



2019

Pedestrian Accommodations in Work Zones



City of Atlanta

Department of Public Works, Effective

1/1/2019

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Department of Public Works
Pedestrian Accommodations in Work Zones Policy

Note: This policy shall replace the former “Pedestrian Right of Way Access Policy” dated February 21, 2014.

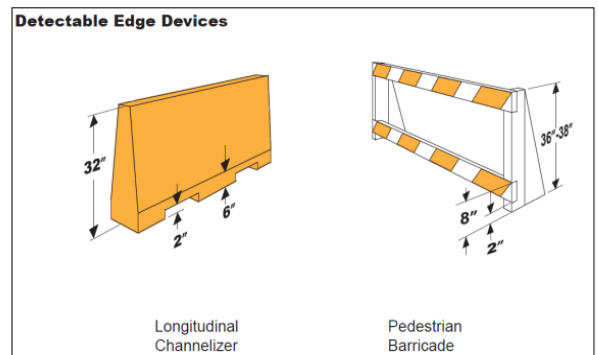
Wherever there is construction activity that impacts the public right-of-way and pedestrian access and flow, a temporary accommodation must be provided to ensure uninterrupted movement of pedestrians along that same route. This is a federal standard defined in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). According to the MUTCD, “*When existing pedestrian facilities are disrupted, closed, or relocated in a traffic control zone, the temporary facilities shall be detectable and include accessibility features consistent with the features present in the existing pedestrian facility.*” The following Pedestrian Accommodations Policy designates procedures and details to be implemented for the treatment of sidewalks during construction activities. This policy is to be enforced by the Department of Public Works when reviewing plans and inspecting work zones for construction that impacts pedestrian Right-of-Way. This policy applies to all construction and maintenance activities (horizontal and vertical), utility work, landscaping, and any sidewalk, lane, or road closures lasting more than 48 hours in construction duration. For activities lasting less than 48 hours, work crews are to:

- Determine how pedestrians may be affected by the work,
- Establish a plan of how the crew will assist any pedestrians, especially those that may be vision or mobility impaired,
- Identify a crew member to watch for pedestrians and initiate the plan as needed, and
- Ensure adequate signage is in place to direct pedestrians if worksite is unattended for any given period, especially overnight.

If permitted, Sidewalk closures should be scheduled to coincide with the start and end of construction within the sidewalk; construction schedules are **mandatory** when applying for a closure permit. To ensure that a sidewalk adjacent to a construction site is not unnecessarily closed for an extended amount of time, construction activity within the foot prints of the sidewalk should be a limited to the least extent possible. Sidewalk closure permits shall be limited to **45-day increments** with conditional extensions.

Key Safety Elements:

- Safe and accessible temporary pedestrian walkways shall be provided in all construction scenarios unless otherwise approved by the Department of Public Works.
- Longitudinal channelizers and properly-constructed pedestrian barricades with detectable edges shall be provided to ensure safe separation between pedestrians and work zones.
- Open holes and trenches on or near pedestrian routes must be fully covered and protected with fall-safe materials.



General Considerations:

- Adjacent travel lanes may be used for a temporary pedestrian walkway where more than 2 travel lanes exist per the direction of flow.
- Partial sidewalk closures will only be considered if a temporary pedestrian walkway is created to allow continuous flow along the same side of the sidewalk closure with adequate ramping from the existing sidewalk to the temporary walkway.
- Adequate signage must be provided at every impacted intersection and approach to provide pedestrians with advance warning of route changes.
- Sufficient sight lines should be maintained for pedestrians and motorists at intersections and crossings.
- Access from temporary walkway to active businesses and transit must be accommodated or coordinated with business owners and transit providers. Relocation of the impacted transit stop may be necessary if construction duration is more than 30 days.
- All work materials should be removed from the work zone and stored at the identified staging area during off-duty hours.
- Audible devices may be used at the work zone to provide hearing-impaired pedestrians with advance warning. These devices should be placed outside of the clear unobstructed walking path.
- There should be no signage, debris, or other construction related materials placed within the minimum 5 feet of clear unobstructed pedestrian walkway.
- If a bicycle lane is present, maintaining the bike lane is preferred when feasible and safe and will be expected as long as there is sufficient space on the roadway to maintain it. Travel lane and parking may be reduced to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle access.
- The walls, roof, and floor of the covered walkway should be maintained free of postings, graffiti, or advertising of any type. Any such material should be removed or appropriately covered within 24 hours.
- All temporary walkways shall be removed immediately upon completion of construction activities. The permanent sidewalk shall be restored to original condition or an improved condition from prior to start of construction.
- Trees shall not be removed, pruned, or disfigured for construction or raising of temporary walkways unless otherwise permitted.

