U.S. Access Board Releases Rights-of-Way Guidelines for Public Comment

On July 26th the U.S. Access Board released for public comment proposed guidelines for accessible public rights-of-way. The guidelines provide design criteria for public streets and sidewalks, including pedestrian access routes, street crossings, curb ramps and blended transitions, on-street parking, street furniture, and other elements. The specifications comprehensively address access that accommodates all types of disabilities, including mobility and vision impairments, while taking into account conditions and constraints that may impact compliance, such as space limitations and terrain, as indicated in an overview of the rule.

Further information on this rulemaking is available on the rights-of-way homepage available by clicking here or by contacting Scott Windley at row@access-board.gov, (202) 272-0025 (v), or (202) 272-0028 (TTY).
Department of Justice Issues Two Guidance Sheets on the Revised ADA Regulations

The Ticket Sales Guidance Sheet concerns selling tickets for assigned seats at events such as concerts, plays, and sporting events. The requirements address: ticket sales, ticket prices, identification of available accessible seating, purchasing multiple tickets, ticket transfer, secondary ticket market, hold and release of tickets for accessible seating, and prevention of fraud in purchase of tickets for accessible seating.

The Service Animals Guidance Sheet addresses the definition of service animal, where service animals are allowed, what inquiries can be made of someone with a service animal, animals being under control and miniature horses.

Click here to see the Ticket Sales Guidance Sheet.
Click here to see the Service Animals Guidance Sheet.

Department of Justice Signs Agreements in Massachusetts, Kentucky and Indiana to Ensure Civic Access for People with Disabilities

Agreements Signed on the 21st Anniversary of the ADA

WASHINGTON - On Tuesday, July 26, 2011, the Justice Department today announced agreements with Norfolk County, Mass.; Daviess County, Ky.; and the city of Madison, Indiana, to improve access to all aspects of civic life for individuals with disabilities. The agreements were reached under Project Civic Access (PCA), the department's wide-ranging initiative to ensure that cities, towns and counties throughout the country comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The department has now reached 193 agreements under the PCA initiative.

"More than twenty years after the ADA became law, the Justice Department continues its vigilant efforts to ensure nationwide compliance with the ADA, which guarantees equal access for individuals with disabilities in our 21st century society," said Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "I commend the officials in Norfolk County, Daviess County and the city of Madison for making this commitment to provide equal access to their residents..."
and visitors with disabilities. These agreements, signed on the 21st anniversary of the ADA, represent another significant step towards the Justice Department's goal of nationwide compliance with the ADA." Click [here](#) to see the full Justice Department announcement.

**IHCD to Convene a Universal Design and Assistive Technology Expo, Conference and Design Competition**

**September 23, 2011 - Hynes Convention Center, Boston**

Under the Leadership of Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Secretary Gregory Bialecki of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and Secretary Paul Reville of the Department of Education, the Commonwealth is hosting a set of linked events on Friday, September 23rd at the Hynes Convention Center. The Institute for Human Centered Design is the convenor for all events that include a day-long Conference, an Expo and a Design Awards program. Co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and UMMS Work Without Limits, the agenda for all events will have four thematic areas: Home, Work, Life-Long Learning, and Fitness/Recreation/Sport.

Click [here](#) to register and for more information. Admission to see the Expo is free of charge.

If you have questions about the conference or suggestions about content, please email info@ChangePeoplesLives.org or call 617.695 1225 v/tty ext. 235.


The Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, together with the National Network of ADA Centers, launched an initiative to promote accessibility and opportunity for people with disabilities within the hospitality industry. The BluePath project is a project of the Northwest ADA Center designed to market accessible hotels and business's to the community of people with disabilities.
This audio conference will discuss tools needed to help hotels access their accessible features, and then take advantage of their efforts to identify and remove barriers by promoting themselves to travelers with disabilities and the "boomers" generation.

Discussion points will include but not be limited to ways for determining the usability of work out rooms, swimming pools, and recreation elements within a hotel, using a checklist designed specifically for the hospitality industry and taking that information and marketing the accessible features to the boomer generation and the community of People with disabilities. Discussion will include how to use practical inviting ways respectful of the culture of people with disabilities and older travelers.

