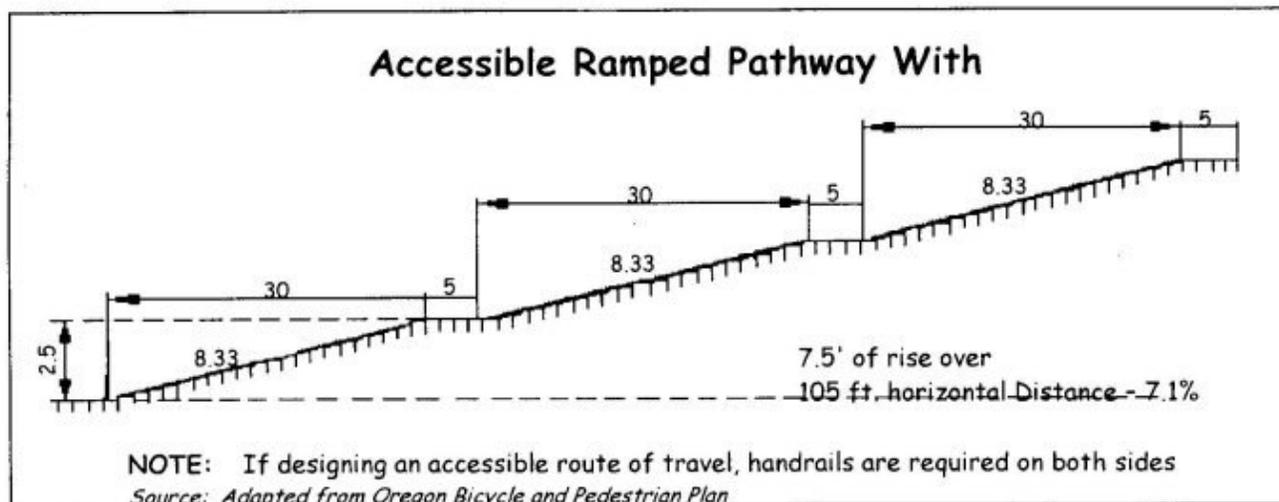
Alternatively, the crosswalk area can be raised to the level of the sidewalk. Such a raised crosswalk will have additional traffic calming benefits, serving as "speed tables" that will slow traffic speed at intersections.

A. Access For The Disabled: While it is clearly not practical for all types of trails in a mountainous environment to be fully accessible to the disabled, where reasonably appropriate, the trail system should comply with the standards set forth in this law. Until such time as more definitive standards are set forth, this section of the master plan will provide a policy as to what trails are required to comply with this law and how Mapleton City will approach the improvement of trails. All new trails that provide access between new parking lots and new public facilities, such as recreation or institutional facilities, clubhouses, resort facilities, and commercial or business facilities are required to comply with ADA. All new trails providing access to new public, private and institutional transportation facilities also need to comply with ADA requirements. Trail renovation or new trails located in existing developed areas of the community should comply with the ADA standards.

A trail is considered ADA accessible if it meets the following criteria:

1. Five foot (5') minimum width.
2. Hard surfaces: Asphalt and concrete are the most accessible. Compacted crushed stone also works well, provided that the stones' diameter is less than three-eighths inches (3/8"). Loose gravel is not recommended.
3. Trail gradient should be no greater than five percent (5%).
4. Ramps, not stairs, should be provided for grades exceeding the five percent (5%) maximum.
5. Ramp grades should not exceed eight percent (8%) and have a level landing for every thirty inches (30") of vertical rise and have a slip resistant surface.
6. Thirty two inch (32") high handrails should be installed on all ramps and bridges.

7. Fully accessible trails should have a rest area every three hundred feet (300'), preferably cleared with a bench outside of the trail path with the distance between rest areas posted at the trailhead.
8. One or more accessible parking space should be provided at trail parking lots.
9. If gate or bollards are planned to prevent motorized vehicle access to the trail, maintain thirty two inch (32") clearance to ensure or provide wheelchair access.



(Ord. 2002-04, 3-20-2002)