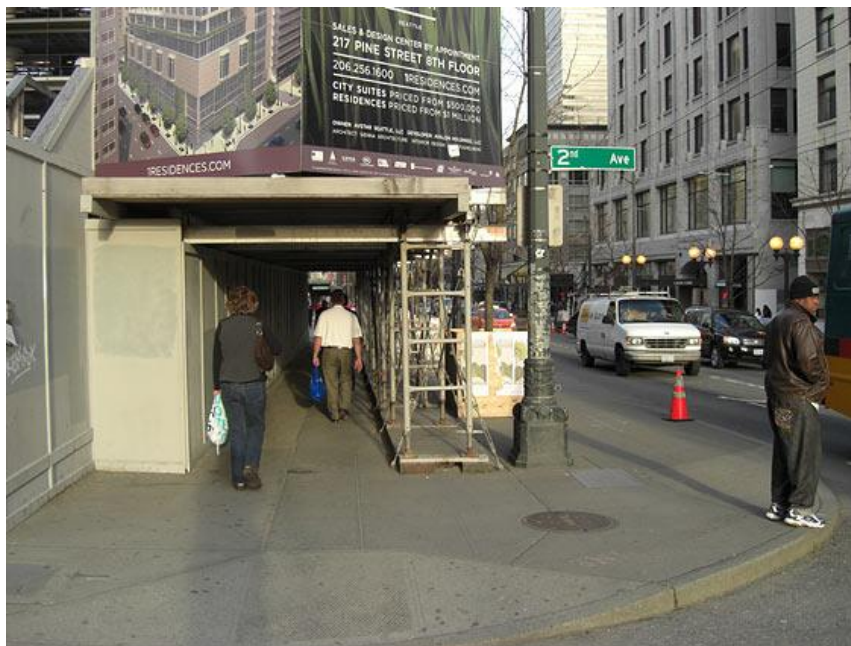
OPEN AND COVERED WALKWAYS

Covered Walkways on the Sidewalk

- **Specifications:** The drawings must show the side view, front view and cross section of the covered walkway. A traffic control plan for the construction of the covered walkway must also be provided with the application.
- **ADA Compliance:** All covered walkways constructed under this section must provide an accessible pedestrian route in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes, but is not limited to: constructing structural floors when required that have a surface that is firm, stable and slip resistant and that is compliant in slope, counter slope, vertical clearance, turning radii and surface

discontinuities; providing compliant ramps connecting the structural floor to an existing pedestrian accessible route; and implementing sufficient measures to ensure the safety and welfare of the pedestrian(s) traversing the site. All ramps with a rise greater than six inches (6 in.) shall be constructed with handrails on both sides of the ramp.

- **Floors:** Structural floors are not required unless needed to cross an opening or an obstruction in the sidewalk, to comply with requirements of the ADA. Otherwise, the sidewalk may serve as the floor of the covered walkway. Any structural floor provided shall be constructed of planking closely laid, made tight, and must comply with ADA requirements.
- **Roofs:** Roofs of covered walkways shall consist of planking no less than the industry standard nominal thickness of two inches (2 in.), closely laid, made water tight, and covered with exterior grade fire resistant plywood
- **Height:** Covered walkways shall have a clear and unobstructed ceiling height of not less than eight feet (8 ft.).
- **Width:** Covered walkways shall have a clear unobstructed width of not less than **five feet (5 ft.)** and no greater than the width of the existing unobstructed sidewalk. Width is to be measured from wall to wall.
- **Lighting:** The interior of the covered walkway on the sidewalk shall be lit at all times. Lights must be left on overnight. Burned out or inoperative lights shall be replaced or repaired within 24 hours.



