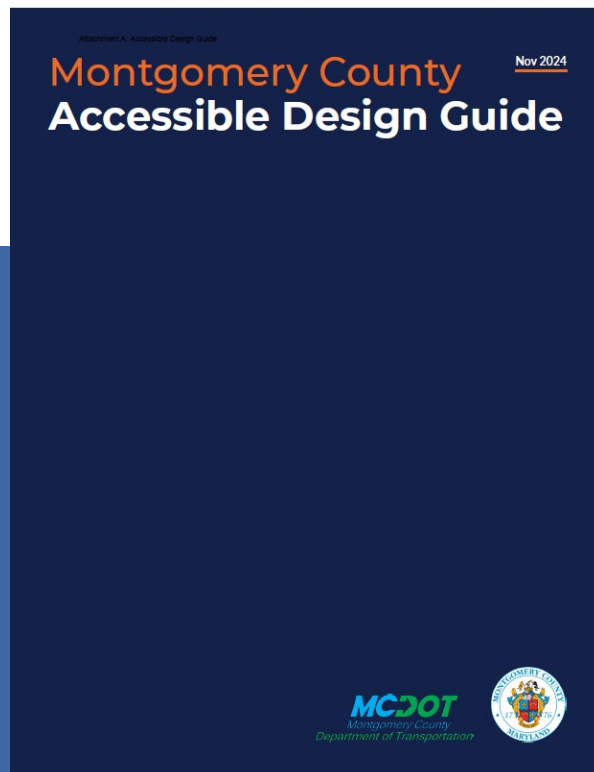


BRIEFING: MONTGOMERY COUNTY ACCESSIBLE DESIGN GUIDE



The recently published Montgomery County Accessible Design Guide is a go-to resource that includes accessibility guidance from federal, state, and local sources. The document identifies both accessibility requirements and best practices to support planning, design, and construction in the public right-of-way by county staff and private parties.



Eli Glazier, Transportation Planner III, Countywide Planning & Policy Division,
eli.glazier@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-4548



David Anspacher, Chief, Countywide Planning & Policy Division,
david.anspacher@montgomeryplanning.org, 301-495-2191

SUMMARY

- Montgomery County developed the Accessible Design Guide to consolidate guidance from multiple documents, including:
 - Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*
 - Title II of the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*
 - The US Access Board's *Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG)*
 - Other state and federal laws
- The document builds on Montgomery County's long-standing commitment to accessible design, including the development of a previous guidance document titled *Planning and Designing Streets to be Safer and More Accessible for People with Vision Disabilities*
- The document advances implementation of several *Pedestrian Master Plan* recommendations

INFORMATION

[Draft](#)

Briefing

[Lead Planner](#)

Eli Glazier

[Staff Contact](#)

Eli.Glazier@montgomeryplanning.org

[Date Submitted](#)

N/A

[Planning Division](#)

Countywide Planning & Policy

[Planning Board Information](#)

MCPB

Item No. 10

02/13/2025

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SECTION 1 – PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will brief the Planning Board on the Accessible Design Guide. Work on this effort began in October 2022 as a follow-up to its earlier accessible design effort: *Planning and Designing Streets to be Safer and More Accessible for People with Vision Disabilities*. The document includes sections on accessibility in design and engagement, with specific attention provided to topics including:

- Sidewalks
- Shared Use Paths
- Sidewalk-Level Separated Bike Lanes
- Crosswalks
- Curb Ramps
- Driveway Crossings
- Pedestrian Push Buttons
- Lighting
- Bus Stops
- Accessible On-Street Parking
- Pedestrian Access Routes

The document provides nation-leading guidance into accessibility requirements and best practices that will make public and private public space design better in the years to come.

SECTION 2 – ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

The Accessible Design Guide advances several key actions in the 2023 *Pedestrian Master Plan*. Specifically, sections of the Guide address the following:

- **B-3a:** Update state and county design standards to reflect a preference for perpendicular curb ramps aligned with the crosswalk.
- **B-3b:** Update the CSDG to establish ladder-style, high-visibility crosswalks as the default crosswalk design in Montgomery County.
- **B-4g:** Provide public seating, restrooms, and other pedestrian amenities in Downtowns, Town Centers, and priority park locations and along Boulevards.
- **B-5a:** Develop lighting standards for each street type and trails.
- **EA-1b:** Saw cut sidewalk joints to minimize vibrations for pedestrians using mobility devices or pushing strollers.
- **EA-1d:** Construct the pedestrian clear zone using materials approved by MCDOT's Design Standards and Specifications.
- **EA-4b:** Ensure that every pedestrian push button has a light that informs pedestrians when the pedestrian phase has been triggered.
- **EA-5a:** Develop standards on the use of tactile walking surface indicators (TWSIs) in the pedestrian and transit networks.

With its focus on creating a transportation system where people of all ages and abilities can safely and directly walk and roll, the Accessible Design Guide helps make the *Pedestrian Master Plan* vision a reality.

SECTION 3 – COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The MCDOT project team conducted extensive engagement activities during the development of the Accessible Design Guide, including an Accessibility Challenges Survey, the results of which provide context throughout the document.

These are the project’s touch points with the community:

- 1/5/2023: Project Management Team – Meeting #1
- 2/18/2023 – 3/27/2023: Accessibility Challenges Survey open – 247 respondents
- 5/10/2023: Presentation to Commission on People with Disabilities (#1)
- 5/25/2023: Project Management Team – Meeting #2
- 2/22/2024: Project Management Team – Meeting #3
- 3/13/2024: Presentation to Commission on People with Disabilities (#2)

SECTION 4 – ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Accessible Design Guide