



Access

New England

A publication of DBTAC—New England ADA Center

A project of the Institute for Human Centered Design, www.HumanCenteredDesign.org

This Issue Highlights: ADA Best Practices

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Staff of the New England ADA Center. From left to right: Dennis Begany, Karen Murray, Ana Julian, Oce Harrison, Kathy Gips and Ali (Karen's service dog).

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Karen Murray, Editor

Access New England is published three times a year by DBTAC – New England ADA Center, A project of the Institute for Human Centered Design

The center is one of ten Regional Disability and Business Technical Assistance Centers funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) to provide information, materials and technical assistance to individuals and entities that are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). However, please be aware that NIDRR is not responsible for enforcement of the ADA. The information, materials and/or technical assistance are intended solely as informational guidance and are neither a determination of your legal responsibilities under the Act, nor binding on any agency with enforcement responsibility under the ADA.

Regional Advisory Board

The Regional Advisory Board meets twice a year. The members' input and commitment greatly assists the DBTAC – New England ADA Center in its mission.

Connecticut

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Candace Low, ADA Coalition of Connecticut

Maine

Denis Pratt, AIA Architect, Access Design Specialist, Alpha One

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Thomas Mercier, Assistive Technology Center

New Hampshire

Carol Nadeau, New Hampshire Governor's Commission on Disability

Rhode Island

Bob Cooper, Rhode Island Governor's Commission on Disabilities

Vermont

Deborah Lisi-Baker, Vermont Center for Independent Living

How Will New Changes in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Impact our Lives?

New changes to the ADA will impact our work, recreation and civic life. The first major change begins with the recent passage of the *Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA)* (S.3406). The ADAAA restores the original definition of disability found in the 1990 passage of the ADA. What does this mean? Highlights of the most significant changes can be found on page 2. Call us at 800-949-4232 voice/tty for a further explanation of the changes.

Another major change to the ADA is the *proposed* amendments to regulations issued under Title II (State and Local Government) and Title III (Public Accommodation) of the ADA. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) plans to finalize the proposed changes by the end of this year.

When finalized and adopted, these new regulations will establish specific requirements for ensuring access to public facilities such as courtrooms, recreation facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, amusement parks and golf courses.

Among other provisions, the proposed ADA amendments address:

- Miniature golf courses,
- Boating facilities
- Captioning of emergency announcements in large stadiums
- Identification of accessible hotel room features, and require guaranteed reservations of such rooms to the same extent as the entity guarantees reservations for others
- Availability of accessible seating in public venues, such as theaters and sports stadiums, and ticket purchase by people with disabilities
- The availability of auxiliary aids, such as video interpreting services, ensuring that people who are deaf or have limited hearing can receive and convey vital information in medical and other settings.

The proposed amended regulations also emphasize the ADA requirements for all public agencies and private businesses to allow the use of service animals by people with disabilities, as long as the service animal is a dog or other common domestic animal trained to perform specific tasks to assist its disabled owner.



Oce Harrison, Project Director for the DBTAC—New England ADA Center.

The New England ADA Center offers accurate guidance and training on the newly passed ADAAA and the proposed amendments to Title II and III of the ADA. If you have questions about these changes, call us for answers.

Viva la Change!
Oce

We are phasing out our paper newsletter. Please call 800-949-4232 with your email address to receive the newsletter by email.

ADA Amendments Act Becomes Law



Advocates and legislator rally together in support of the ADA Amendments Act



The ADA Amendments Act impacts all Titles of the ADA, effective as of January 1, 2009

Court decisions that have eroded the protections for people with disabilities under the ADA, restoring original Congressional intent.

