

Appendix 5 – Glossary

Defined terms based on definitions in the Illinois Department of Transportation Accessible Public Right-of-Way Field Guide published in January 2016, the 2011 Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG), and the Illinois Accessibility Code (IAC).

Accessible: Describes a facility in the right-of-way that provides ADA compliant access for people with disabilities.

Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS): A signal actuation device that provides an audible message for a WALK phase.

ADAAG: An acronym for the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (formerly called the “ADA Accessibility Guidelines”). These standards contain scoping and technical requirements for accessibility to buildings and facility sites.

Alteration: A change to facility in the right-of-way that affects or could affect pedestrian access, circulation, or use. Alterations include but are not limited to resurfacing, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or changes or rearrangement of structural parts or elements of a facility.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Federal civil rights legislation passed in 1990 and effective July 1992 (42 USC 12131). The ADA prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities.

Cross Slope: A lateral measure of how level a sidewalk or a curb ramp is. The maximum cross slope of a sidewalk may not exceed 2%.

Curb Ramp: An element of the pedestrian access route. A curb ramp provides a path for pedestrians and people with mobility aids to safely cross the curb.

Curb Ramp Flare: An element of the pedestrian access route. A curb ramp flare is provided to prevent tripping hazards from the top landing of curb ramps to the ramp opening.



Detectable Warning: Surface consisting of truncated domes aligned in a square or a radial grid pattern, and built in or applied to a walking surface.

Disability: A physical or mental impairment substantially limiting one or more of the major life activities of an individual as defined by the ADA.

Facility: All or a portion of buildings, structures, improvements, elements, and pedestrian or vehicular routes.

Grievance (Complaint) Procedure: A process through which an individual may file an official complaint related to ADA accommodations with the right-of-way.

Obstruction: A type of barrier to accessibility. Generally, this may be an object or installation that is impeding pedestrians or users of mobility aids in the pedestrian access route.

Pedestrian Access Route (PAR): A continuous and unobstructed path of travel provided for pedestrians with disabilities within or coinciding with a pedestrian circulation path.

PROWAG: An acronym for the Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (formerly called “Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines”). This document provides specific accessibility design guidelines for public rights-of-way.

Right-of-Way: Land or property, usually in interconnected corridors, that is acquired for or dedicated to transportation purposes.

Reasonable Accommodation: Changes or adjustments providing, without undue burden, means for an individual with a disability to perform the duties or tasks required. Where existing physical constraints make it impractical for altered elements, spaces, or facilities to fully comply with new construction requirements, compliance is required to the extent practicable within the scope of the project. Existing physical constraints include, but are not limited to, underlying terrain, right-of-way, underground structures, adjacent developed facilities, drainage, or the presence of a notable natural or historic feature.

Running Slope: The grade that is parallel to the direction of pedestrian travel.

Vertical Surface Discontinuities: Vertical differences in level between two adjacent surfaces.

