

# What is an accessible route?

Modified from *A planning guide for making temporary events accessible to people with disabilities*, found at: <https://adata.org/publication/temporary-events>; [Go to Table of Contents](#). For more information about accessible routes, see ADA standards found at <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-aba-standards/guide-to-the-aba-standards/chapter-4-accessible-routes>.

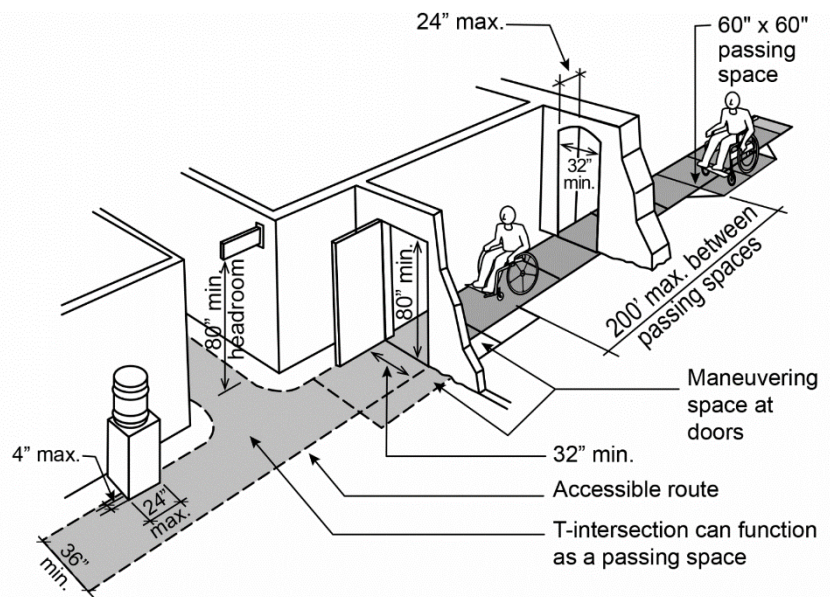
People with disabilities must be able to access the same goods, activities, services, and benefits that are available to other members of the public. After arriving at sites via private automobile, taxi, public transportation, etc., individuals with disabilities should be able to

- Find and use accessible parking.
- Get from accessible parking to entrances.
- Obtain additional information and directions on site.
- Move around sites as needed.
- Enjoy the same activities as others do, including participating in public activities, entering stores and other businesses, selecting and buying items, attending public presentations and performances, and using public amenities such as toilets and drinking fountains.

## The Importance of an Accessible Route

An accessible route is critical to the successful use of a site. A single continuous accessible pedestrian path should be wide, smooth, as level as possible, and without low or overhanging hazards or obstructions. Accessible routes can include ramps but not stairs (see figure at right).

A complete review of a site is necessary to determine if people with disabilities will be able to move around the site, get to facilities, and participate in activities. Walk the site and identify the accessible (or most accessible) routes. People with disabilities should be able to use the same route as everyone else whenever possible, and should not have to travel unusually long distances to reach a destination.



Basic Features of an Accessible Route

## Evaluating the Site

Newer sites usually are more accessible than older ones. Many owners and operators of businesses and venues may not have the experience or knowledge to determine the level of accessibility on their sites. If they have never received any complaints, they may mistakenly assume that no problems exist. Inspect all areas of the site carefully to make an accurate assessment of its level of accessibility.

## Use a Checklist

Assess sites, identify barriers, and determine what kinds of modifications may be needed by using a checklist at the [ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities](#) (link to external website).