Source: www.house.gov/ed_workforce/issues/adaaa.shtml

Details of the Act includes the following:

1. Mitigating measures - such as medication, prosthetics, and other aids used to ameliorate the effects of impairment - may not be considered when determining whether a person has a disability. This supersedes the Supreme Court decisions that mitigating measures should be considered when determining whether a person's impairment substantially limits a major life activity.
2. Ordinary glasses and contact lenses may be considered in determining whether a person has a disability. Employers may use a test or qualification standard based on a job applicant's uncorrected vision only when it's "job-related and consistent with business necessity."
3. Major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.
4. Major life activities also include the operation of a major bodily

On Thursday morning, September 25, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law: S. 3406, the "ADA Amendments Act of 2008," which clarifies and broadens the definition of disability and expands the population eligible for protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In attendance for the signing ceremony was President George H. W. Bush who signed the Americans with Disabilities Act in an historic signing ceremony in 1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was intended to "provide a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities." Just as other civil rights laws prohibit entities from basing decisions on characteristics like race or sex, Congress wanted the ADA to stop employers from making decisions based on disability. Unfortunately, four U.S. Supreme Court decisions have narrowed the definition of disability so much that people with serious conditions such as epilepsy, muscular

dystrophy, cancer, diabetes, and cerebral palsy have been determined to not meet the definition of disability under the ADA. The result: In 2004, plaintiffs lost 97% of ADA employment discrimination claims that went to trial, often due to the interpretation of definition of disability. People who are not hired or are fired because an employer mistakenly believes they cannot perform the job – or because the employer does not want "people like that" in the workplace – have been denied protection from employment discrimination due to these court decisions. This was not the intent of the ADA.

The ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 is supported by a broad coalition of civil rights groups, disability advocates, and employer trade organizations. The Act rejects a strict interpretation of the definition of disability, and makes it clear that the ADA is intended to provide broad coverage to protect anyone who faces discrimination on the basis of disability. It overturns the Supreme

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

5. Impairments that are episodic or in remission are disabilities if they would substantially limit a major life activity when active.
6. Transitory impairments are impairments that last for six months or less - they do not qualify as a disability and are not covered by the ADA.
7. A person who is regarded as having a disability need not show that his or her employer believed that the impairment (whether actual or perceived) substantially limited a major life activity.
8. A person who is regarded as substantially limited in a major life activity - is not entitled to a reasonable accommodation.
9. In defining what constitutes discrimination against a person the statute replaces the phrase `with a disability because of the disability of such individual' with `on the basis of disability.

DBTAC New England ADA Center is scheduling a national audio conference with the key players to get more information on how these changes will play out. We'll keep you informed.

The ADA Amendments Act is effective as of January 1, 2009.

Employment and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008

The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 makes important changes to the definition of the term "disability" by rejecting the holdings in several Supreme Court decisions and portions of EEOC's ADA regulations. The Act retains the ADA's basic definition of "disability" as an impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. However, it changes the way that these statutory terms should be interpreted in several ways. Most significantly, the Act:

- Expands the definition of "major life activities" by including two non-exhaustive lists: the first list includes many activities that the EEOC had not specifically recognized previously (e.g., reading, bending, and communicating); the second list includes major bodily functions (e.g., "functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions);
- States that mitigating measures other than "ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses" shall not be considered in assessing whether an individual has a disability";
- Clarifies that an impairment that is episodic or in remission is a

disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active;

- Provides that an individual subjected to an action prohibited by the ADA (e.g., failure to hire) because of an actual or perceived impairment will meet the "regarded as" definition of disability, unless the impairment is transitory and minor;
- Provides that individuals covered only under the "regarded as" prong are not entitled to reasonable accommodation; and
- Emphasizes that the definition of "disability" should be interpreted broadly.

EEOC will be evaluating the impact of these changes on its enforcement guidances and other publications addressing the ADA.

The ADA Amendments Act is effective as of January 1, 2009.

Source: eeoc.gov

New EEOC Publication Addresses Performance and Conduct Issues Under the ADA

The EEOC has issued a comprehensive question-and-answer guide for employers and employees addressing how the ADA applies to a wide variety of performance and conduct issues. The document is available on the agency's web site at www.eeoc.gov/facts/performance-conduct.html.

Department of Justice Proposes Changes to ADA Title II and Title III Regulations

By Kathy Gips, New England ADA Center

ADA change is in the air. Not only do we have amendments to the statute with the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, but the Department of Justice is in the midst of adopting changes to both Titles II and III of the ADA. The Department is sifting through the hundreds of comments submitted in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. We anticipate that the Department will adopt the proposed changes as final regulations in January.

