Introduction

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was enacted on July 26, 1990, published in the Code of Federal Regulations (28 CFR 35). This Civil Rights law prohibits the discrimination of people with disabilities and guarantees their ability to receive the same opportunities in employment, goods, and services. This extends to all services, programs, and activities provided by local and state government programs.

The ADA/Accessibility program is managed by the State ADA Coordinator in the Central Office and implemented by District ADA Coordinators and project managers (PM) through the seven Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Districts and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. The Department provides ADA guidance, tools, and resources to provide accessibility on each transportation facility.

FDOT ADA

The FDOT promotes safe and accessible pedestrian facilities within the State Highway System (SHS) through ADA-compliant planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance requirements. Design criteria and construction standards are found in the FDOT Design Manual (FDM), Standard Plans, Standard Specifications, and other FDOT supporting documents and manuals.

ADA compliance must be integrated throughout all phases of project delivery. Whether in planning, design, or construction, ADA must be fully considered to maximize safety and accessibility for all users. The beginning stages of every project shall produce a scope of services that includes all necessary elements and configurations for ADA compliance. Considerations for providing safe and accessible facilities must be carefully and consistently applied throughout the project's life, thus, staving off additional cost or work that may prolong the project.

It is recommended that Department PMs meet with selected consultant Engineers of Record (EOR)s for an on-site meeting to discuss accessibility needs and requirements.. A copy of the projects scope can be redlined and amended while walking the full length of the project. This effort assists in the Department's commitment to provide safe and accessible facilities to all users.

ADA Resources

ADA requirements for FDOT projects can be found on the Department's ADA website.