

**HALIFAX**

# **Accessibility in HRM Streets**

Accessibility Advisory  
Committee

August 15, 2022

# Overview

- Introduction
- Overview
  - Accessibility Measures in the Red Book
  - How decisions are made about installing accessible infrastructure
  - Implementation timelines of accessibility measures in built form

# Accessibility measures in the Red Book

- DESIGN PHILOSOPHY
- “Using a Complete Streets approach provides streets that are safe, convenient and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities and include various modes of transportation.”



# Accessibility Standards

- “Accessibility Act” of Nova Scotia
- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) 2017
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA) B651-18
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification
- National Association of Transportation Officials (NACTO)

# Definitions:

- Accessible: Planning, design and programming that enables access by people with a variety of physical and intellectual abilities.
- All Ages and Abilities (AAA): Planning, design and programming that enables use by people of all ages and with a variety of physical abilities.
- Barrier-free: Design that enables access by people with or without a variety of physical abilities.

# Sidewalks

- Sidewalk widths minimum of 1.5 m clear travel width
- Sidewalks, Walkways and Multi-Use Pathways maximum grade of 4%.

# Pedestrian Ramps

- Both sides at all intersections with sidewalks, and at community mailboxes
- Require Tactile Walking Surface Indicators (TWSIs)



# Intersections - crossings

- Curb ramps or depressed curbs,
- Walk speeds at crossings for all ages and abilities,
- Access to bus stops
- Audible pedestrian signals



[Source: Polara.com]

# Bus Stops

- Bus pad 2.5 m by 1.5m minimum
- If not connected to sidewalk must include a pedestrian ramp to the street
- Not considered fully accessible if the surrounding network connections are not accessible.

# Vertical Alignment - Grade

- Maximum cross slope grade of 2%
- Maximum allowable grade of 4% throughout.
- Maximum grade of local street 8%
- Maximum grade of 6% for all others

# Driveways

- Continuity of sidewalk (material, cross slope, and width) shall govern at driveways
- For driveways and building access, the accessibility and continuity of connecting streets and sidewalks shall govern,

# Community Mailboxes

- Community Mailboxes are managed by Canada Post.
- Community mailboxes shall be located on local streets wherever possible, on the side with sidewalks to ensure accessibility.