Here's a brief overview of the some of the proposed changes:

- Adopts the US Access Board's 2004 ADA Accessibility the new ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- New ADA Standards for Accessible Design to be used six months after the regulations become effective. Before that the 1991 Standards must be used.

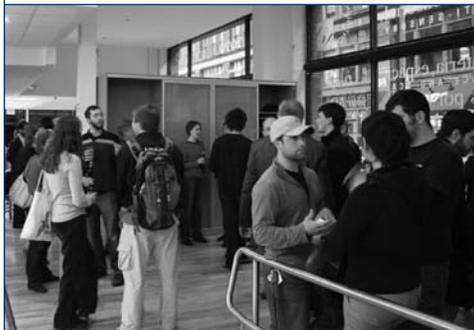
- Alterations that were done in compliance with the 1991 Standards to create an accessible path of travel do not need to be retrofitted to reflect changes in the new Standards
- Elements in existing facilities that comply with the 1991 Standards do not need to be retrofitted to reflect changes in the new Standards as part of barrier removal or program accessibility compliance
- Small businesses meet their readily achievable barrier removal obligation if they spend at least 1% of gross revenue in tax year on barrier removal
- Stadium style movie theaters must have some accessible seating on cross aisle (not just front and back)
- Service animals limited to dogs or other common domestic animals - wild animals (reptiles, rabbits, horses, nonhuman primates, pigs, ferrets, etc.) not included in definition
- Family members and companions of hospital patients and participants in programs have right to effective communication (such as sign language interpreter so doctor can communicate with a family member who is deaf, even if the patient isn't deaf)
- People with disabilities must be able to make hotel reservations for accessible rooms in same manner as people who don't need accessible rooms – by telephone, through a third party, etc.
- People with disabilities must be able to buy sports, music, theater tickets for accessible seating in same manner as people who don't need accessible seating
- Tickets sale of accessible seating to people without disabilities limited to sell out of all other seating

To read the proposed regulations go to www.ada.gov/NPRM2008.

To read the 2004 ADA Accessibility Guidelines go to www.access-board.gov/ada-aba. Contact us with any questions at 800-949-4232 voice/tty.

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DBTAC Parent Company Changes Name and Receives Universal Design Award



Friends, colleagues and well-wishers celebrate 30 years of Adaptive Environments, now the Institute for Human Centered Design

DBTAC – New England ADA Center Parent Company Changes Name!

After 30 years, Adaptive Environments is now the Institute for Human Centered Design (IHCD)

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to complete the change that has been underway for five years. It began with the tag-line, *human centered design*, in 2003. The public portion of Adaptive Environments – the showroom, resource center/library and lecture series – has been known as the Institute for Human Centered Design since the opening of the new space on Portland Street last year. Adaptive Environments is now moving all projects and programs under the new name.

To celebrate this milestone, IHCD held a celebration of 30 years on Thursday, October 23 at 200 Portland Street in Boston. Many friends, colleagues, associates and well-wishers were in attendance!



IHCD working on global case studies of successful examples of universal design

The Institute for Human-Centered Design Receives NEA's 2008 Leadership in Universal Design Award

International Web-Based Universal Design Case Study Collection

The Institute for Human-Centered Design is currently working on an unprecedented global collection of case studies that will illustrate successful examples of universal/inclusive design in the built environment. Initial funding for the project is from the National Endowment for the Arts. These case studies are intended for a diverse audience of designers, teachers and students, clients, advocates, funders and builders from across the globe. The case studies will be organized into a fully accessible and searchable website.

Our overarching goal is to allow people around the world to build upon the good work of others and stimulate a sense of excitement about

the innovative potential of universal design. This project complements the goals of the new UN Treaty on the Human Rights of People with Disabilities, which commits to a vision of inclusion through design.

With the case studies available anywhere anytime, someone planning to build a new school or health center or to renovate an historic cultural facility would readily access information about inclusively designed precedents. We intend the website to be an ongoing resource and, contingent upon funding, plan for it to be multi-lingual.

