

Sidewalk and Curb Permits in Pennsylvania



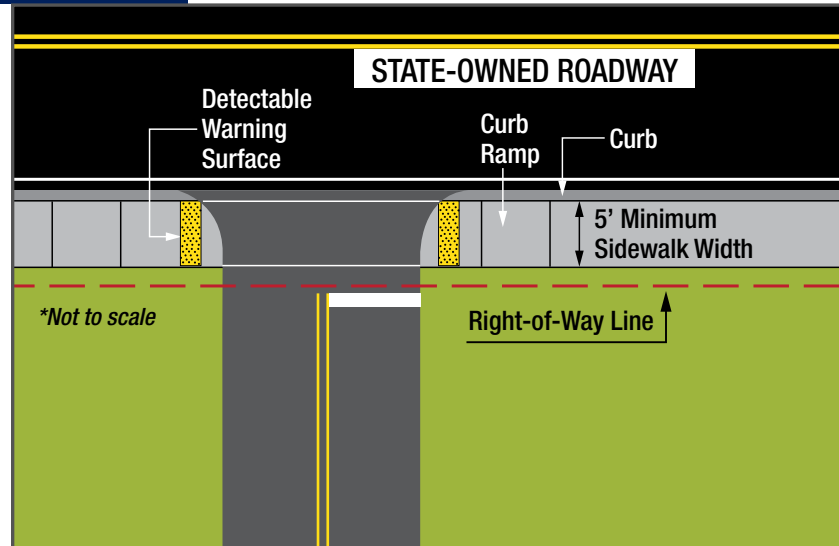
Pennsylvania
Department of Transportation

Do you plan to install or alter sidewalk and/or curb along a state-owned roadway?

If so, prior to performing the work within the PennDOT right-of-way, a Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) needs to be obtained from PennDOT. HOPs are required to ensure safety for all roadway users.

How do I know if sidewalk or curb is along a state-owned roadway?

To identify if sidewalk or curb is along a state-owned roadway, visit our [website](#).



What is a Right-of-Way?

The Right-of-Way is the area which has been acquired by PennDOT for highway purposes. The Right-of-Way allows the public the "right of passage" along state owned roadways. The Right-of-Way can vary in width and generally extends beyond the edge of paved roads and shoulders. You can typically rely on utility poles being located at the edge of the Right-of-Way.

Guidance for Municipalities: Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair

Many municipalities have ordinances directing residents or businesses to maintain sidewalks and reach ADA compliance, but residents may be unaware of their responsibilities. Unmaintained and inconsistent sidewalks can lead to pedestrian safety issues.

Municipalities should regularly inspect sidewalks for repairs and perform preventative maintenance. Use [PennDOT's curb ramp / sidewalk inspection form](#) as a starting point for identifying maintenance needs.

Where PennDOT standards cannot be met, utilize the [Technically Infeasible Form](#).



Non-compliant sidewalks can expose pedestrians to conflicts with vehicles in the street.



Sidewalks that are not ADA compliant can create barriers for impaired pedestrians.



Trip, slip, and fall hazards for pedestrians can result in injury to residents and lawsuits.

Sidewalk and Curb Permit Application Procedure

- Submissions must be made via PennDOT's ePermitting System (EPS).
- Include one complete set of detailed plans clearly illustrating the location and pertinent dimensions of the proposed installation(s).
- Provide proof of ownership or interest in the property (e.g., copy of deed, etc.).
- Provide a letter from the municipality indicating their review of the proposed sidewalk or curb.
- Submit the required documents listed above to the appropriate PennDOT District via PennDOT's ePermitting System (EPS) at least 30 days prior to the anticipated start of work.
- If not a municipality, a fee of \$40 is due at time of issuance by either a check, money order, or credit card payment.
- If storm water facilities are proposed due to curb and sidewalk, the municipality may need to be the applicant.
- HOPs may not be required for maintenance. Check with the appropriate District Office.

Click the link to view your
[PennDOT Districts](#)



What are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards from PennDOT?



ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act

ADA standards exist to ensure unimpeded access to sidewalks for people with disabilities. The basic ADA standards from PennDOT require the following:

- Sidewalks must be constructed of Class A cement concrete and provide a firm, stable, and slip-resistant surface.
- Desirable sidewalk width is 5-feet, however sidewalks can be 4-foot wide if a 5-foot passing area is provided every 200-feet. Minimum sidewalk width may also vary by municipality. Refer to your municipality's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances for additional guidance on required width.
- Detectable warning surfaces shall be installed where a curb ramp crosses streets, alleys, or railroads and should be installed at the crossing of stop or yield controlled commercial driveways.
- There can be an elevation difference of no more than ¼-inch along the sidewalk path.
- The cross slope of the sidewalk can be no more than 2%. The longitudinal slope may be no more than 5% or matching the slope of the adjacent roadway.

To learn more about ADA requirements and view examples of ADA compliant sidewalks, visit: [ADA and Pedestrian Accommodations](#).

Sidewalk and Curb Fast Facts

- No-fee HOPs will be issued in the name of a local government for the construction or modification of sidewalk and curb facilities being installed at no additional cost or expense to PennDOT. Additional inspection fees will still be assessed if the District anticipates the cost of inspection will exceed the standard fees by a significant amount. Local governments are townships, cities, boroughs, incorporated towns, home rule municipalities, and counties.
- PennDOT may also issue an HOP to an individual property owner for the construction of sidewalk and curb within the property frontage. A local government may impose additional requirements upon a property owner for the construction of curbs and sidewalks provided that they do not conflict with PennDOT's standards.
- Curbs and sidewalks are to be designed and installed consistent with Sections 630, 676, and 695 of [Publication 408, Roadway Construction Standards](#), RC-64M and RC-67M, and [Publication 13M, Design Manual, Part 2, Chapter 6](#). See Section 416 of the [State Highway Law](#).
- Applications to construct or modify curb or sidewalk will be reviewed by District staff to determine the effects on safety, capacity, existing utility facilities and compliance with ADA.
- If the proposed sidewalk or curb facility will have an adverse impact on safety or capacity, the application will not be approved.
- If the proposed sidewalk or curb facilities will have an adverse effect on highway drainage or change the rate, volume, or quality of storm water runoff, the permittee will be required to construct all remedial drainage facilities and assume all future maintenance obligations of the drainage facilities as a condition of the permit.
- If the proposed sidewalk or curb facility will require the relocation of any utility facility, the applicant must submit written acknowledgment from all affected utilities that the utilities agree to relocate to the location designated on the plans at no cost to PennDOT.

What to Expect Next After Your Application is Submitted

1

The applicant can expect the application to be reviewed within 30 days of receipt by PennDOT.

2

PennDOT personnel visit the site and verify design requirements.

3

Upon PennDOT's confirmation of all required design items, a permit will be issued and emailed/mailed to the applicant.

4

The Applicant is responsible for providing the permit to their contractor and paying for all costs associated with the construction.

Contact a permit coordinator for assistance [HOP District and Central Office Contacts](#)

For additional guidance on completion of the application, please use [PennDOT Publication 282, Highway Occupancy Permit Operations Manual](#).