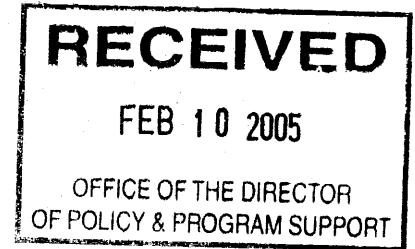




Transportation and Works Department

*Infrastructure Design and Construction Branch
Fax: 905-836-4590*

February 7, 2005



Mr. Robert Magloughlen, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering and Public Works
Town of Georgina
26557 Civic Centre Road
R.R. #2
Keswick ON L4P 3G1

Dear Mr. Magloughlen:

**Re: Ontarians with Disability Act (ODA)
Design Standards**

Under the proposed legislation, Ontarians with Disabilities Act, every municipality will be required to develop an annual accessibility plan describing the activities to identify, remove and prevent barriers that impact people with disabilities. As a member of the Region's ODA staff Committee, I would like to share with you some of my observations from recent field visits regarding potential barriers for people with disabilities on our roads.

The Ontario Provincial Standard Drawing, OPSD 310.030, (Sidewalk Ramps at Intersections) has specified accessibility requirements. It is my understanding that some municipalities have developed their own standard drawings which may differ from the OPSD. You may want to have staff confirm that your construction practice includes the following requirements:

- Drop curb at the crosswalk does not have a protruding lip;
- Sidewalk approach are patterned with grooves for pedestrians with vision disability; and
- Sidewalk approach at the intersections should be minimum 2.5m and not exceed 8%.

Other observations include the following:

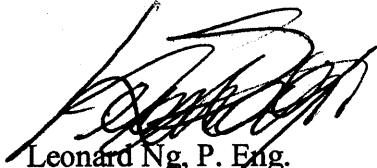
- Differential settlement and cracking of sidewalk bays create a barrier for wheelchairs and seniors.
- Sidewalk approach at busy commercial driveways should be treated the same way as it would be at an intersection.
- Pedestrian signal poles should have hard surfaces at the base to allow for wheelchair accessibility to the push button.
- Pedestrian signal push buttons should be at the correct height for children and persons in wheelchairs.

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- For areas with high concentration of young children or seniors, 2.5 m wide sidewalks should be considered instead of the normal 1.5 m width.
- If the longitudinal gradient of the sidewalk is steep and long, provision of rest areas should be considered.

Please forward any other suggestions that you may have that will improve our road system to accommodate all road users. Please contact me directly at 905-764-6345, extension 5073 or leonard.ng@york.ca.

Sincerely,



Leonard Ng, P. Eng.
Manager, Engineering Transportation

LKN/cp

Copy to: Kees Schipper, Commissioner Transportation and Works
Cordelia Abankwa-Harris, Director Policy and Program Support

*See attached distribution list
for above memo letter*

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This letter was distributed to all the above