Categories for case studies are health, outdoor places, transport, commercial, education, housing, public buildings, and historic preservation.

We intend the website to be an ongoing resource and, contingent upon funding, plan that it will be multi-lingual. An initial set of case studies will be on-line this Fall. Please let us know if you want to recommend a place for consideration.

Director of Design Barbara Knecht, RA, is Project Director

New England States' Architectural Accessibility Requirements

While you're complying with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the seven design requirements in the federal Fair Housing Act keep in mind that many states have their own requirements for architectural accessibility. Some of these requirements precede the ADA and FHA – Massachusetts' Architectural Access Board has been around since 1968 (initially called the Board to Facilitate the Use of Public Buildings by the Physically Handicapped, the regulations were only 16 pages).

Some of the states (Vermont and Maine) adopted the ADA Accessibility Guidelines around the time the ADA came out in 1992 with some unique requirements. Some of the states have adopted the International Building Code (Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island), again with some unique requirements

Did you know that Connecticut requires three grab bars at public restroom toilets: one on the back wall, one on the side wall and a third

that swings down? The third grab bar makes the toilet more usable by people who are ambulatory and need extra arm oomph getting on and off the toilet. Connecticut also requires that 10% of the units in multi-family housing be Type A not 2% as stated in the IBC. (If you design multi-family housing and you don't know what a Type A unit is call us quickly!). In Massachusetts a ramp must be at least 48" wide, not 36" as in the ADA and all public entrances need to be accessible, not just 50%. In

Where	Connecticut	Maine	Massachusetts
What	International Building Code 2003 Connecticut '05 Supplement Amendments to IBC 2003	Maine Human Rights Act Title 5, Chap 337, Sub-Chap 5, Public Accommodations, Sect. 4591-4594-F Accessibility Regulations of Human Rights Commission 94-348 Chap 7	Mass General Law Chapter 22, Section
Access Standard	ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities CT '05 Supplement Amendments to ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003	ADA Accessibility Guidelines w/local exceptions that are more stringent than ADAAG	521 CMR Rules & Regulations Massachusetts Architectural Access Board 01/27/06
Official Contact	Office of State Building Inspector Department of Public Safety 860-685-8310 www.ct.gov/dps/cwp/view.asp?a=2148&Q=305412	Human Rights Commission has legislative jurisdiction; Enforced by the State Fire Marshall's Office with mandatory plan review 207-624-6050 HRC 207-626-3880 Fire Marshall www.maine.gov/mhrc/laws/index.html www.maine.gov/dps/fmo/plans/index.html	Architectural Access Board 800-828-7222 (in state) 617-727-0660 www.mass.gov/aab
Other Contact	N/A	Municipalities may adopt the Maine Model Building Code which is based on IBC 2003 ICC/ANSI A117.1 1998 but MHRA still enforced with mandatory plan review www.maine.gov/legis/lawlib/buildcode.htm	N/A

Maine elevators in state facilities, condominiums, apartment buildings and buildings that have places of public accommodation must be of sufficient size to allow the transport of a person on an ambulance stretcher in a fully supine position. In Vermont churches, temples, mosques and other houses of worship must comply with accessibility requirements (unlike the ADA where such places are exempt) and certain “visitable” requirements apply to much



residential construction. Rhode Island’s amendments to their building code have child-appropriate access requirements for toilets, sinks, mirrors, controls and receptacles. In New Hampshire an 18” vertical grab bar is required at toilets in addition to the back and side grab bars.

And these are just a few of the differences. Always check state requirements and contact the helpful agencies on the chart.

