

Sidewalk Installation

Requirements, Guidelines, and Standards

Federal Highway Administration Guidelines

- Sidewalks require a minimum width of 5.0 feet if set back from the curb or 6.0 feet if at the curb face. Any width less than this does not meet the minimum requirements for people with disabilities. Source: https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/univcourse/swless13.cfm
- Both the FHWA and the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) recommend a minimum width of 5 feet for a sidewalk or walkway, which allows two people to pass comfortably or to walk side-by-side. Sources: http://pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures_detail.cfm?CM_NUM=1 & <http://pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/references.cfm#ch05A>

Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements

- A minimum width of 5 feet is required for two individuals in wheelchairs to pass each other without having to go into the grass. Source: SUDAS Chapter 12 <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/streets-sidewalks/public-rights-of-way/proposed-rights-of-way-guidelines/chapter-r3-technical-requirements>
- Department of Justice Settlement Agreement in progress. 5 ft sidewalks are a proactive approach to address any future legislation.

Complete Streets Policies

- Generally, absent pedestrian crowding, most sidewalks need to provide at least a 6-foot clear zone to be comfortable. In suburban and rural locations this results in a 5-foot-wide sidewalk. Source: *The Complete Streets Code: A System for Building Livable Thoroughfares*, published by Speck and Associates.
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SUDAS REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum width of the pedestrian access route is 4 feet. Five foot sidewalks are encouraged and may be required by the Jurisdiction. Iowa DOT will design 5 foot sidewalks unless otherwise requested.
- With a 4-foot sidewalk, 5-foot wide turning spaces are required every 200 feet. *Source:* <http://www.iowasudas.org/manuals/design/Chapter12/12A-2.pdf>

City Philosophy and Values

- Promote a walkable, bikeable community accessible for all users and all modes of transportation. Walkability initiatives are supported by several City-adopted master plans:
 - EnvisionCR Comprehensive Plan
 - Sidewalk Master Plan (and soon to be updated Pedestrian Master Plan)
 - Wellington Heights Neighborhood Plan
 - Trails Plan
 - Blue Zones and Healthy Hometown Initiative

Additional Considerations

- In practice, a 4-foot wide sidewalk will effectively become a 3 to 3.5 foot wide sidewalk as grass grows over the edges.
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