

PROWAP

Public Rights-of-Way Assessment Process

discrimination & liability

According to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), all public entity facilities must provide access to services, programs, or activities for individuals with disabilities.

Because sidewalks constitute a service, program, or activity of a city, they are subject to the ADA program accessibility regulations (*Barden v. City of Sacramento*, 292 F.3d 1073 (9th Cir. 2002)). Therefore every sidewalk environment is required to meet the accessibility guidelines to avoid discrimination and liability.

requirements

In order to comply with federal accessibility requirements, all public entities are required to perform a self-evaluation, develop a transition plan for accessibility, include a schedule, and maintain accessibility. How do you begin such a massive project?

the first step

Beneficial Designs is equipped and ready to assess and assist you with the critical first step of self-evaluation.

OUR services

The Beneficial Designs Public Rights-of-Way Assessment Process (PROWAP) streamlines the self-evaluation by providing high-speed, automated data collection with minimal effort, detailed accuracy, and direct conversion into a GIS database. Our collected sidewalk data produces a comprehensive assessment of existing sidewalk conditions, enabling an evaluation of the sidewalk environment for compliance with any existing or future standards. By reducing assessment time by up to 90% as compared to normal manual methods, **PROWAP offers the most amount of sidewalk data in the least amount of time.**

The entire sidewalk environment can be divided into four main areas of **liability and potential hazards**. Our Public Rights-of-Way Assessment Process (PROWAP) targets and assesses these four areas:



tripping hazards

The most expensive liabilities in the sidewalk environment are features such as vertical discontinuities, gaps, protruding objects, and other pathway obstructions that block passage along the public right-of-way and pose a danger to all sidewalk users.



pathway characteristics

Cross slope, tread width, surface quality, and grade significantly affect the accessibility and usability of any pathway. For example, excessive cross slopes may direct pedestrians into the roadway while narrow tread width may stop path use all together.



curb ramps

Parallel, perpendicular, and blended transition curb ramps are critical to providing access between sidewalk and street. Poor design creates safety risks and major informational and structural barriers to pedestrians with mobility or vision impairment.



critical features

Design of features within the sidewalk environment can hinder or even block access to both the public right-of-way and the features themselves. The US Access Board Draft Guidelines specify minimum accessibility requirements for many of these sidewalk features.

the **smart choice**

Our assessment process meticulously identifies and documents all tripping hazards, curb ramps, slopes, and critical features, providing the extensive data you need at unprecedented speed. Eliminating up-and-down movement, our state-of-the-art tools are designed for standing operation, providing a fast-paced, cost-effective, and healthy assessment solution.



assessment **cart**

Equipped with software, GPS, camera, electronically stabilized sensors for measuring both grade and cross slope simultaneously, and a digital distance encoder, our PROWAP cart enables fast, accurate, and automated collection of detailed sidewalk data while on the go. Set to 2 inches above ground surface and 80 inches high, the cart identifies both clearance barriers and vertical obstructions.



measure **height**

Vertical transitions between sidewalk panels greater than a quarter inch are a liability—and difficult to measure! The digital height measuring device (DHMD) eliminates physical strain and injury by allowing an assessor to measure the height of a level change without kneeling or squatting. And with the click of a button, the collected data is instantly transferred to the PROWAP software and database.



measure **length**

Can you imagine assessing miles of sidewalk environment dimensions with a tape measure? The digital measuring wheel (DMW) streamlines short distance measurements, such as curb ramps and path widths, minimizing time and effort. As with all the PROWAP tools, there is no more need for kneeling or squatting. And like the DHMD, the DMW sends data directly to the PROWAP software.

our **deliverables**

Once we complete the physical portion of the self-evaluation process for the development of your transition plan, the data can be imported into a GIS database, producing a complete layer of geo-referenced data for management and planning needs. Data may be further analyzed and utilized in order to create a transition plan to meet ADA accessibility requirements.

Our deliverables include Microsoft Excel files and GIS shapefiles with feature and station data and compliance analysis, images of all assessed features and stations, and optional ArcGIS-exported PDF maps that visually display collected data.

contact us today to schedule a PROWAP sidewalk assessment

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beneficial designs

designing beyond the norm to meet the needs of all people