	New Hampshire	Rhode Island	Vermont
h 13A	International Building Code 2006 NH State Building Code Amendments	International Building Code 2006 RI Regulation SBC-1-2007	Accessibility Standards Statute 220 VSA, Chapter 174 Visitability 20 VSA Chapter 174, Section 2907
board,	ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities	ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities RI Regulation SBC-1-2007	Vermont Access Rules (ADA Accessibility Guidelines with additional requirements)
	State Building Code Review Board reviews and oversees, Local Building Officials enforce Various numbers www.nh.gov/safety/boardsandcommissions/bldgcode/nhstatebldgcode.html	State Building Code Commission addresses access complaints in buildings and facilities less than 1 year old 401-222-3032 www.sec.state.ri.us/resources_for/library/frequently/bookmarks/buildingcodes	Dept Public Safety-Division of Fire Safety Access Board 802-479-7561 www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/Access.htm
	Committee on Architectural Barrier-Free Design Governor’s Commission on Disability 603-271-4177 www.nh.gov/disability/abcommittee.html	Governor’s Commission on Disabilities investigates/can order corrective action for violations in buildings/facilities 1 year old+ 401-462-0100 www.disabilities.ri.gov	N/A

Build Boston Workshops



This November, DBTAC—New England and the Institute for Human Centered Design (Adaptive Environments), our parent organization, will be presenting at Build Boston.

Build Boston will take place November 18–20 at the Seaport World Trade Center, Boston. This premier regional tradeshow and convention for the design and construction industry, will offer more than 350 exhibits and over 225 workshops and other professional development opportunities. Last year, over 15,500 people registered for the three-day event. There is something for building owners/managers, architects, engineers, contractors, interior designers, landscape architects and all interested people. Build Boston also provides an ideal opportunity to earn AIA continuing-education credits.

Registration Information

www.buildboston.com

By fax: 508-759-4552

By phone: 800-544-1898

Workshops by DBTAC and Institute for Human Centered Design Staff

Wednesday, November 19

3:30 – 6:00 pm

B63 ADA and MAAB Regulations: Untangling the Confusion

Sponsored by: the New England ADA Center at Adaptive Environments

Kathy Gips, Adaptive Environments, Boston (moderator); Deborah Ryan Esq., Deborah A. Ryan Associates, South Boston; David Yanchulis, U.S. Access Board, Washington DC

6:00 – 8:00 pm

B83 Accessibility Requirements in Multi-Family Housing

Jack Catlin, FAIA, LCM Architects, Chicago; Kathy Gips, Adaptive Environments, Boston (moderator); Joshua Rucker, Adaptive Environments, Boston; Deborah Ryan Esq., Deborah A. Ryan Associates, South Boston

Thursday, November 20

8:30 – 10:00 am

C05 Streets for everyone: the São Paulo model

Chris Hart, The Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston; Gustavo Partezani, Urb2 Arquitetos, São Paulo Brazil; Lois E. L. Thibault, U.S. Access Board, Washington DC

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

C33 Classroom Design for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Sponsored by: the Institute for Human Centered Design (Adaptive Environments)

Valerie Fletcher, Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston (moderator); Matthew S. Goodwin Ph.D., MIT Media Lab, Providence; George Holback AIA, Cho, Benn Holback & Associates, Baltimore MD; Maura Parente IDSA, The Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston

1:00 – 2:30 pm

C46 Healthcare design for patient and staff safety

Barbara Knecht RA,, The Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston (moderator); Jeremy Myerson, Royal College of Art Helen Hamlyn Centre, London UK; Judith Waterston BSN, MS, Spaulding

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New England ADA Center Technical Assistance & Training

The DBTAC-New England ADA Center is your best bet for the most reliable, comprehensive and up-to-date information on the ADA, ADA Amendments Act and the upcoming Title II and Title III revised regulations. Our staff provides technical assistance and training to individuals living in New England. Call us toll-free with your questions at 800-949-4232 voice/tty, Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. Or submit your question online at www.NewEnglandADACenter.org

Training Topics

DBTAC—New England ADA Center provides trainings with up-to-date information on the ADA and its implementation on specific topics or tailored to meet specific customer needs

ADA Workshops

We offer half day and full day workshops for agencies, businesses and organizations tailored to your needs. Costs vary depending on your budget. Here are a few sample workshops.

For more information on workshops contact Kathy Gips at: kgips@NewEnglandADA.org or 800-949-4232.

ADA and Employment – A Tool for Hiring and Job Retention

This workshop addresses the ADA definition of disability; the ADA Amendments Act of 2008; alcohol and drug use/abuse; job applications



New England ADA Center provides technical assistance and training to those living in New England

and interviews (what can and can't be discussed); medical exams (differing requirements during pre-offer, post-offer and employment stages); reasonable accommodations (request and response process, examples, undue hardship); confidentiality; direct threat/safety issues; and work performance, behavior and conduct problems. Real scenarios are used to bring it all to life.

