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APPENDIX D – GLOSSARY OF TERMS





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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following definitions are for terminology used throughout this document as defined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) - Federal law prohibiting discrimination against people with disabilities. It requires public entities and public accommodations to provide accessible accommodations for people with disabilities.

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) – Provides scoping and technical specifications for new construction and alterations undertaken by entities covered by ADA.

Crosswalk – Area designated for pedestrians to cross an intersection or marked sections of a roadway.

Curb Extension – A section of sidewalk extending into the roadway at an area of a midblock crossing that reduces the crossing width for pedestrians and may help reduce traffic speeds.

Feasible – Capable of being accomplished with a reasonable amount of money and effort.

Flare – Sloped surface that flanks a curb ramp and provides a graded transition between the ramp and the sidewalk. Flares bridge differences between the ramp and sidewalks intended to prevent pedestrians from tripping.

Intermodal – A transportation policy that promotes full development of alternative modes of transportation to benefit travel mobility, efficiency, sustainability, economic, and physical health.

Intersection – Area where two or more roads meet.

Midblock Crossing – Crossing point positioned within a block instead of an intersection.

Parallel Curb Ramp – Curb ramp design where the sidewalk slopes down on either side of a landing. Parallel curb ramps require users to turn before entering the street.

Passing Space – Section of path or sidewalk wide enough to allow two wheelchair users to pass one another to travel abreast.



Path or pathway – Track or route along which pedestrians are intended to travel.

Pedestrian – A person afoot or in wheelchair.

Pedestrian Access Route – A continuous, unobstructed path connecting all accessible elements of a pedestrian system that meets ADAAG.

Pedestrian-Actuated Traffic Control – Pushbutton or other control activated by pedestrians to permits pedestrians to cross a signalized intersection or crossing.

Ramp – Sloped transition between two elevation levels.

Right-of-Way – Real property rights (whether fee-simple ownership, by easement, or other agreement) acquired across land for public purpose including pedestrian use.

Shy Distance – Area closest to buildings, fences, or other obstructions that are generally avoided by pedestrians.

Sidewalk – Paved surface paralleling a roadway intended for pedestrian use.

Sight Distance – The length of roadway visible to a driver or pedestrian; the distance a person can see along an unobstructed line of sight.

Wayfinding – A system of information comprising visual, audible, and tactile elements that help users experience an environment and facilitates getting to point A to point B.

Width, Sidewalk – **Total width** of sidewalk including obstructions that begins at the edge of a roadway to the side of the building. **Clear width** is the portion of the sidewalk that excludes obstructions and any attached curb. **Effective width** is the portion of clear width that excludes any shy distances.