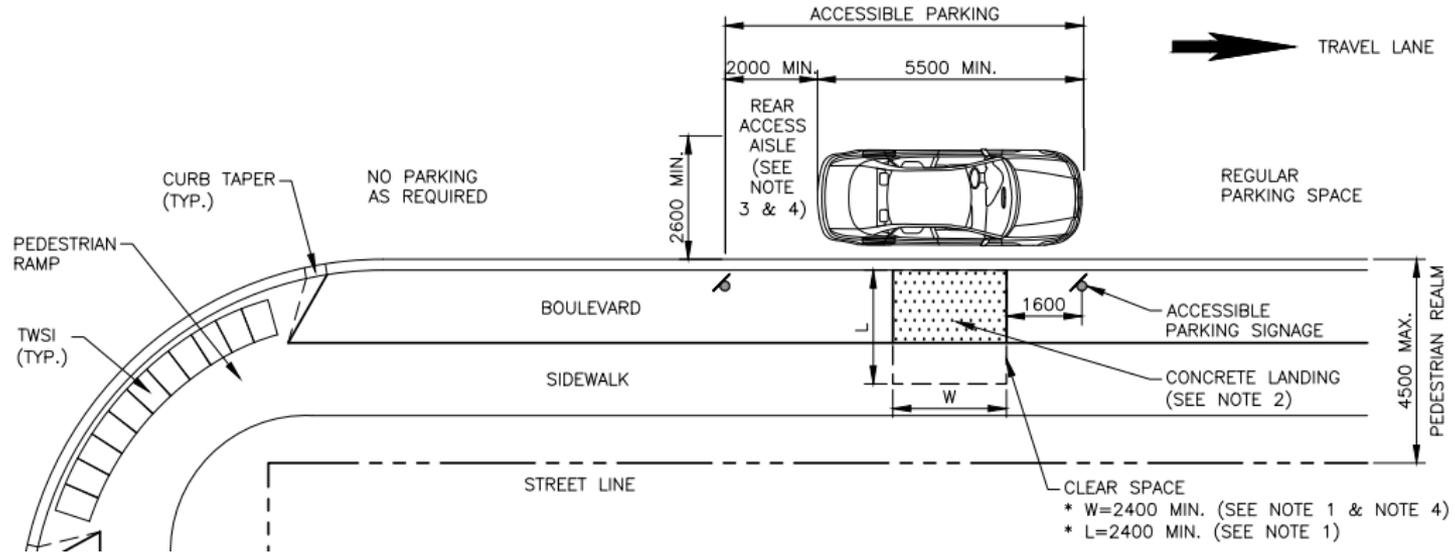
# Street Furniture and Amenities

- Not interfere with pick-up and drop-off at accessible parking spaces, bus stops, and taxi stands.
- Defined height, type of seating
- Spacing around seating
- Seating variety for a range of users

