



Pedestrian Accessibility in the Public Way During Construction

Construction within the City of Charlottesville

Background

A permit to work in the public way is required whenever construction activities occur in the public rights-of-way in the City of Charlottesville. This guide has been developed to summarize steps that need to be taken to ensure appropriate pedestrian access while construction is underway.

Construction sites can be particularly hazardous to pedestrians with mobility or visual impairments if proper precautions are not maintained. The following guidelines included in City policy are based on requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD is published by the Federal Highway Administration.

Any construction that impacts a public street or sidewalk should consider the following:

- Advanced warning and guidance signs
- Adequate illumination and reflectors
- Use of temporary walkways
- Channeling and barricading to separate pedestrians from traffic
- Adequate barricading to prevent visually impaired pedestrians from entering work zones
- Wheelchair accessible alternate pedestrian circulation routes with appropriate signage

Alternative Circulation Path for Pedestrians

The alternate circulation path shall have a **minimum width of 48*** inches and parallel the disrupted pedestrian access route when practicable. Barricades and channelizing devices shall be continuous, stable, non-flexible, and shall consist of a wall, fence, or enclosure specified in section 6F of the MUTCD. A solid toe rail should be attached such that the bottom edge is 2 inches minimum and 6 inches maximum above the walkway surface. The top rail shall be parallel to the toe rail and shall be located 32 inches minimum and 42 inches maximum above the walkway surface. If drums, cones, or tubular markers are used to channelize pedestrians, they shall be located such that there are no gaps between the bases of the devices in order to create a continuous bottom, and the height of each individual device shall be no less than 36 inches.

**R202.3.1 Existing Physical Constraints. Where existing physical constraints make it impracticable for altered elements, spaces, or facilities to fully comply with the requirements for new construction, 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 availability, underground structures, adjacent developed facilities, drainage, or the presence of a notable natural or historic feature.*

Barricade Locations

Barricades shall be installed at the following locations:

- Between the pedestrian access route and any adjacent construction site (see example D)
- Between the alternate circulation path and any adjacent construction site (see example C)
- Between the alternate circulation path and the vehicular way, if the alternate circulation path is diverted into the street (see example D)
- Between the alternate circulation path and any protruding objects, drop-offs, or other hazards to pedestrians (see example F)
- At the down curb ramp of an intersection, if the opposite up curb ramp is temporarily and completely blocked, and no adjacent alternate circulation path is provided. (both curb cuts at opposite sides of the intersection should have barriers, even if only one side is under construction, to avoiding stranding a person in the intersection)

Warnings and Signage

Warnings shall be located at both the near side and the far side of the intersection and preceding signage shall be located at the intersection preceding the blocked way. Where directional signage or warnings are provided, they should be located to minimize backtracking, especially if there is no safe refuge at a corner under construction. In some cases, this could mean locating a warning or sign at the beginning of a route, not just at the inaccessible site.

City Department Responsibilities

When contractors are used to perform construction projects for the City, it will be the responsibility of the Department who enlists the contractor to assure all areas of the construction site comply with the applicable local, state, and federal accessibility standards. Any contractor who performs work within the City must ensure that temporary construction areas are designed and constructed to meet all accessibility standards such that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter, and exit the areas safely and unimpeded. Temporary construction sites should be designed in a manner that is sensitive to the special needs of pedestrians with disabilities. All City contracts that require temporary construction measures must include language requiring all accessibility measures be met and that barriers used for the sites meet current accessibility requirements.

Additional Barricading Guidelines

The contractor shall require that no construction materials be stored or placed on the path of travel. The contractor shall maintain the construction barriers in a sound, neat and clean condition. The contractor shall clean public walkways adjoining the construction site of accumulated trash and debris. The contractor's construction operations shall not occupy public sidewalks except where pedestrian protection is provided. The contractor shall not obstruct free and convenient approach to any fire hydrant. The continuous clear width of pedestrian access routes (exclusive of the width of the curb) must be four feet minimum. The contractor shall remove barriers and enclosures upon completion of the work in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and to the satisfaction of Neighborhood Development Services of the City of Charlottesville.

Barrier Examples