ADA Requirements for State and Local Governments – What You Need to Know

Do you know: Who is a “person with a disability” under the ADA and what your obligations are? Whether you can require medical documentation when you get a disability related request? What are auxiliary aids and services and when they need to be provided? What to do if you get a request for a scent-free room from someone with multiple chemical sensitivity? This workshop addresses all these questions and focuses on real life scenarios. We clarify when something is an undue burden, what is program accessibility and when reasonable modifications of policies are required.

ADA, Business and Non-Profit Organizations – Ensuring Access for Customers, Clients and Consumers with Disabilities

Are businesses required to provide (and pay for) sign language interpreters for people who are deaf, or is writing notes adequate? Are all restrooms in restaurants required to be accessible? Are historic buildings “grandfathered” from access requirements? Can a miniature horse be a service animal? Are service animals allowed to go everywhere with a person with a disability? Through scenarios we will discuss obligations to make buildings accessible, ensure that communication is equally effective and modify policies and practices. We'll touch on tax credits and deductions.

ADA and New England States' Accessibility Requirements

A frequent request from architects, designers and builders is, “Give us ONE accessibility code.” Since that is not going to happen, in this workshop we clarify the requirements for new construction, alterations, and buildings where no work is being performed (yes there are access requirements). We look at common errors, and where the state regulations, the ADA and the federal Fair Housing Act differ. If federal funds are involved in a project we will also discuss Section 504 requirements. We apply the regulations to specific case scenarios. (*Earn AIA HSW continuing education credits*).

Best Practices in Accessibility

Maine: Transformation of Bowdoin College Residences – A Pictorial Case Study

By Denis Pratt, AIA, Architect / Access Design Specialist, Alpha One, So. Portland, Maine

The advent of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the early nineties created a flurry of activity nationwide at most colleges and universities. They were now faced with trying to address those legal obligations and uncertain shortcomings in accessibility that could develop into potential discrimination allegations by the disability community, who was now empowered to demand compliance.

Bowdoin College, a private and established campus with historical roots and ambiance in Brunswick, Maine, was no exception. Faced with an aggressive adaptive re-use renovation schedule of former fraternity houses scattered along the outskirts and interior of the campus, the college facilities management team pro-actively rehabilitated the old houses into small but modestly upgraded residences while removing barriers and incorporating readily accessible features at each of the renovated houses to the maximum extent feasible.



Re-grading at the Baxter House to create an accessible route to the new ramped entry



New stair, front porch, and graded walkway to side ramp at the Helmreich House on Maine Street



New ramp & stair at former enclosed side porch creates a new accessible entrance to the first floor level at Baxter House

Interior improvements include a fully accessible unisex toilet room, wide doorways with accessible hardware, and an accessible shower room at the first floor level. Two accessible bedrooms are located at the first floor level.



Side ramp and graded walkway from rear parking at Helmreich House.

Interior improvements include an accessible kitchen at the residence social room and two accessible restrooms at the first floor level.



Graded walkway to front entry porch at McMillan House.

Interior improvements involved substantial alterations while incorporating full elevator access to four floor levels, accessible laundry facilities, wide room doorways with accessible hardware, and accessible shower rooms at each level.



Burnett House gently sloping walkway approach and integrated ramped accessible side entry

Interior improvements include accessible public restrooms and accessible shower rooms at the first floor level. Two accessible bedrooms are located at the first floor level



Originally designed by John Calvin Stevens, Quinby House was substantially renovated to incorporate accessibility features while respecting historic property limitations.

A gently sloping side walkway from an accessible circular drive & parking area at the front of the building provides access to a well-disguised ramp structure at the left rear side of the building to an accessible side entry.

Interior accessible improvements include fully accessible common areas, LULA access to three levels of the building, wide doorways throughout, accessible shower rooms at all levels and an accessible laundry at the basement level.



