



INDOT Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) Policy

July 31, 2013

Approved:

Jay Wasson, Deputy Commissioner
Highway Design & Engineering Support

Date: _____

Concurrence:

Rick Marquis, Indiana Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Date: _____



Purpose and Position

To develop a consistent policy to provide Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) that meets the program accessibility and mobility needs of blind, low-vision, deaf and hearing impaired persons in a non-discriminatory manner consistent with the intent and/or requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504). This Policy addresses planned new construction, reconstruction/modernization and new or reconstructed signal projects and external requests for APS. This Policy also includes provisions for the public to submit requests for accessible pedestrian signals.

As an agency, INDOT is committed to implementing the installation of accessible pedestrian signals to ensure that where our pedestrian facilities communicate information, we also include features that provide information in a format that is accessible to individuals who are blind, have low vision, are deaf or have impaired hearing.

Definition

"An accessible pedestrian signal and accessible pedestrian pushbutton is an integrated device that communicates information about the WALK and DON'T WALK intervals at signalized intersections in non-visual formats (i.e., audible tones, speech messages, and/or vibrating vibrotactile surfaces) to pedestrians who are blind or have low vision." (Harkey, Carter, Barlow, Bentzen 2007). For purposes of this Policy statement, use of the term APS includes accessible pedestrian pushbutton detection device in concert with non-visual WALK and DON'T WALK signal communication formats.

Approach to New or Reconstructed Signals

INDOT will use a two-prong approach to determine if an accessible pedestrian signal should be included on all new signal installations, modernization intersection improvements and projects that incorporate pedestrian heads. First, INDOT will determine whether pedestrian heads are appropriate for the location. If pedestrian heads are appropriate, INDOT shall conduct an APS Study consistent with methodology outlined in the Indiana Manual of Traffic Control Devices (IMUTCD) and Indiana Design Manual to assess whether there are any compelling reasons, such as technical infeasibility or risk to pedestrian safety that would prohibit the installation of APS signals. INDOT shall document the decision to install or not install an APS signal on the results of an APS Study. The district traffic engineer shall either conduct the APS Study, or review and approve the findings of one conducted by any third party.

The INDOT Title VI/ADA Coordinator shall maintain a listing of all projects and locations, where due to documented technical infeasibility or pedestrian safety concerns prohibit INDOT from installing an accessible pedestrian signal. Such documentation shall include a detailed explanation of what measures INDOT applied to ensure accessibility to the maximum extent feasible for the pedestrian facilities without an accessible pedestrian signal. INDOT shall make this information available for public



inspection upon request. Furthermore, INDOT shall retain this documentation for at least three years after the completion of the project.

Approach to External Requests

INDOT shall consider external requests for APS installation in the context of new construction or reconstruction. Members of the public will be able to submit an external request to the District Traffic Engineer for review and consideration. If pedestrian heads are appropriate, INDOT shall conduct an APS Study as described above. The Title VI/ADA Program Manager will monitor the processing of all external accessible pedestrian signal requests at the district level.

Implementation

Within 180 days of receiving concurrence and approval of this Policy from the Indiana Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration, INDOT will implement design standards, specifications, operational memorandums and any other appropriate guidance to ensure the effective implementation of this Policy. Furthermore, INDOT will incorporate this Policy into its ADA Transition Plan.

INDOT will periodically update and review this Policy as needed in accordance with the current laws, regulations and INDOT's ADA Transition Plan.