

Why is Clark County rebuilding the sidewalk on my street corner?

The simple answer is to provide access for all pedestrians, including those with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The 1990 federal law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. It also requires state and local governments to provide sidewalk curb ramps, primarily for wheelchair users, when roads are built or altered.

Each summer, Clark County hires contractors to resurface roads, which extends pavement life and protects the public's investment in transportation infrastructure.

Under federal regulations, basic road maintenance, such as patching potholes, striping lanes or filling cracks, does not require sidewalk curb ramps to be built or upgraded.

However, some road resurfacing treatments, such as asphalt overlays or cape seals, require curb ramps be built or upgraded so they are ADA compliant.

Federal regulations also require curb ramps to include an array of bumps. These bumps provide a tactile warning to those who are blind or visually impaired that they are about to leave the sidewalk and enter the road. Typically, these bumps are part of yellow panels on corner sidewalks.



A street corner with disabled-accessible sidewalk curb ramps.

Even if the street corner near your home already has a curb ramp, if it does not meet current ADA requirements, it must be rebuilt for asphalt overlays, cape seals and other road alterations.

Clark County is committed to complying with federal regulations and providing a multimodal transportation system that meets the needs of all residents, including those with disabilities.

For more information on the ADA and sidewalk curb ramps:



Federal Highway Administration

www.fhwa.dot.gov/civilrights/programs/doj_fhwa_ta.cfm

Cornell University

www.clrp.cornell.edu/q-a/105-ada_curb.html

For more information on Clark County's road preservation:

www.clark.wa.gov/public-works/summer-road-preservation



For other formats, contact the Clark County ADA Office

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