



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
FLORIDA DIVISION  
227 N. BRONOUGH STREET, SUITE 2015  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301  
(850) 942-9650



August 18, 2003

IN REPLY  
REFER TO: HPO-FL

Mr. José Abreu  
Secretary of Transportation  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Attention: Mr. Brian A. Blanchard

Dear Mr. Abreu:

Subject: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Requirements for  
Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) Projects

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing clarification of our policy on ADA compliance requirements for RRR projects, to assist you in updating the criteria in design manuals as described in your letter of August 11, 2003.

We understand that the Department has posted Interim Index 0304, Public Sidewalk Curb Ramps, to the 2002 Design Standards and the 2000 Roadway and Traffic Design Standards (Metric) on the Roadway Design Office Web site. This Interim Index should provide the minimum requirements as detailed in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (ADAAG), as amended through September 2002, Section 4.1 Minimum Requirements.

We are aware that many existing sidewalk ramps do not have truncated dome surfaces, and that many do not meet the requirements for slopes, landings, etc. Also, many existing sidewalks and driveways do not meet ADA cross slope and protruding objects requirements.

Based on our review of your proposal we offer the following points to clarify our policy:

- We concur that curb ramps should be brought into compliance with the ADA requirements including the placement of truncated domes for:
  1. New curb ramps at crosswalks where none exist,
  2. Replacing existing substandard curb ramps, and

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3. Retrofitting existing ramps that otherwise comply with current ADA requirements.
  - We agree any new sidewalks or new driveways, or reconstruction of existing sidewalks or driveways that are planned, as part of a RRR project, will be designed and constructed in accordance with current ADA requirements.
  - We agree that unaltered portions of existing sidewalks or driveways should not be upgraded for the sole purpose of meeting ADA requirements, except as determined desirable by the project manager and that sidewalk and driveway replacements to meet upgrade criteria, and will not be included unless similar work is included in the project. However; if a valid complaint is documented in the area, the appropriate ADA compliant modification to the sidewalk(s) or driveway(s), should be completed within one calendar year of complaint validation.
  - The District's will consult with the FHWA, before excluding from a RRR project any replacing or retrofitting of existing ramps to meet the ADA criteria.

Should you have any questions concerning our policy, please contact me at (850) 942-9650, extension 3022.

Sincerely,

/s/ J. Chris Richter  
For: James E. St. John  
Division Administrator