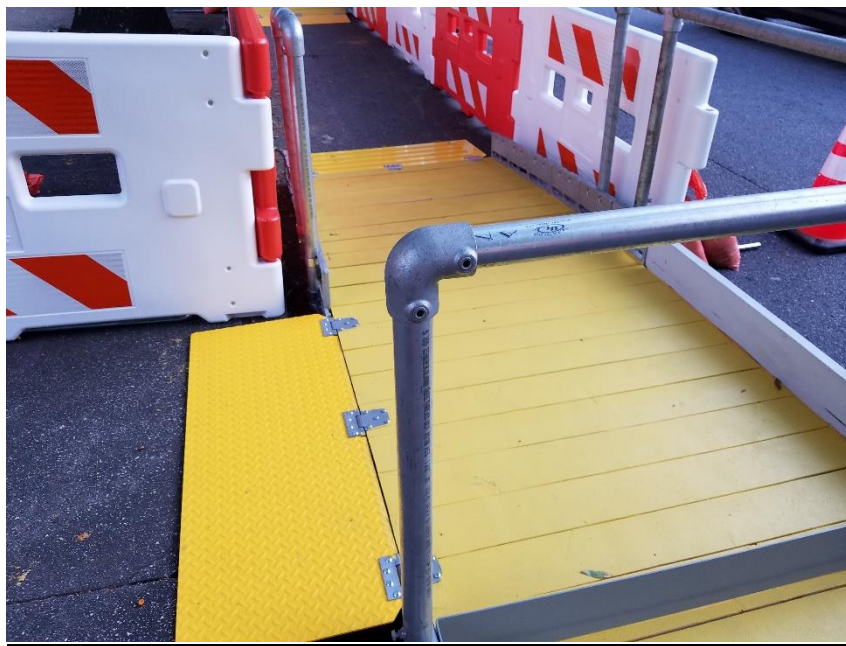
Covered Walkway on Sidewalk

Covered Walkways on the Roadway

- **Specifications:** The drawings must show the side view, front view and cross section of the covered walkway. A traffic control plan for the construction of the covered walkway must also be provided with the application.
- **ADA Compliance:** All covered walkways constructed under this section must provide an accessible pedestrian route in accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes, but is not limited to: constructing structural floors when required that have a surface that is firm, stable and slip resistant and that is compliant in slope, counter slope, vertical clearance, turning radii and surface discontinuities; providing compliant ramps connecting the structural floor to an existing pedestrian accessible route; and implementing sufficient measures to ensure the safety and welfare of the pedestrian(s) traversing the site. All ramps with a rise greater than six inches (6 in.) shall be constructed with handrails on both sides of the ramp. If walkway starts or ends mid-block, then a temporary ramp must be provided leading from the sidewalk to the walkway and must comply with requirements of ADA.
- **Floors:** If the roadway surface is uneven, the road shall be leveled using asphalt patching. If temporary metal plates are required they must be covered with an ADA compliant platform.
- **Roofs:** Roofs of covered walkways shall consist of planking no less than the industry standard nominal thickness of two inches (2 in.), closely laid, made water tight, and covered with exterior grade fire resistant plywood.
- **Height:** Covered walkways shall have a clear and unobstructed ceiling height of not less than eight feet (8 ft.).
- **Width:** Covered walkways shall have a clear unobstructed width of not less than **five feet (5 ft.)** in all other areas. Width is to be measured from interior wall to interior wall and not from handrail to wall or handrail to handrail. Covered walkways shall not allow unprotected passage along the sidewalk on either side of the covered walkway.
- **Lighting:** The interior of the covered walkway in the roadway shall be lighted at all times. Lights must be left on overnight. Any burned out or inoperative lights shall be replaced or repaired within 24 hours.
- **Channelization:** Walkways on the roadway shall be channelized using impact-resistant jersey barriers or equivalent water-filled barriers with a continuous edge that allow pedestrians with limited vision to follow the continuous edge by hand or walking device from beginning to the end of the walkway on both sides of the walkway. All barriers must have reflectors placed in accordance with the MUTCD traffic control standards.



Covered Walkway on Roadway



Temporary ADA Curb Ramp

Open Walkways on the Roadway

- **Specifications:** The open walkway must be separated from the adjacent work zone by a chain link fence or other similar ADA-compliant barrier device. Any gate in the fence must swing inward toward the work zone. Screened fencing may also be used on the construction side of the walkway. The fence must be properly anchored but cannot be bolted or attached in any similar manner into the roadway or sidewalk. Light debris mesh shall be used when necessary and used in conjunction with other ADA-compliant barriers. No light debris mesh

shall be installed within 30 feet of an intersection of two roadways.

