

Pedestrian Ramp Construction Triggers

The intention of this document is to provide guidance regarding the requirements for pedestrian (curb) ramp* work to any entity (private or public) performing construction activities (including alterations) within the New York City’s right-of-way. Construction of pedestrian ramps, including upgrades and installations, must adhere to the latest version of the NYCDOT highway rules, standard specifications, standard details of construction and the Americans with Disabilities act standards for accessible design (ADA). Sidewalk or pedestrian walkways that cross a curb must be usable by all pedestrians, especially aging New Yorkers and persons with disabilities. Included below are terms and definitions followed by a table that explains the requirements for pedestrian ramp construction.

Terms	Definitions
ADA Requirements	ADA Title II; CFR Title 28 Part 35
DOT Requirements	ADA requirements are the minimum. For DOT in-house or DOT-Sponsored projects, the full intersection must be included.
Crosswalk	From NYC traffic rules Section 4-01(b): (i) Marked crosswalk. That part of a roadway defined by two parallel lines or highlighted by a pattern of lines (perpendicular, parallel or diagonal used either separately or in combination) that is intended to guide pedestrians into proper crossing paths. (ii) Unmarked crosswalk. That part of a roadway, other than a marked crosswalk, which is included within the extensions of the sidewalk lines between opposite sides of the roadway at an intersection, provided that (A) the roadway crosses through the intersection rather than ending at the intersection, and/or (B) all traffic on the opposing roadway is controlled by a traffic control device.
Crossing	A crossing is a marked or unmarked crosswalk as defined above. Examples of work that would create a new crossing include when crosswalk markings are installed across the major street at a T-intersection, at a midblock location, or at a location where pedestrian crossings were previously prohibited.
Corner	<i>From Mayor’s Executive Order No. 22 dated April 13, 1995.</i> Corner shall mean the area created by extending the building line to the curb.
Near midblock crosswalk	The sidewalk flags that are part of or abutting a pedestrian ramp, ramp flare or ramp landing at a midblock crosswalk or, if no ramp exists, the sidewalk curb within the limits of the marked crosswalk.
Alteration	As defined by Accessibility Laws, can include, without limitation, any resurfacing, repaving, reconstruction or widening of streets, that affect pedestrian access to the public right-of-way.
Roadway maintenance treatments	Treatments such as crack filling and sealing, surface sealing, chip seals, slurry seals, fog seals, scrub sealing, joint crack seals, joint repairs, dowel retrofits, spot high-friction treatments, diamond grinding, and spot pavement patches.
Resurfacing	Typical DOT resurfacing, or also microsurfacing, thin lift overlays, open graded surface courses, cape sealing, in-place asphalt recycling. Resurfacing is considered an alteration by the ADA.
None, unless any ramps disturbed	Any direct interference with a ramp or blended transition, ramp flare, or ramp landing area will trigger upgrades to that specific ramp. If there is no direct interference with a ramp or blended transition, then no work is triggered.
All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	The installation or upgrade of any required curb ramps or blended transitions located within the corner or located at a pedestrian crossing that is within the limit of work of said project or construction operation.
Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)	The installation or upgrade of any required curb ramps or blended transitions served by a crosswalk that is within the limit of work of said project or construction operation.
All ramps at adjoining corners or adjoining curb at crossing	The installation or upgrade of any required curb ramps or blended transitions that abut the limit of work of said project or construction operation.
Full intersection (all corners)	The installation or upgrade of any required curb ramps or blended transitions that are within an intersection which is within the limit of work of said project or construction operation.

*The term “pedestrian ramps” is used in NYC to refer to curb ramps.

Please see other side for triggers ADA triggers →

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Construction Activity	ADA Requirements	DOT Requirements
Sidewalk		
Construction of new sidewalk	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Sidewalk construction - not in corner or near midblock crosswalk	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Sidewalk construction - part/all of corner	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Construction of single or double curb extension	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Construction of island or median within a crosswalk	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)	Full intersection (all corners)
Construction of island or median not in a crosswalk	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Markings/Signals		
New crosswalk markings at existing crossing (see definitions)	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
New crosswalk markings at new or moved crossing (see definitions)	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)
Refurbishing of crosswalk markings	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Relocation of Detectable Warning Surface	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Installation of new signal	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing (when Turbo Crew is available)
Signal upgrade (e.g., installation of APS)	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Signal maintenance or software alteration	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Utility Work		
Utility trench sidewalk	All ramps at disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Utility trench roadway requiring curb-to-curb restoration	All ramps at adjoining corners or adjoining curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Resurfacing		
Curb-to-curb resurfacing including crosswalk	All ramps at adjoining corners or adjoining curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Partial resurfacing in crosswalk	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)	Full intersection (all corners)
Partial resurfacing outside of crosswalk	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Roadway maintenance treatments (see definition)	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Roadway Reconstruction		
Full width roadway reconstruction/rehabilitation including crosswalks or corner	All ramps at adjoining corners or adjoining curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Full width roadway reconstruction/rehabilitation not including crosswalks or corner	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Partial reconstruction or rehabilitation (not full width)	All ramps at adjoining corners or adjoining curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Transit		
Installation of seating at bus stop	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Installation of bus shelter	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Installation of bus bulb	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Installation of bus pads	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	Full intersection (all corners)
Construction of subway elevator and entrance	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	-
Other		
Installation of street furniture (other than bus shelters)	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Installation of wayfinding signage	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>	<i>None, unless any ramps disturbed</i>
Construction of public facility (e.g. park, school)	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing
Green infrastructure (within corner or at midblock crossings)	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing	All ramps at disturbed corners or disturbed curb at crossing
Rubber Island in crosswalk	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)	Affected crosswalk (ramps on both ends)