Audio Conference date: September 20, 2011

Speakers:

Marian Vessels, Director, Mid-Atlantic ADA Center

Sara Woody, BluePath Coordinator, Northwest ADA Center

Don Brandon, Director, Northwest ADA Center

CEU Credits: CRCC ,UI

Click here to register.

ADA National Network Webinar - The Litigation Landscape After the ADAAA

The ADA Amendments Act was passed in September 2008, but it takes some time for these cases to work themselves into the courts and influence the way that the courts interpret the ADA. This session will review cases interpreting the definition of disability under the ADA Amendments Act, and also discuss emerging ADA legal issues in the wake of fewer cases being dismissed for failing to meet the definition of disability. What are the courts now saying about requirements for being qualified or for proving undue hardship or direct threat? Attend this webinar to find out.

Webinar date: September 21, 2011

Speakers:
President Obama Appoints Christopher Stephen Hart to the United States Access Board

BOSTON, MA - August 18, 2011 - The Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD) is delighted to announce that President Barack Obama has appointed Chris Hart, Director of Urban and Transit Projects at IHCD, to the United States Access Board. The U.S. Access Board is an independent Federal agency that provides leadership in accessible design under the ADA and other laws. Its governing Board is structured to function as a coordinating body among Federal agencies and to directly represent the public, particularly people with disabilities. The Board is comprised of 13 members from the public appointed by the President and representatives from 12 Federal departments.

"This is an important milestone in Chris Hart's passionate commitment to inclusion. Not only is he a champion of accessibility and universal design but he's built substantial expertise in transportation and public realm design and construction. We are very proud to have one of our team appointed to the Access Board. I'm confident that the Board and the nation will benefit from his service," said Valerie Fletcher, Executive Director of the Institute for Human Centered Design.

Click here to see the US Access Board announcement.
Secretary Bigby Appoints Christine Griffin as Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies and Programs

Boston - July 21, 2011 - Secretary of Health and Human Services Dr. JudyAnn Bigby announced today that she has appointed Christine Griffin as Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies and Programs. Most recently, Ms. Griffin served as Deputy Director of the United States Office of Personnel Management, where, among other initiatives, she led the creation and development of a government-wide strategic plan for diversity and inclusion within the federal workforce. From January 2005 until December 2009, she was a Commissioner on the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Ms. Griffin will assume her new role on August 29.

"Christine Griffin is a national leader in disability policy who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to her work as Assistant Secretary," said Governor Deval Patrick. "She has demonstrated a profound commitment to promoting the abilities, rights and independence of people with disabilities, and I thank her for her willingness to serve the Commonwealth in this important role."

"I am excited about the vision and leadership that Christine Griffin will bring to the important work that we do on behalf of the diverse communities served by our agencies," said Secretary Bigby. "With more than 16 years of executive experience leading non-profit, state and federal agencies, her knowledge and background will be instrumental to advancing this Administration's commitment to 'Community First,' wellness, independence, self-sufficiency for people with disabilities." Click here to read the full announcement.
On August 19, 2011, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the Boston Society of Architects/AIA presented the 2011 Accessible Design Awards at the Great Hall in the Massachusetts State House. The following Accessible Design Awards were presented:

**Public Architecture: Honor Award**
Greenfield Community Center, Greenfield (Gensler)

**Public Architecture: Award**
Bowditch Field Athletic and Cultural Complex, Framingham (Kaestle Boos Associates)

**Public Architecture: Citation**
Fall River Justice Center, Fall River (Finegold Alexander & Associates)

**William D. Smith Memorial Award: Honor Award**
North Parish Church, North Andover (Menders Torrey and Spencer)

**William D. Smith Memorial Award: Award**
Sandwich Town Hall, Sandwich (McGinley Kalsow & Associates)

**William D. Smith Memorial Award: Citation**
Historic Arena for Division One Hockey, Northeastern University, Boston (Miller Dyer Spears)

**Private Residential: Honor Award**
New Barrier-free Housing, Arlington (Abacus Architects and Planners)

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**NH Governor's Commission on Disability: Governor's Accessibility Awards**

Concord, New Hampshire - In a statehouse ceremony on July 26, 2011 to commemorate the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Governor John Lynch honored New Hampshire nonprofits, individuals, state employees, businesses, and legislators with the Governor’s Accessibility Award. This is the first
year that Governor Lynch has personally presented the Accessibility Awards.