- **ADA Compliance:** A temporary ramp perpendicular to the curb must be provided to comply with ADA requirements. The ADA requirement for pitch side-to-side does not have to be met in the case of temporary open walkways in the roadway.
- **Width:** Covered walkways shall have a clear unobstructed width of not less than **five feet (5 ft.)** in all other areas.
- **Channelization:** Walkways on the roadway shall be channelized using impact-resistant jersey barriers or equivalent water-filled barriers with a continuous edge that allows pedestrians with limited vision to follow the continuous edge by hand or walking device from beginning to the end of the walkway on both sides of the walkway. All barriers must have reflectors placed in accordance with the MUTCD traffic control standards.
- **Floor:** If the floor (roadway surface) is uneven, the road shall be leveled using asphalt patching. Temporary metal plates are not to be used at any point as the floor of a covered walkway in the roadway. If temporary metal plates are required they must be covered with an ADA compliant platform.



Opened Walkway on Roadway

Open Walkways on the Sidewalk

- **Specifications:** The open walkway must be separated from the adjacent work zone by a chain link fence or other similar channelization barrier. Any gate in the fence must swing inward toward the work zone. The fence must be properly anchored but cannot be bolted or attached in any similar manner into the sidewalk. Light debris mesh shall be used when necessary. No light debris mesh shall be installed within 30 feet of an intersection of two roadways.
- **Width:** The open walkway must be no less than **five feet (5 ft.)** of unobstructed sidewalk width in all areas.



Opened Walkway on Sidewalk

If a wheelchair accessible pedestrian passageway cannot be provided using one of the methods outlined above, the City may allow detouring of pedestrian traffic in extenuating circumstances. If pedestrian traffic has been approved to be re-directed to cross on the other side of the street and that right-of-way (sidewalk/intersections) does not meet current ADA requirements; it is the contractor's responsibility to upgrade the facilities to meet ADA requirements and meet all other signage and barricade requirements before a sidewalk closure permit will be issued. In addition, a sidewalk closure may be permitted during a specific phase of construction (based on the provided construction schedule) only when allowing pedestrians on the sidewalk adjacent to the construction site is found to be an immediate danger to them. Once the specific construction phase is completed, the contractor will be required to provide one of the aforementioned protected walkways.

Complete Closure of the Sidewalk

- Specifications: Sidewalk closures will only be approved in extenuating circumstances where it has been determined that the closure is the safest and most practical option for pedestrians.
- Signage: MUTCD compliant directional signs must be provided on both sides of each crosswalk notifying pedestrians that the sidewalk is closed ahead and directing them to cross. MUTCD-compliant signs must also be provided at the ends of the work zone notifying pedestrians of the sidewalk closure.
- Audible Signals and other devices: It is encouraged that contractors use audible devices at each approach side of the closure to alert visually-impaired pedestrians of the sidewalk closure.

Pedestrian Protection by Phase of Construction

Phase of Construction	Pedestrian Protection				
	Covered Walkway -Sidewalk-	Covered Walkway -Roadway-	Open Walkway -Sidewalk-	Open Walkway -Roadway-	Sidewalk Closure
Raze/Site Demolition					P
Facade Demolition	2†	2†			P
Sheeting & Shoring & Excavation	P*	2*	P*	2*	
Concrete or Steel Frame Construction		P			2
Skin or Façade Construction		P			2
Post Skin	P		P	2	
Sidewalk and Streetscape Work				P**	2**
Utility Work or other Work in ROW				P**	2**

