

APPENDIX B:
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

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Active transportation facilities should strive to incorporate all users, including those living with disabilities. Federal and state law dictate certain design standards are met to promote accessibility in transportation facilities. This is particularly relevant to sidewalk and intersection design.

FEDERAL REGULATION AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

The American with Disabilities Act is the one of the most important polices in place related to accessibility in transportation. The final draft of the bill was passed in 1990. A few of its key measures include protections on employment, public accommodation and public services. Title II, the section of ADA on Public Services for Local and State Government, is the most relevant section of ADA for most transportation planners as it requires all federally funded projects to be in compliance with certain accessible standards. ADA includes a large number of requirements for transportation facilities and service provision.

To encourage the accommodation of individuals with disabilities, the United States Access Board publishes a list of recommended design guidelines for the public right-of-way on its website (<http://www.access-board.gov/>). This includes curb cuts, ramps, and other elements that ensures the best experience possible for all users of the transportation system.

ADA SELF-EVALUATION AND TRANSITION PLANS

To assess the condition of public facilities, ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans are developed by municipalities and others to understand the current physical landscape and potential barriers and opportunities to increasing accessibility for all users. The City of Madera completed an ADA self-evaluation in 2007 that highlights needed infrastructure improvements including curb ramps, sidewalk slops, and sidewalk obstructions.

RESOURCES AND BEST PRACTICES

Resources for state and federal accessibility standards include:

- **Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG):** PROWAG consist of design guidelines and best practices for the public right of way. While not yet formally adopted, PROWAG is still

currently the recommended best practices from the federal government. PROWAG is available on the US Access Board website (<http://www.access-board.gov/>).

- **California Disabled Accessibility Guidebook (CALDAG):** CALDAG provides a guidebook and illustrated examples for requirements for public facilities in California. While not directly produced by the state government, it is considered the best guide to California's requirements related to accessibility.