Awards were presented to:

- **Crotched Mountain Foundation** for creating the longest mountain-based accessible trail in the United States. Donald Shumway, President and CEO, accepted the award.
- **Judy Hallam of Meriden** for prioritizing and promoting issues related to accessible parking.
- **Carole Totzkay of the Dept. of Health & Human Services** for coordinating emergency response and preparedness efforts and ensuring that the efforts include people with disabilities.
- **Jim Hinson of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation** for connecting businesses with people with disabilities that are seeking employment.
- **Laconia Savings Bank** for openly welcoming customer with disabilities, and going beyond meeting the letter of the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- **Carlson’s Motors** for specializing in, and prioritizing mechanical work for, accessible vehicles.
- **Representative Donna Schlachman** for sponsoring legislation relating to service animals, and for working on legislation regarding accessible brick walkways.

The Commission on Disability can be reached at disability@nh.gov or call 271-2773. *Source: N.H. Governor’s Commission on Disability July / August 2011 Newsletter*
Celebrating the event were (from left) Tom Morse, Member of Governor’s Commission on Disability Architectural Barrier-Free Design Committee with his service dog Wrigley, Marie Johnson, Jean Shiner with Taylor, new puppy in training, Sandy Teti (seated), Member of the Governor’s Commission on Disability with CeCe, Michelle Bonsteel, Accessibility Specialist for the Governor’s Commission on Disability, Governor John Lynch, John Richards, Executive Director of the Governor’s commission on Disability, Carol Holmes with Lyric, and Joan Nelson with William.

ADA Anniversary Celebrated at Boston's City Hall Plaza

The Honorable Thomas M. Menino joined members of the disability community and others to recognize and celebrate the 21st anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For the first time the celebration took place at Boston’s City Hall Plaza. Mayor Menino chose the location to highlight the significance of the day and to indicate his commitment to improving accessibility and compliance with the ADA in Boston.

ADA 21st Anniversary Celebration at Dunn Pond State Park

Members of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation help an ADA Anniversary Celebration attendee get ready to go kayaking Photo by: Marcy Marchello

Universal Access Program
Coordinator Massachusetts
On July 22, 2011, the annual ADA Anniversary Celebration and Picnic took place at Dunn Pond State Park in Gardener, Massachusetts. Attendees enjoyed a range of accessible activities including hiking, kayaking, swimming and socializing along with a live band and delicious food. Sponsors included the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council, Disability Policy Consortium, 1199 SEIU, Disability Law Center, Institute for Human Centered Design and the New England ADA Center, Easter Seals Massachusetts and the eleven Massachusetts Independent Living Centers.

IHCD Hosts Ten Summer Interns

This summer, IHCD hosted ten summer interns in our office who were all students with disabilities interested in design. The six-week paid internship program is part of the Access to Design Professions (ADP) project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Designers representing a range of design professions (i.e. graphic design; web design; industrial or product design; design of assistive technology; landscape and adaptive recreation design; architecture; interior design; urban and transportation design) led interactive and multi-media presentations with the summer interns. In addition, the design professionals involved the interns in several of their design projects. They were a fantastic and hard-working group!

The photo shows one of the presenters, Joe McCormick, a rising Harvard University Sophomore who was an IHCD Summer Intern matched with our organization through the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Summer Internship Program. Joe presented on his involvement in Botball when he attended Malden Catholic High School. The Botball Educational Robotics Program gives students skills, experience, and opportunities to succeed as they work in teams to design, build and program a pair of autonomous robots for regional and international competitions. Article text by Elize Kaye, IHCD.