

# Accessibility at Construction sites

INTEGRATION OF AODA REQUIREMENTS INTO WORK ZONE DESIGN

# AODA

- ▶ The AODA (The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) is provincial legislation that is intended to facilitate the development, implementation and enforcement of accessibility standards for Ontarians with disabilities with respect to:
  - ▶ Goods;
  - ▶ Services;
  - ▶ Facilities;
  - ▶ Accommodation;
  - ▶ Employment;
  - ▶ Buildings;
  - ▶ Structures and Premises.



# HTA

- ▶ The Highway Traffic Act is provincial legislation that regulates the licensing of vehicles, classification of traffic offences, administration of loads, classification of vehicles and all other transport related issues on all public highways in the province of Ontario.

# HTA/OTM

- ▶ Under the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), the Ministry of Transportation publishes the Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM).
- ▶ This Manual is comprised of 22 Books, and is intended to provide information and guidance for transportation practitioners and to promote uniformity of treatment in the design, application and operation of traffic control devices, and systems across Ontario which is consistent with the intent of the HTA.
- ▶ Of these 22 Books, Books 15, “Pedestrian Control and Protection” and Book 7, “Temporary Conditions” relate to the issue of “Accessibility at Construction Sites”.



# OTM Book 15

- ▶ OTM Book 15 provides a set of guidelines consistent with the HTA with respect to the pedestrian crossing applications and provide a basis for road authorities to generate or update their own guidelines and standards.
- ▶ Trough these guidelines, the Ministry of Transportation has incorporated the provisions AODA into the technical design and functional operation of pedestrian crossings and pedestrian facilities, with a view to providing barrier free access.
- ▶ Book 15 however defers to Book 7 “Temporary Conditions” as the manual that provides guidance for traffic control during construction, maintenance and utility work on public roadways in Ontario.

# OTM Book 7

- ▶ OTM Book 7, Temporary Conditions provides a set of guidelines consistent with the HTA with respect traffic control during construction, maintenance and utility work on public roadways in Ontario.
- ▶ It is through this volume of the manual that the issue of accessibility at construction sites is specifically addressed.
- ▶ Book 7 lays out the fundamental principles of work zone design which includes but are not limited to:
  - ▶ Worker safety;
  - ▶ Road user ((motorist, pedestrian/cyclist, others) safety; and
  - ▶ Road user mobility



# OTM Book 7

- ▶ Section 2.6.2 Pedestrian Safety Considerations
- ▶ Through this section of OTM Book 7, the manual states that 'the impact on pedestrians must be addressed in all temporary control layouts where pedestrians are, or may be present.
- ▶ This section also requires that where pedestrian facilities are to be maintained, they must be provided in accordance with the requirements of the AODA and made safe for ALL users.

# City of Toronto Requirements



- ▶ All permits issued by the City of Toronto for the use of public highway whether for construction, events or film are issued subject to compliance with the provisions of the HTA and OTM Book 7.
- ▶ All occupiers of the public highway, under the provisions of these permits are required to ensure their temporary conditions set-up provides safe, barrier free access for all users in connection with their activities.
- ▶ Where pedestrian facilities are not able to be safely maintained through or directly adjacent these activities, clear, safe and controlled access to pedestrian facilities is to be provided, whether at an existing controlled crossing point, or by means of a paid duty police officer.



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▶ Questions?