

## Issues and Concerns of People with Disabilities: September 6, 2012 PBTSAC Meeting

- Impediments to disabled:
  - damaged sidewalks/curbs,
  - short timing of crosswalk signals,
  - utility poles in the middle of sidewalks
  - ruts in pavement in the crosswalks on major roadways
- Persons that have manual wheelchairs have more difficulty navigating slopes.
- Difficult to push the “on demand” pedestrian signal button; need to have crosswalks synchronized (pedestrian recall) with the traffic signals so they will change automatically without having to push the buttons.
- Ped refuge lanes/islands along larger roadways need to be designed for the disabled – wider.
- The disabled need more time to cross road than pedestrian signals now allow.
- There needs to be better maintenance of the crosswalk signals; more preventative maintenance of pedestrian signals, as reporting once they’re broken doesn’t help at the time a person is there at the intersection.
- The locator tone of audible signals is often hard to hear for the visually impaired.
- Improve awareness aspect for pedestrians: flashing strobe lights for the hearing impaired would be helpful
- Need more pedestrian safety education to help keep everyone safe on the streets.
- Local municipalities are not building sidewalks to the same standards – there is variability. \
- During construction, pedestrian pathways are often impeded, forcing pedestrians into travel lanes or crossing roadways where there are no traffic controls – an even bigger problem for those with disabilities.
- Sometimes crossing distances at intersections are longer than they have to be.
- Sometimes pedestrian signals either skip a cycle or provide no feedback to those who have pushed the signal button that signal will change - inducing risky crossing behaviors; bigger problem for the disabled.