

Department of Public Works

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ADA Transition Plan Update – Public Right of Way

Section 2: Public Right of Way

Update (June 2023)

The public right-of-way is an area of land owned or controlled by the County for the purposes of constructing, operating and maintaining public features such as streets, alleys, sidewalks, pedestrian curb ramps, bike paths utilized for transportation, utilities and other infrastructure. El Paso County has strived to improve accessibility for pedestrian modes of travel through the expansion of an accessible transportation network. The El Paso County (EPC) Department of Public Works (DPW) is addressing pedestrian access route system needs including:

- Ensuring all new transportation capital projects include pedestrian access routes that meet the current Engineering Criteria Manual (ECM) criteria - where applicable;
- Providing funding in all pavement management overlay projects for accessible features. The accessible features will meet ECM criteria for curb ramp standards at the time the concrete work is performed allowing the pavement overlay project to incorporate the accessibility;
- Ensuring all new developments and site expansions or improvements include pedestrian access routes that meet the current ECM criteria where applicable;
- Addressing specific citizen requests and grievances; and
- Exploring external funding avenues including grants, to fund additional accessibility projects.

The following criteria are considered when prioritizing projects by the Department of Public Works. These are not necessarily listed by importance because some criteria may be of higher importance on one project but lower importance on another project:

- Citizen grievances
- Proximity to government facilities
- Streets with higher traffic volumes
- Streets with public transit service

- Streets with pedestrian attractors like schools, parks and shopping
- Proximity to medical facilities
- Improved system connectivity
- Safety
- Grant availability or other funding availability factors
- Proposed overlay projects

Section 1.9 of the ECM provides the ECM Administrator the authority to allow deviations to the ECM criteria if it helps ensure public safety, is more efficient, or maximizes the overall benefit and utilizes public funds in the most efficient manner.

EPC DPW is conducting a multi-phase approach to addressing ADA concerns in the Right Of Way. Most phases will run concurrently with the other phases of the multi-phase approach, and a detailed timeline for each phase will be located at El Paso County Department of Public Works. A summary of the multi-phase approach follows.

Phase 1: Training

EPC DPW recognizes the need for training in order for inspectors and engineers to have the knowledge needed to properly design and construct pedestrian access routes. DPW sent two inspectors to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) course Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility on May 28-29, 2019. Course information and training materials were distributed to EPC DPW inspectors and engineers by July 15, 2019. EPC DPW will schedule and send the remaining available engineers and inspectors to the same course. EPC DPW is available to host the course.

UPDATE (March 2022): This work was originally completed in February 2020. ADA training opportunities are available to EPC DPW staff on a yearly basis.

Phase 2: Engineering Criteria Manual Review and Update

EPC DPW recognizes that updates to the ECM need to be considered regarding pedestrian access routes. The ECM will be compared to the draft Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) criteria. The ECM will also be compared to CDOT's current criteria. Specific updates to the ECM regarding pedestrian access routes will be determined based on the PROWAG and CDOT criteria reviews. These ECM updates will be implemented by July 1, 2020.

UPDATE (March 2022): This work was completed on June 23, 2020. El Paso County began implementation of the newly updated ECM on June 23, 2020.

Phase 3A: Inventory Current Assets as of July, 2018

Street-view images of EPC's paved roads were collected in July 2018 as part of a pavement condition study. All paved roads that have been formally accepted for maintenance by the BoCC were included in the study. EPC DPW is reviewing methods to maximize these existing products to create a curb ramp location inventory. This inventory is scheduled to be complete by July 1, 2020. This inventory will be used to document curb ramp locations which will facilitate the collection of curb ramp attributes.

UPDATE (March 2022): This work was completed by February 2020.

Phase 3B: Inventory of Assets Accepted after July 2018

The street-view images collected in the past will not provide location information on curb ramps built after July 2018. Therefore, inventory of assets within the County Right of Way accepted after July 2018 will be necessary. Because there is a delay in acceptance of subdivisions after construction of the infrastructure, many subdivisions were built prior to the July 2018 date. EPC DPW plans to use more recent aerial photography to inventory subdivisions accepted after July 2018. After this inventory is conducted, inspectors will be sent to newer subdivisions to collect additional curb ramp locations utilizing GPS. DPW recognizes the inventory of curb ramps built after July 2018 will be an ongoing process. However, DPW expects the inventory of assets accepted after July 2018 to be current and up to date as of July 1, 2020. After the inventory list becomes current, El Paso County will continue to update the curb ramp inventory. The methods to be used to keep the curb ramp information current are in review. Consideration is being given to hand-held GPS units, using construction plans, or using as-built plans.

UPDATE (March 2022): This work was initially completed by February 2020. El Paso County continues to collect new ADA inventory through subdivision acceptances, capital improvements and the annual concrete maintenance program. The continual updating is an ongoing process. As part of the asset management program, El Paso County has hired additional GIS staff to support the ongoing updating and maintaining of ADA inventory items. DPW has also procured a new Asset Management software system to help manage all infrastructure assets including ADA features. The continual and future collection of ADA inventory and attributes will be addressed at the completion of phase 5: Create New, or Modify Existing, ADA Asset Construction and Maintenance Program.

Phase 4: Collect Attributes of the Existing Inventory

EPC DPW recognizes the need to collect attributes of the curb ramps. Collection of attributes of curb ramps will begin when there is an inventory of current curb ramps. Collection of attributes will continue existing inventory is complete. El Paso County anticipates the collection of attributes will be complete by January 1, 2022.

UPDATE (March 2022): El Paso County Department of Public Works received additional state and federal funding to help fund this project which required extending the collection timeframe. El Paso County has begun reporting ADA barrier findings for concrete service requests for the fourth quarter of 2021. All attributes of the existing inventory are anticipated to be complete in spring of 2023.

UPDATE (June 2023): All attributes of the existing inventory were completed in spring of 2023.

Phase 5: Create New, or Modify Existing, ADA Asset Construction and Maintenance Program

After creating an inventory of ADA assets which includes the asset conditions/serviceability, DPW will produce a strategy for addressing noted deficiencies. This strategy will be coordinated with the EPC ADA Compliance Office and presented to the EPC Board of County Commissioners.

UPDATE (March 2022): El Paso County Department of Public Works anticipates this work being completed within a year after completion of phase 4: Collect Attributes of Existing Inventory.