Adopted from District of Columbia Department of Transportation

P = Preferred method

2 = Next alternative

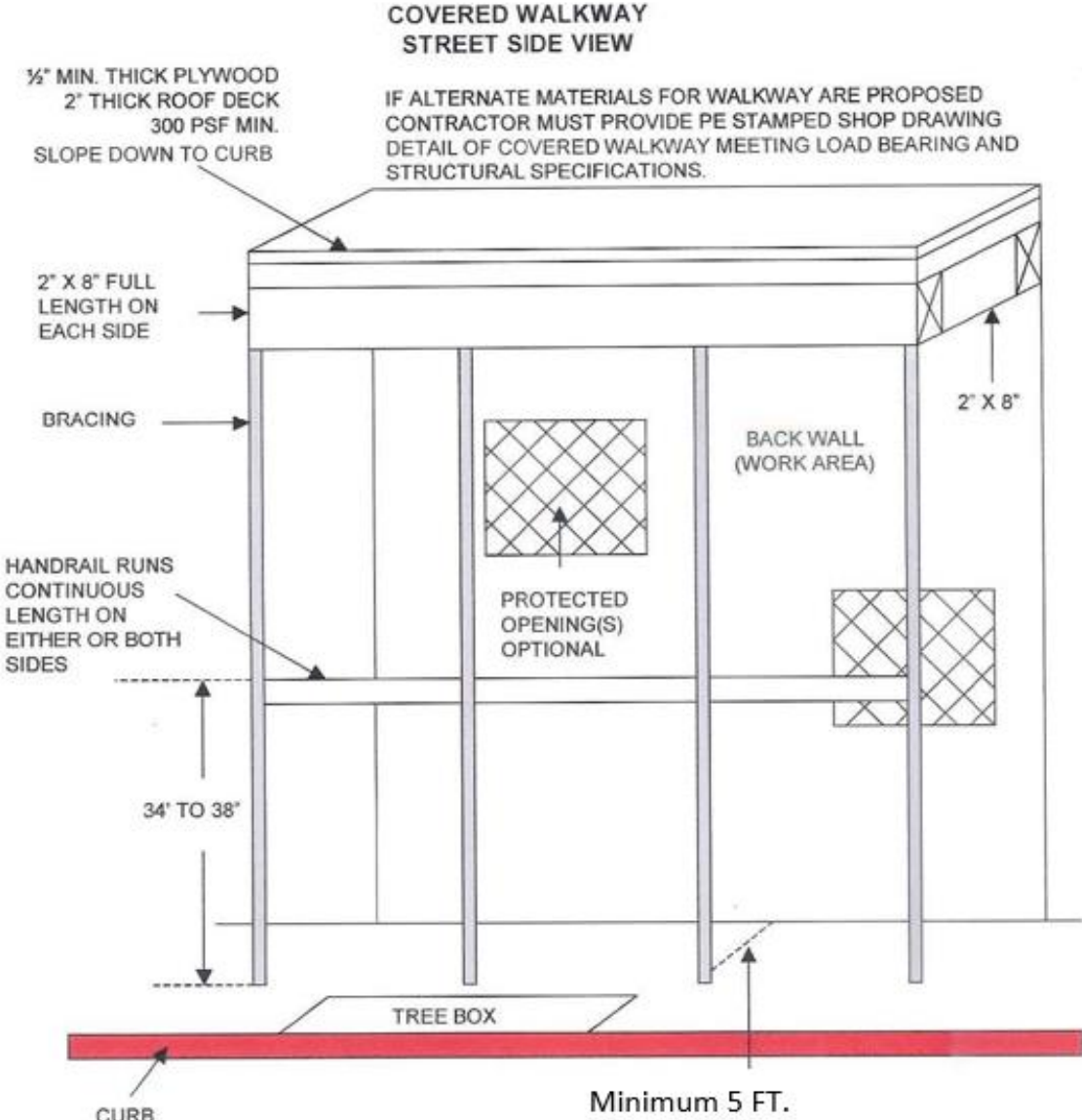
* For intermittent closures due to lifting overhead, a flagger should be used at both ends of the walkway

** These closures are expected to last no longer than 4 to 8 weeks

† When minimal overhead danger is present, covered walkways are the preferred method

Note: This represents the general policy of the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works for Pedestrian Accommodations during construction activities. A site-specific modification may be considered by the Department of Public Works if deemed necessary. This request must be submitted in writing along with the traffic control plan and public space permit application; and must explain the modification and the site-specific conditions that require the modification. The modification may not be executed prior to notification and approval from the Department of Public Works.

Covered Walkway Standard Drawings



IF A STRUCTURAL FLOOR IS INSTALLED THE WALKWAY MUST INCLUDE
 ADA-COMPLIANT CONTINUOUS RAILINGS AS PER COVERED WALKWAY STANDARDS

LIGHTS (NOT SHOWN) MUST BE INSTALLED ON
 EITHER THE ROOF OR BACK WALL IN VANDAL-
 PROOF FIXTURES 8 FEET MIN. FROM THE FLOOR

