


PBOT

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CITY ENGINEER DIRECTIVE

Number	Supersedes	Effective Date	Cancellation Date
ST 005	N/A	September 17, 2021	
Subject:		Issuer:	
ADA Curb Ramp Flare Slopes		 Steve Townsend, PE, City Engineer 09/20/21	

PURPOSE:

Provides clarification on measuring curb ramp flare slopes.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Portland applies 2010 ADA Standards as interpreted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). These standards require that flare slopes shall be a maximum of 10 percent.¹ Physical terrain and site conditions often limit the ability to meet this requirement. Therefore, the City of Portland applies the following design and measurement guidance.

DIRECTIVE:

The criteria for flare slopes for ramps constructed on or along City of Portland accessible routes are as follows:

- **For design purposes** and to allow for construction tolerance, flare slopes should generally be 6' of horizontal flare length for a 6" curb exposure, or equivalent ratio. This requirement is to ensure that flare slopes are designed using best practices and not steeper than necessary.
- **For construction purposes**, when measuring flare slopes, first check that flare slopes are 10% absolute or less, and if so, the flare slope is acceptable. If greater than 10% absolute AND the slope differential between the grade of the flare relative to the street grade is equal to or less 10%, the flare slope is acceptable. Refer to PBOT *ADA Curb Ramp Inspection Manual* located on the PBOT ADA webpage for measurement instructions.
<https://www.portland.gov/transportation/engineering/ada-page>

¹ Section 7.3.11, [Part II of II: Best Practices Design Guide - Sidewalk2 - Publications - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - Environment - FHWA \(dot.gov\)](#)

