



MULTIMODAL ACCESS POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE:

July 31, 2015

AUTHORITY:

TCA 4-3-2303

If any portion of this policy conflicts with applicable state or federal laws or regulations, that portion shall be considered void. The remainder of this policy shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect.

PURPOSE:

To create and implement a multimodal transportation policy that encourages safe access and mobility for users of all ages and abilities through the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new construction, reconstruction and retrofit transportation facilities that are federally or state funded. Users include, but are not limited to, motorists, transit-riders, freight-carriers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

APPLICATION:

The policy applies to Department of Transportation employees, consultants and contractors involved in the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of state and federally funded projects, and local governments managing and maintaining transportation projects with funding through TDOT's Local Programs Development Office.

DEFINITIONS:

Highway:	A main road or thoroughfare, such as a street, boulevard, or parkway, available to the public for use for travel or transportation.
Multimodal:	For the purposes of this policy, multimodal is defined as the movement of people and goods on state and functionally-classified roadways. Users include, but are not limited to, motorists, transit-riders, freight-carriers, bicyclists and pedestrians, including those with disabilities.
Reconstruction:	Complete removal and replacement of the pavement structure or the addition of new continuous traffic lanes on an existing roadway.

Retrofit: Changes to an existing highway within the general right-of-way, such as adding lanes, modifying horizontal and vertical alignments, structure rehabilitation, safety improvements, and maintenance.

Roadway: The portion of a highway, including shoulders, that is available for vehicular, bicycle or pedestrian use.

POLICY:

The Department of Transportation recognizes the benefits of integrating multimodal facilities into the transportation system as a means to improve the mobility, access and safety of all users. The intent of this policy is to promote the inclusion of multimodal accommodations in all transportation planning and project development activities at the local, regional and statewide levels, and to develop a comprehensive, integrated, and connected multimodal transportation network. TDOT will collaborate with local government agencies and regional planning agencies through established transportation planning processes to ensure that multimodal accommodations are addressed throughout the planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operation of new construction, reconstruction and retrofit transportation facilities as outlined in TDOT's Multimodal Access Policy Implementation Plan.

TDOT is committed to the development of a transportation system that improves conditions for multimodal transportation users through the following actions:

1. Provisions for multimodal transportation shall be given full consideration in new construction, reconstruction and retrofit roadway projects through design features appropriate for the context and function of the transportation facility.
2. The planning, design and construction of new facilities shall give full consideration to likely future demand for multimodal facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements. If all feasible roadway alternatives have been explored and suitable multimodal facilities cannot be provided within the existing or proposed right of way due to environmental constraints, an alternate route that provides continuity and enhances the safety and accessibility of multimodal travel should be considered.
3. Existing multimodal provisions on roadways shall not be made more difficult or impossible by roadway improvements or routine maintenance projects.
4. Intersections and interchanges shall be designed (where appropriate based on context) to accommodate the mobility of bicyclists and pedestrians to cross corridors as well as travel along them in a manner that is safe, accessible, and convenient.
5. While it is not the intent of resurfacing projects to expand existing facilities, opportunities to provide or enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities shall be given full consideration during the program development stage of resurfacing projects.
6. Pedestrian facilities shall be designed and built to accommodate persons with disabilities in accordance with the access standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA). Sidewalks, shared use paths, street crossings (including over- and under-crossings) and other infrastructure shall be constructed so that all pedestrians, including those with disabilities, can travel independently.

7. Provisions for transit-riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists shall be included when closing roads, bridges or sidewalks for construction projects where pedestrian, bicycle, or transit traffic is documented or expected.

EXCEPTIONS:

It is TDOT's expectation that full consideration of multimodal access will be integrated in all appropriate new construction, reconstruction and retrofit infrastructure projects. However, there are conditions where it is generally inappropriate to provide multimodal facilities. Examples of these conditions include, but are not limited to:

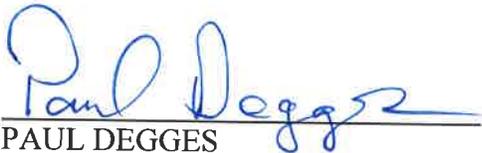
1. Controlled access facilities where non-motorized users are prohibited from using the roadway. In this instance, a greater effort may be necessary to accommodate these users elsewhere within the same transportation corridor.
2. The cost of accommodations would be excessively disproportionate to the need and probable use. Excessively disproportionate is defined as exceeding twenty percent (20%) of the total cost of the project. The twenty percent figure should be used in an advisory rather than an absolute sense, especially in instances where the cost may be difficult to quantify. Compliance with ADA requirements may require greater than 20% of project cost to accommodate multimodal access. Costs associated with ADA requirements are NOT an exception.
3. Areas in which the population and employment densities or level of transit service around the facility, both existing and future, does not justify the incorporation of multimodal alternatives.
4. Inability to negotiate and enter into an agreement with a local government to assume the operational and maintenance responsibility of the facility.
5. Other factors where there is a demonstrated absence of need or prudence, or as requested by the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

Exceptions for not accommodating multimodal transportation users on State roadway projects in accordance with this policy shall be documented describing the basis and supporting data for the exception, and must be approved by TDOT's Chief Engineer and Chief of Environment and Planning or their designees.

DESIGN GUIDANCE:

The Department recognizes that a well-planned and designed transportation network is responsive to its context and meets the needs of its users. Therefore, facilities will be designed and constructed in accordance with current applicable laws and regulations, using best practices and guidance, including but not limited to the following: TDOT Standard Drawings and guidelines, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) publications, Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) publications, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) publications, the Public Rights-of-Ways Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG).

Signed:



PAUL DEGGES
Chief Engineer/Deputy Commissioner



TOKS OMISHAKIN
Chief of Planning/Deputy Commissioner



JOHN SCHROER
Commissioner