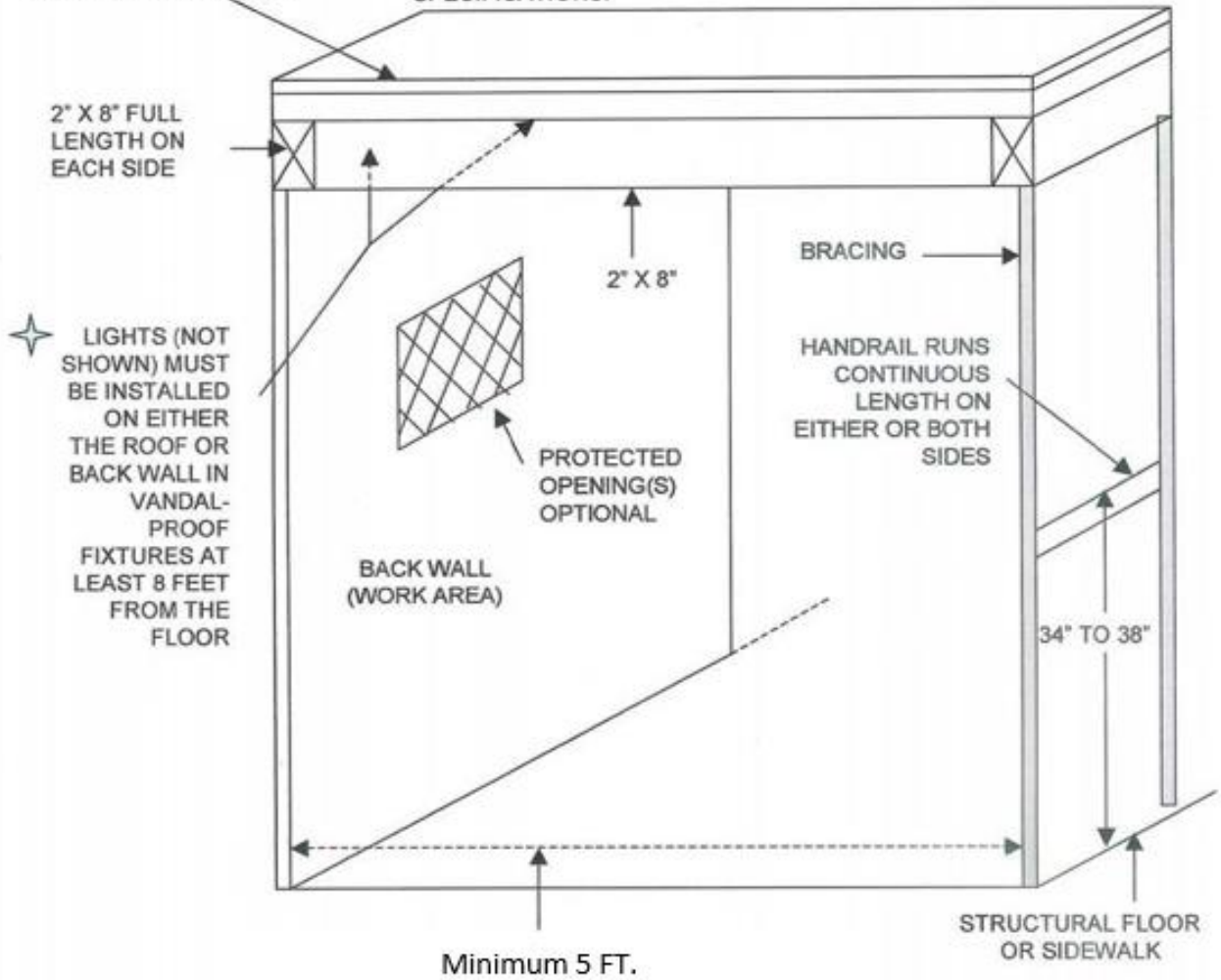
COVERED WALKWAY - STREET SIDE VIEW
APPROVED BY

Adopted from District of Columbia Department of Transportation

**COVERED WALKWAY
SIDEWALK END VIEW**

½" MIN. THICK PLYWOOD
2" THICK ROOF DECK
300 PSF MIN.
SLOPE DOWN TO CURB

IF ALTERNATE MATERIALS FOR WALKWAY ARE PROPOSED
CONTRACTOR MUST PROVIDE PE STAMPED SHOP DRAWING DETAIL
OF COVERED WALKWAY MEETING LOAD BEARING AND STRUCTURAL
SPECIFICATIONS.



