



**New York City
Department of
Transportation**

**Technical
Instruction**

**TI
22-001**

Title: Technical Infeasibility Documentation Exception for Pedestrian Ramps at Street Crossings Without Yield or Stop Controls

Approved:

Rosa Rijos

Rosa Rijos (Jul 27, 2022 19:43 EDT)

Jul 27, 2022

Date

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Roger K. Weld, PE (Aug 1, 2022 17:19 EDT)

Aug 1, 2022

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1. Administrative Information

Effective Date: This Technical Instruction (TI) is effective with projects advertised on or after June 27, 2022.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this TI is to provide notification that additional documentation for specific technical infeasibilities of certain pedestrian ramp elements at street crossings (marked or unmarked crosswalks) without yield or stop control is not required.

3. Technical Information

- 3.1. While General Note 26 of the revised New York City Department of Transportation Standard Detail of Construction Drawing # H-1011 Pedestrian Ramps (herein H-1011-1 through H-1011-9) states that documentation of technical infeasibility (Technical Infeasibility Form) is required under particular circumstances where existing conditions prevent the construction of fully ADA 2010¹ compliant pedestrian ramps (curb ramps), NYC DOT will not require such documentation under the following circumstances:

- At midblock pedestrian street crossings, where the longitudinal street grade or roadway gutter flow slope exceeds 2%,
- At uncontrolled street intersection pedestrian crossings where the longitudinal street grade or roadway gutter flow slope exceeds 2%, and
- At signalized street intersection pedestrian crossings where the signal is designed to have a green phase and the longitudinal street grade or roadway gutter flow slope exceeds 2%.

¹ *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards*, US Department of Justice, 2010; <https://www.access-board.gov/files/ada/ADA-Standards.pdf>.

3.2. Ramp elements affected by this TI:

- Cross slope of perpendicular pedestrian ramps, blended transitions, and cut throughs,
- roadway gutter flow slope,
- Landing cross slope of perpendicular pedestrian ramp and blended transition, and
- Landing running slope of parallel pedestrian ramps.

4. Application

This TI is applicable to all pedestrian ramps, blended transitions, and cut throughs upgraded or installed within the public right-of-way.

5. Background

ADA 2010 makes no exceptions for existing street grades; section 403.3 requires that the cross slope of an accessible route must not exceed a slope of 1:48. However, PROWAG² Section R304.5.3 Cross Slope, does allow for the cross slope of pedestrian ramps (curb ramps), blended transitions, and turning spaces to equal the street or highway grade in situations where vehicular traffic can proceed through the pedestrian crossing without slowing down or stopping, such as at midblock locations, uncontrolled crossings at intersections (typically unmarked crosswalks), and at signalized intersections where the signal is designed to have a green phase. At pedestrian crossings with signed yield or stop control, or permanently flashing yellow or red signal without a green phase, vehicular traffic is expected to slow down or stop, and as such it is feasible to grade the pedestrian crosswalk to provide a 2% maximum cross slope, with the longitudinal change in grade with the crossing functioning as a form of vehicular speed control. NYCDOT will follow PROWAG guidance in the particular circumstances indicated in 3.2, above, as the intent of ADA 2010 is not to necessarily alter the legal grade of the street to comply strictly with the minimum requirements, but rather to provide equivalent access to the maximum extent feasible³.

6. Contact

Questions concerning this issuance can be submitted by email to pedramp@dot.nyc.gov.

² *Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (with SUP)*, US Access Board, 2013; <https://www.access-board.gov/files/prowag/PROW-SUP-SNPRM-2013.pdf>.

³ *Code of Federal Regulations Exception for structural impracticability*, 28 CFR 35.151(a)(2)(i); [https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/chapter-I/part-35#p-35.151\(a\)\(2\)\(i\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-28/chapter-I/part-35#p-35.151(a)(2)(i)).