Accessibility improvements at the Reed House on Body Street include a new accessible side entry and ramp, accessible shower and toilet rooms at the first floor level, and accessible common areas, kitchen, and dining areas all located on the first floor level.

Two accessible bedrooms are located at the first floor level.

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Best Practices in Accessibility (Continued)

Rhode Island: The Dunkin' Donuts Center — A model of Accessibility

By Christine Rancourt, Governor's Commission on Disability



The Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, RI recently reopened having undergone a 3 year, 80 million dollar renovation. The Dunk, as is it commonly known, is a fully accessible, state-of-the-art, world-class destination and entertainment facility. Harvey Salvas, the State ADA Coordinator and staff member at the R.I. Governor's Commission on Disabilities, worked with the architects and staff at the arena to ensure accessibility and compliance with the ADA.

The Dunk is connected to the R.I. Convention Center via a pedestrian bridge just as the Convention Center is connected the Providence Place Mall by a pedestrian bridge. Linking these the three venues through bridges makes it easy for all visitors to move freely between them.



In addition to the pedestrian bridges, accessible ramps were created on the outside of the building as well as on the inside. With regard to the latter, the ramps up from the concourse to the arena were regraded to conform to the ADA.



According Jim McCarville, the Executive Director of the Convention Center Authority, which purchased the Dunk in 2005, "we added ADA accessibility and luxury suites, both of which usually makes you lose space, but with the expansion our seating capacity remains the same at 13,000." There are spaces available, depending on the type of event being held, for persons with mobility issues

and accompanying companion seats. Each of the spaces provides an unobstructed view is happening in the arena. The Dunk is just one more reason to visit and enjoy Rhode Island.

New Hampshire: Candia District Court — Best Practices in Design

By Wendy Beckwith, Access Specialist, Governor's Commission on Disability

Construction was completed in July 2008 and court activities began in August 2008

The entire facility, including a district court and a family court, was designed to be completely accessible. A follow-up accessibility punch list identified just a few things that needed to be done, along the accessible routes to make the facility a resounding success. The completed project demonstrates the many ways accessibility can be achieved without sacrificing aesthetics or functionality.



Front façade: This view shows two issues discussed during the accessibility site visit. The accessible parking signs were not yet posted

due to indecision about the best place to locate them and there was no detectable warning at the junction of the entrance sidewalk and the access aisle. Both items were resolved during the visit and should now be installed.

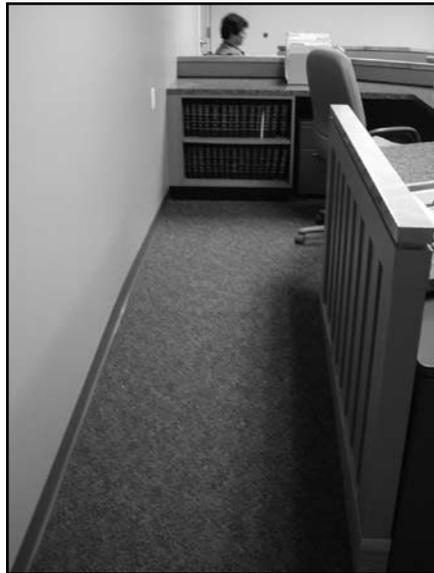


Security at front entrance: The entrance security was designed to easily accommodate a person with a disability through the positioning of the security gate and by lowering the bailiff's transaction counter



District court front: In the District Court, the Judge's bench, witness stand and court recorder desk are all accessible. The Judge's bench

is raised 6 inches and reached via a ramp, the witness stand is raised 4" and reached via a ramp or a step, and the court recorder's desk is level.



District Court's Judges bench: The ramp leading to the Judges bench begins just inside the courtroom and rises 6 inches. The ramp is screened by a low partition at the rear of the Court Recorder's desk area and is barely detectable.



District Court witness stand: The witness stand can be reached via a ramp or a 4" step



Clerk transaction counters: The accessible counter is seamless integrated into the overall series of clerks' counters



Prisoner's toilet room: The toilet room met all but one accessibility standard. The toilet paper dispenser was too close to the front edge of the commode and needed to be repositioned as required

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