★ LIGHTS (NOT SHOWN) MUST BE INSTALLED ON EITHER THE ROOF OR BACK WALL IN VANDAL-PROOF FIXTURES AT LEAST 8 FEET FROM THE FLOOR

★ IF A STRUCTURAL FLOOR IS INSTALLED WALKWAY MUST INCLUDE ADA-COMPLIANT CONTINUOUS RAILINGS AS PER COVERED WALKWAY STANDARDS

COVERED WALKWAY - SIDEWALK END VIEW
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Temporary Curb Ramp Requirements

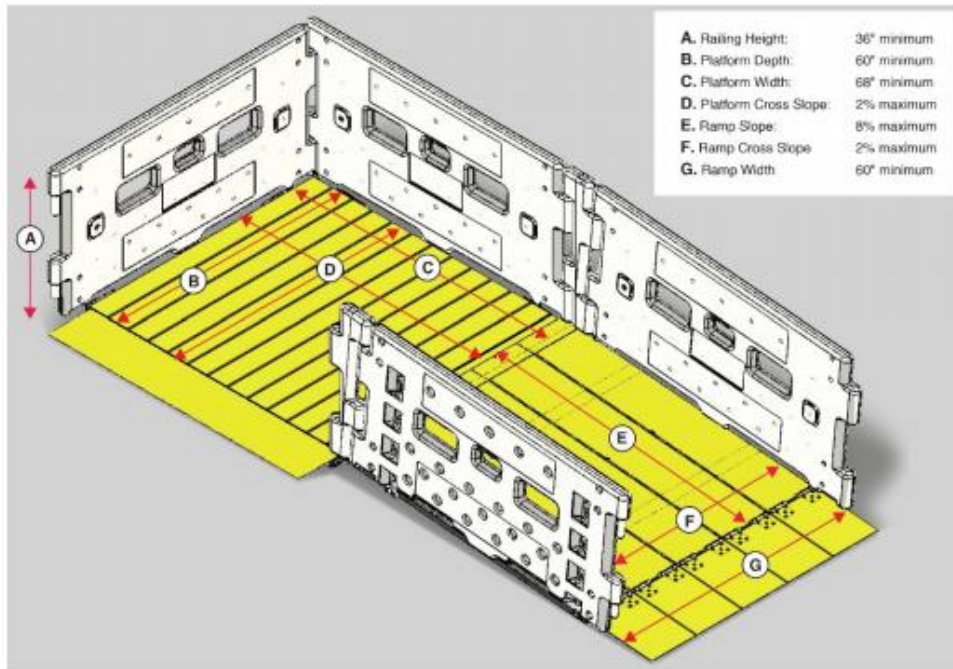
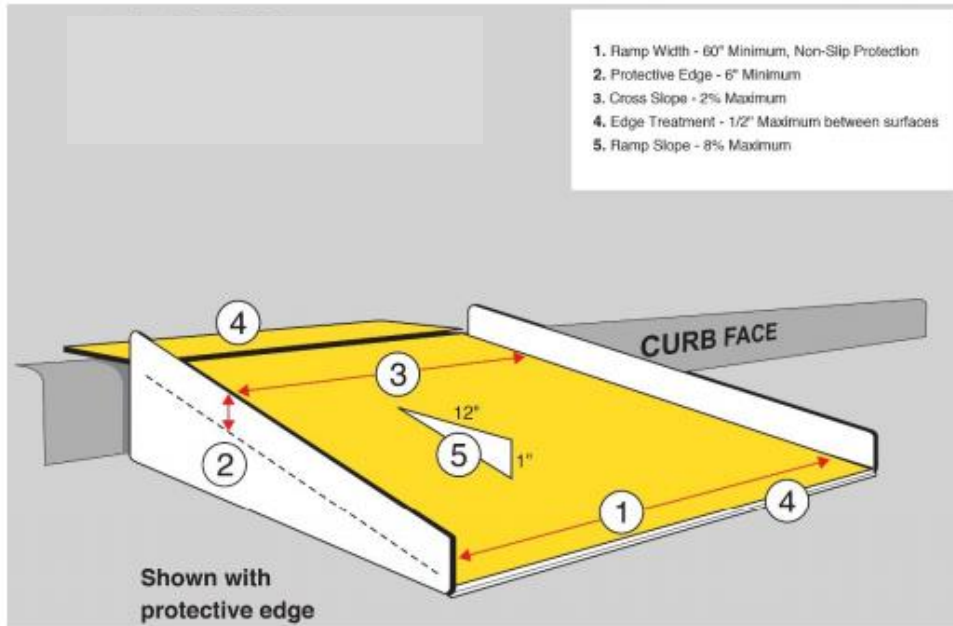


Image Courtesy Florida DOT