ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:
- This Engineering Bulletin (EB) is effective beginning with projects submitted for the letting of January 9, 2014.
- This EB does not supersede any other issuance.
- The revisions issued with this EB are incorporated into the Highway Design Manual (HDM) Chapter 18.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this EB is to issue a limited revision to Chapter 18 of the Highway Design Manual – Pedestrian Facility Design.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION: The following sections of HDM 18 have been revised:
- Section 18.4 Definitions: Alteration and Maintenance Activities have been updated to be consistent with FHWA’s 2006 “Memorandum of Clarification of FHWA’s Oversight Role in Accessibility”.
- Section 18.5.5.2 Projects That Warrant Pedestrian Accommodation: The paragraph addressing pedestrian accommodation for facilities in or adjacent to districts and/or properties that are on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places has been revised. These revisions are consistent with other Department guidance regarding historic properties.
- Section 18.5.5.3 Meeting Minimum Standards and Guidelines: Reference section has been updated to reflect issuance of 2011 Revised, Draft Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG).
- Section 18.6.1 Pedestrian Facility Design under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is revised to be compatible with newly clarified definitions for “Alterations” and “Maintenance Activities”. The paragraph regarding projects involving the reconstruction of one side of an intersection has also been clarified.
- Section 18.6.1.4 National Register of Historic Places: This section was revised to clarify the Department’s obligations to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) on projects involving districts and/or properties that are listed or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The guidance is now consistent with the Department’s Local Projects Guidance.
- Section 18.6.5.1 Widths: This section was revised to be consistent with 2011 PROWAG, and to provide clarity on the need for, and minimum width of, sidewalk passing spaces. Exhibit 18-5 Passing Space has been revised.
- Section 18.7.3 Curb Ramps/Blended Transitions: Revised the minimum width for sidewalk curb ramps to maintain consistency with the 2011 PROWAG.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- This Engineering Bulletin (EB) is effective beginning with projects submitted for the letting of January 9, 2014, but may be implemented sooner.

TRANSMITTED MATERIALS: None.

- The revision has been incorporated into the online version of HDM Chapter 18 at: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/chapter-18
- The pages modified by this revision can be found in the HDM Revisions Log at: https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/design/dqab/hdm/hdm-revised-logs

BACKGROUND: Chapter 18 of the Highway Design Manual was last modified by Revision No. 49 issued by EB 06-015, dated March 30, 2006. Guidance regarding compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) has continued to evolve with the goal of ensuring that persons with disabilities may access the public right of way without discrimination. The purpose of this issuance is to provide consistency between NYSDOT guidance and other guidance documents, specifically the 2011 Revised, Draft Proposed Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way (PROWAG) and 2006 Clarification of FHWA’s Oversight Role in Accessibility: Memorandum of Action. While these guidelines have not been officially adopted or promulgated, FHWA does consider these draft guidelines as “best practices” meaning they must be referenced and used when possible and documentation provided if they cannot be used.

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