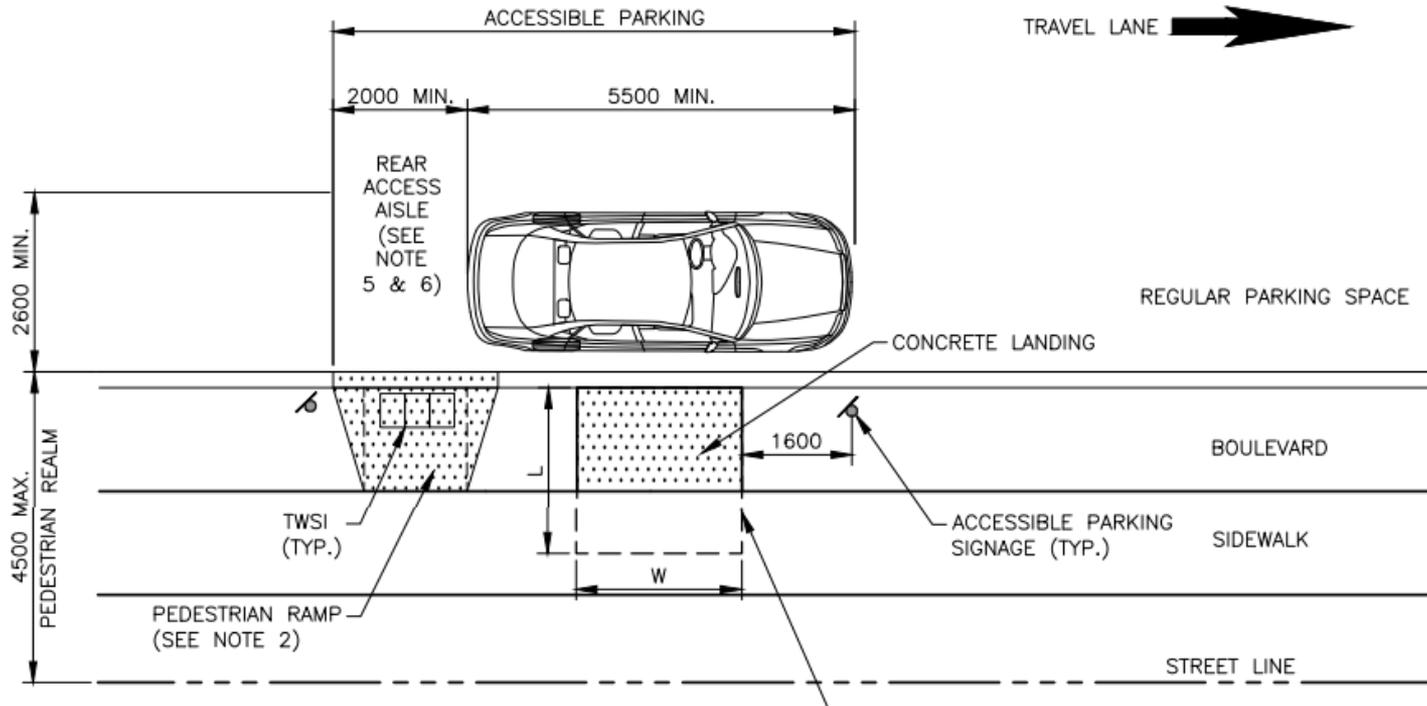
# Waste/ Recycling Receptacles

- Pole mounted bins:
  - not overhang the street or sidewalk.
  - mounted no higher than 1 m
  - reflective for contrast visibility.

# Accessible Parking – Near Intersection

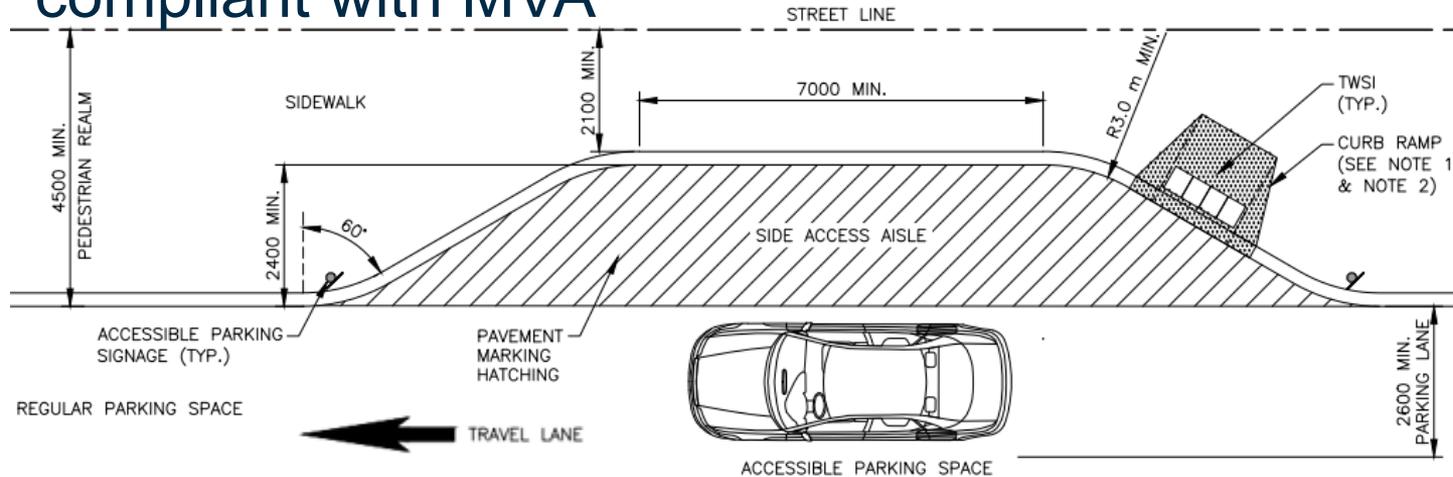


# Accessible Parking – Mid Block



# Accessible Parking –Side Aisle

- Sidewalk more than 4.5m wide
- Detail under review – distance from curb needs to be compliant with MVA



# Installing accessible infrastructure

- All new or replaced infrastructure must meet accessibility standards.
- New streets must follow Red Book standards
- Red Book standards must be followed or request a 'variance' from the Municipal Engineer.

# Implementation Timelines Of Accessibility Measures In Built Form

- Developing prioritization, budgets and timelines for replacement of existing infrastructure.
- Asset management now records accessibility features during inspection of sidewalks and pedestrian ramps.

# Questions?