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Last updated June 11th, 2019. - More coming monthly! - If you have any questions about this document, please contact PBOT's ADA CREEC Program at adacrecprogram@portlandoregon.gov

| Design Element | Typical Design Range | Design Limit | Existing Ramps | Notes/Explanation | ADA 2010 Limit | Reference | PBOT requirement | Reference2 | Other References (Name) | Guide Limit | Reference3 |
|--|---|--|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|------------|
| Ramp Running Slope | 6% to 7.2% | 7.2% max | 8.3% max | Any grade above 5% is considered a ramp, but it is good design practice to make a ramp steep enough that it can be easily distinguished from the adjacent sidewalk. | 1:12 (8.33%) max | Sections 405.2, 406.1 | 8.33% max | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 & P-548 | | | |
| Relative slope on ramp wings | 8% - 9% | 9.5% max | 10% max | For ramp wings only, slope is measured relative to the adjacent street grade instead of true level. | 1:10 (10%) max | Section 406.3 | 10% max | PBOT Standard Drawing P-548 | | | |
| Height of lip allowed | 0.0" max | 0.0" max | 0.0" max | Even a 1/4" lip can be a tripping hazard or make it difficult to roll over. No lip is allowed, as 2010 ADA Standards say "The adjacent surfaces at transitions at curb ramps to walks, gutters, and streets shall be at the same level." | 0.0" max | Section 406.2 | | | | | |
| Ramp length | 3' to 6' | 15' max | 15' max | If a slope at 8.33% for 15 feet is not adequate, and a steeper grade is required to match existing, a design variance approved by an ADA Technical Advisor is required. This guideline exists to avoid chasing a grade indefinitely on steep topography. | | | 15' max | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | | | |
| Ramp throat width | 4' to 6' (more in high ped areas) | 4' min | 4' min | Midblock ramps should match the width of corresponding sidewalk, up to 6 feet. | 36" min | Sections 405.5, 406.1 | 4' min | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | | | |
| Cross Slope change | 0.5% per linear foot (in direction of travel) | 0.5% per foot max | | This is a design guideline to prevent the cross slope of an accessible route from warping too quickly. A highly warped panel may cause one wheel of a wheelchair to come off the ground, and makes it more difficult for all users to traverse. Note: no lumps, bumps or humps allowed (workmanship issues). | | | | | | | |
| Transition Panel placement | About 6' long (to existing score line) | See 'Cross Slope Change' and 'Ramp Running Slope' | See 'Cross Slope Change' and 'Ramp Running Slope' | The purpose of a Transition Panel is to serve as a semi-permanent transition from a fully compliant ADA ramp to existing sidewalk that has one or more non-standard grades. When a future project replaces the non-standard sidewalk, a sawcut will be made at the edge of the fully compliant ADA ramp and the transition panel will be removed along with the sidewalk to be upgraded. If the existing sidewalk has fully ADA compliant slopes or no sidewalk exists, a transition panel is not needed. | | | | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | | | |
| Length of ramp wings (measured along gutter) | 3' - 6' | 3' min | | This minimum length ensures that the minimum curb exposure of 3" between two single ramps can be attained. | | | | PBOT Standard Drawings P-548 and P-550 | | | |
| Sidewalk grade | 1% to 4.5% | 4.5% max | 5.0% max | A running slope greater than 5% is considered a Ramp, and is subject to additional requirements such as length maximums and placement of landings. | 1:20 (5%) max | Sections 402.2, 403.3 | 5% max | | | | |
| Gutter Pan width at ramp | 24" | | | A 24" gutter pan allows a transition between an 8.3% ramp slope and a 5% street slope (greater than 11% algebraic difference). The concrete gutter pan also allows greater control of grades, and provides a surface that is easier to pave to and create a smooth transition (no lip). See "Algebraic difference in running slopes" for additional requirements when grade break between existing street and ramp is 11% or greater. | | | | | FHWA | 24" minimum, when used to mitigate grade break 11% or greater | 7.3.7 |
| Landing Area size | 4' to 5' square | 48" x 48" min. (w/o obstruction) | 48" x 48" min. (w/o obstruction) | Landings must always be at least as wide as the ramp leading to the landing. If there is a vertical obstruction (including curb) within 1' of the landing, landing must be at least 5' in that dimension to provide clearance from the obstruction. Landings at the bottom of ramps must be located completely outside any travel lanes, including bike lanes. | Obstruction above XX" high | | 48" x 48" min. (w/o obstruction) | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | | | |
| Inlet and ramp proximity | Inlet should be outside of wing and crosswalk | Inlets must be outside of ramp throat & accessible route | Inlets must be outside of ramp throat & accessible route | Ideally, inlets should be located beyond the ramp wings and along a tangent (beyond the PT or PC of a corner). See PBOT Std. Drawing P-202. In some cases, inlets may land outside the ramp throat but within the pedestrian through zone. New inlets (and new curb ramps) must be located such that the inlet is outside the curb ramp throat, not in the accessible path, and does not pose a hazard to any person using the crossing (no lips or drops in or near crossing). | | | | PBOT Std. Drawing P-202 | | | |
| Cross slope of accessible path, Landing Area slope (both directions) | 1% to 1.5% | 1.5% max | 2% max | Components designated as Flat or Level include the cross slope of any portion of the accessible route, and the slope in both directions of a landing or turning space. | 1:48 max (2%) | Section 405.3 | 2% max | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | | | |

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| Algebraic difference in running slopes | 7% to 10% | 10% max | 11% max | Combining the maximum allowed ramp running slope (8.3%) with the maximum allowed slope in the street (5%) will result in an algebraic difference (13.3%) that is higher than the maximum allowed. If a 24" gutter pan is used with a 2% slope, this will create a set of two grade breaks (8.3% + 2% = 10.3% and 5% - 2% = 3%) that are both acceptable. | | | 11% max | PBOT Standard Drawings P-547 thru P-550 | FHWA | 11% max | 7.3.6, 7.3.7 |
| Minimum distance between grade breaks | 2' to 6' | 24" (2') min | 24" (2') min | If grade breaks are less than 24" apart, it is counted as a single grade break for the purposes of calculating algebraic difference. | | | | | FHWA | 24" (2') min | 7.3.7 |