

BMC/BRTB ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan

**Technical Committee
April 5, 2016**



Baltimore Metropolitan Council



Introduction

- As a **recipient of federal funding**, BMC must comply with a variety of federal and state legislative regulations. Regarding matters of nondiscrimination on the basis of disability, BMC falls under two federal laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
- The **ADA prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability**. Title II of **ADA applies specifically to all activities of state and local governments, including metropolitan planning organizations** such as BMC, and requires that government entities give people with disabilities equal opportunity to benefit from all of the programs, services and activities that may be offered.



Intro Continued

- As the federally designated MPO, BRTB must adhere to the standards set forth in Title II, which include both **physical accommodations** (accessibility to buildings and meetings) **and in policies, practices and procedures**. Under Title II, BRTB is required to make **reasonable accommodations** in order to provide access and to communicate effectively with people who have hearing, vision or speech impairments. Likewise, BMC is required to make reasonable modification to policies, practices and procedures where necessary to avoid discrimination.
- The Rehabilitation Act **prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability** in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment and in the employment practices of federal contractors. The standards for determining employment discrimination under the Rehabilitation Act are the same as those used in Title I of the ADA.



Requirement

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires state and local governments, businesses and non-profit organizations to **provide** goods, services and programs to people with disabilities **on an equal basis** with the rest of the public.



Methodology

- **ADA Checklist** for Existing Facilities - based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.
- The ADA has different requirements for state and local governments and for places of public accommodation (businesses and non-profit organizations that serve the public).

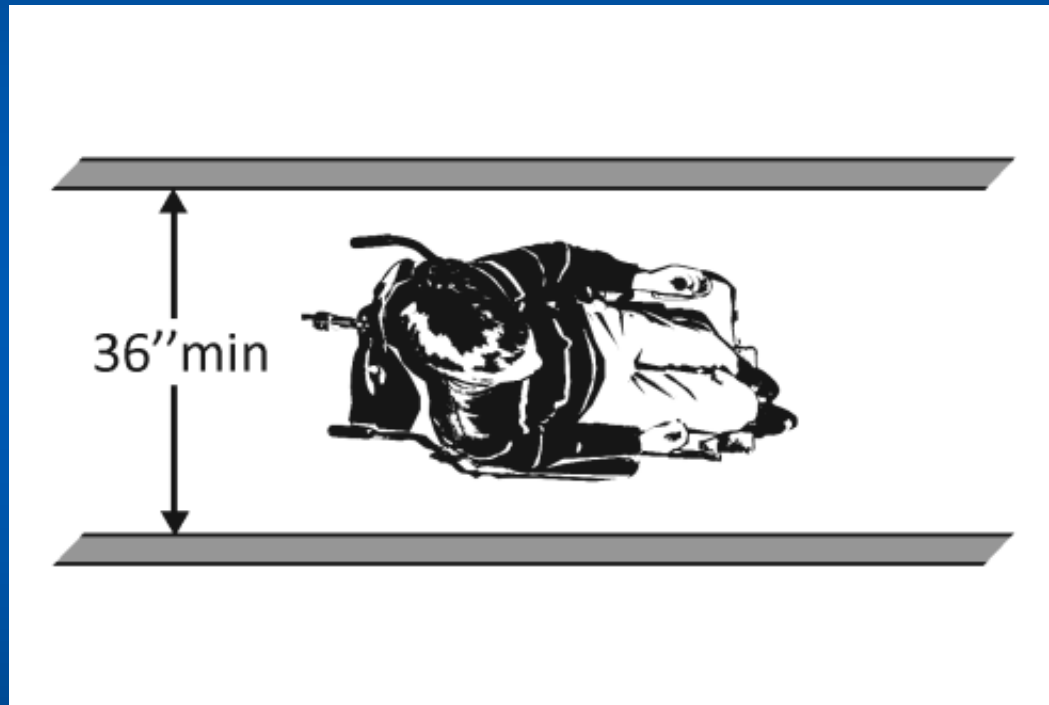


Requirements for Places of Public Accommodation

- Businesses and non-profit organizations that serve the public **must remove architectural barriers when it is “readily achievable”** to do so; in other words, when barrier removal is “easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense.”

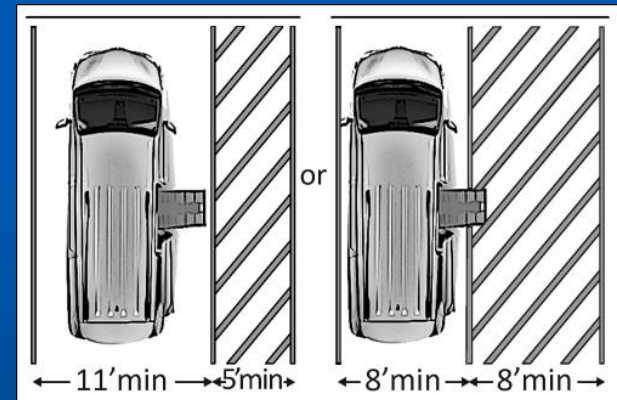
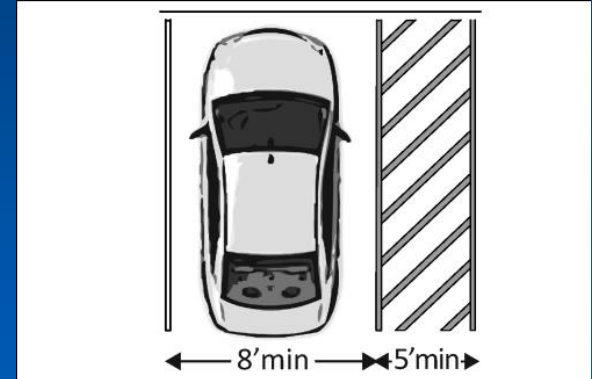


Evaluation of BMC Premises



Priority 1 – Approach & Entrance

- Are accessible spaces at least 8 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide?
- Is the van accessible space:
 - At least 11 feet wide with an access aisle at least 5 feet wide?
 - At least 98 inches of vertical clearance provided for the van?
- Is at least 98 inches of vertical clearance provided for the van?



Summary of Evaluation

- The external entrance to the building is wheelchair accessible, as are the building lobby, meeting rooms and restrooms. However, the main entrance to the building and to BMC's office on the 3rd floor does not have an automatic door opener.
- BMC's reception area is accessible by both visitors and employees. The reception counter is designed on one side to be easily accessed by people who use wheelchairs.
- The coat closet is accessible. However it does not have a clothes rod for people who use wheelchairs.



Summary of Evaluation

- BMC's library has full accessibility. However, the reception counter exceeds the 38" maximum height (it is 42" high).
- Nine offices have windows. Extension rods were not installed so that the blinds may be reached and adjusted by someone who uses a wheelchair.
- The entrance to the kitchen is accessible. The refrigerator and ice maker are accessible. The microwave and toaster oven are not easily accessible to someone in a wheel chair.



Summary of Evaluation

- All internal and external doorways are wheelchair accessible. All door hardware is designed for use by people with disabilities and is in good working order.
- The doors are equipped with hardware that is operable with one hand and does not require tight grasping, pinching or twisting of the wrist. The operable parts of the hardware are 42 inches above the floor.
- All doors have a minimum opening width of at least 32 inches clear, between the face of the door and the stop, when the door is open 90 degrees. All doors within the premises can be opened easily with the exception of the supply room door.



Transition Plan

Immediately:

- Extension rods in the conference room and additional on hand for use in any of the nine offices with windows.
- Closet – lower rod is on request with building maintenance.
- Additional accommodations in kitchen as staff are hired.

