



Additional information regarding the City's efforts to comply with ADA, and specifically, the Access Request Program to address pedestrian facilities/public right-of-way complaints and requests originating from a person with a mobility disability or their caregiver, can be found at:

[longbeach.gov/citymanager/ada](http://longbeach.gov/citymanager/ada)

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# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) CURB RAMP PROGRAM

An informational pamphlet on  
ADA curb ramps in Long Beach.



CITY OF  
**LONG BEACH**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life to make sure they have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

In 2014, a lawsuit was filed alleging the City of Long Beach provided insufficient physical access to sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, walkways, other pedestrian facilities and rights-of-way for individuals with disabilities. The City of Long Beach has a mandate under the law and an ADA Settlement Agreement to provide accessibility throughout the City to the greatest extent feasible. It is essential that all City stakeholders recognize the importance of these obligations; failure to meet the settlement requirements could lead to further litigation and financial penalties.

As a part of an ADA Settlement Agreement reached in October 2017:

- 1) Construct 4,500 curb ramps at locations where none currently exist by October 2022 (the first 1000 missing ramp locations selected by the plaintiffs);
- 2) Retrofit 16,000 curb ramps, or spend \$50 million towards existing, non-compliant curb ramps between October 2022 and October 2037;
- 3) Spend \$125 million towards other non-compliant pedestrian facilities, other than curb ramps, such as sidewalks and crosswalks by October 2047.

## WHERE ARE CURB RAMPS REQUIRED?

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Generally, curb ramps are needed wherever a sidewalk crosses a curb. Curb ramps must be located to ensure a person with a mobility disability can travel from a sidewalk on one side of the street, over or through any curbs, to the sidewalk on the other side of the street.

## WHY IS A PARTICULAR LOCATION CHOSEN FOR A CURB RAMP?

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The City's ADA Team must consider many factors to determine the best suited location to place a curb ramp. Factors considered include: existence of sidewalk, safety, adjacency to government buildings, parks, schools, healthcare and other high pedestrian traffic facilities; high vehicle traffic or speeds; sight distance, roadway width, parking, nearby alternative routes, and physical impediments (i.e. Utilities, Drainage, Mature trees, Bus Pads, Driveways, etc.).

## WHY IS THE CURB PAINTED RED AT INTERSECTIONS?

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Section 10.22.060 of the Long Beach Municipal Code prohibits parking within 20' of the approach to an intersection and 10' from the departure of an intersection to maintain adequate clearances and sight distance for safety.

## IS A DRIVEWAY CONSIDERED A PEDESTRIAN ACCESS POINT?

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No, because it creates a potential safety conflict between pedestrians and vehicles and does not meet the legal standards and requirements of a curb ramp.

## WHY IS PARKING AND EXISTING PARKWAY IMPROVEMENTS DISPLACED?

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Parking impacts and displacement of existing parkway improvements are a consideration of the City's ADA Team in determining the best suited location for placement of a curb ramp. Although the ADA Team will strive to minimize such impacts, in many cases, it is unavoidable in order to comply with the law in providing access equality.

