

Additionally, the FHWA proposed adding to the second STANDARD statement that in addition to visual signage, equivalent information in alternate formats for pedestrians who have visual disabilities shall be provided so that they are not trapped on a closed facility. The FHWA received four comments from the NCUTCD, the Wisconsin DOT, the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen opposed to the new text, stating that it is an unreasonable requirement for all sidewalks, or that it should be a GUIDANCE, rather than a STANDARD. The NCUTCD, the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen suggested that the text be revised to explicitly state that where pedestrians with visual disabilities normally use the closed crosswalk, a barrier detectable by a person with a visual disability traveling with the aid of a long cane shall be placed across the full width of the closed crosswalk. The FHWA agrees with the suggested text and adopts that text in this final rule. The FHWA also received two comments from the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen suggesting that the existing first sentence, requiring advance notification of sidewalk closures by the entity conducting the work was vague. The FHWA agrees and expands the sentence in this final rule to indicate that advance notification of sidewalk closures shall be provided to the maintaining agency.

The FHWA adds to the second SUPPORT statement that pedestrians are reluctant to add distance or out-of-the-way travel to a destination. The NCUTCD opposed this new text and three commenters representing associations for the blind community suggested including additional text regarding the types of barriers that are detectable by a person with visual disability. The additional information regarding barrier types goes beyond the scope of this rulemaking and the FHWA adopts the changes as proposed in the NPA.

In the second GUIDANCE, the FHWA proposed adding information about the general needs of pedestrians with disabilities. The NCUTCD opposed the additional information, the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen requested more information, and three commenters representing associations for the blind community opposed the text as written in the NPA, but suggested new text. The FHWA agrees with the suggested text from the associations for the blind community, which provides additional information regarding how to communicate with pedestrians with visual disabilities in

order to alert them to blocked routes, alternate crossings, and sign and signal information. The FHWA adopts this text in this final rule.

The FHWA proposed to revise item C of the second GUIDANCE statement to include accessible paths as well as provisions for pedestrians who have visual disabilities in planning for pedestrians in temporary traffic control zones. The NCUTCD opposed the revision, suggesting that this information be included in a new Section 6D.02 Accessibility Considerations. The City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen requested additional information regarding how to provide audible warnings, and three commenters representing associations for the blind community suggested new wording to incorporate the need to provide pedestrians with visual disabilities with instructions, as well as a reference to accessible pedestrian signals. The FHWA agrees with the suggested text from associations representing the blind community, and adopts the revised language with the additional information in this final rule.

The FHWA also adds to the second GUIDANCE statement that a pedestrian route should not be severed and/or moved for nonconstruction activities such as parking for vehicles and equipment. The FHWA received one comment from the Florida DOT in support of this change, and one comment from the NCUTCD opposed, stating redundancy. The FHWA adopts the change as proposed in the NPA.

The FHWA proposed expanding the third GUIDANCE statement to include additional information regarding how to delineate a pedestrian footpath through or around a work site. The NCUTCD opposed the revision, suggesting a new Section 6D.02 Accessibility Considerations be added. A commenter from the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen requested additional clarification, and three commenters representing associations for the blind community suggested rewording to reference Section 6F.65 Temporary Traffic Barriers as Channelizing Devices for a description of detectable barriers. To address the comments, the FHWA clarifies the wording to indicate that if the previous pedestrian facility was accessible to pedestrians with disabilities, then the footpath provided during temporary traffic control should also be accessible, and to denote additional information regarding grades and use of barriers and channelizing devices.

The FHWA also adds an OPTION statement that wherever it is feasible,

closing off the work site from pedestrian intrusion may be preferable to channelizing pedestrian traffic along the site with temporary traffic control devices.

The FHWA adds a new SUPPORT statement following the third GUIDANCE to provide information on how to communicate pedestrian routes to pedestrians with disabilities. The FHWA received one comment from the NCUTCD opposed to this new statement, two comments from the City of Charlotte, North Carolina, and a private citizen requesting additional clarification and three comments from associations representing the blind community suggesting rewording of the statement to clarify the use of audible instructions, which the FHWA adopts in this final rule.

In the NPA, the FHWA proposed to expand the third GUIDANCE statement to indicate that fencing should be continuous and detectable. The FHWA withdraws this proposal because this information is included in new Section 6D.02 Accessibility Considerations in this final rule.

In the NPA, the FHWA proposed to expand the first paragraph of the fourth GUIDANCE statement to indicate that ballast and other elements should not intrude into the accessible passage. The FHWA withdraws this proposal, because this information is included in new Section 6D.02 Accessibility Considerations in this final rule.

The FHWA expands the last paragraph of the fifth GUIDANCE statement to clarify that access to work space by equipment as well as workers across pedestrian walkways should be minimized. The FHWA received one comment from the NCUTCD opposed to this change, citing disagreement with the wording regarding accessibility. The FHWA disagrees with the commenter and adopts the change in this final rule.

In the NPA, the FHWA proposed to expand the third paragraph of the fifth GUIDANCE statement to include information about pedestrian accessibility and to add a paragraph at the end of the fifth GUIDANCE statement to indicate that audible information be provided at locations where a temporary pedestrian crossing is implemented. The FHWA received one comment from the NCUTCD opposed to these changes, suggesting that this information is repetitive. The FHWA withdraws these proposals, because this information is included in new Section 6D.02 Accessibility Considerations in this final rule.

The FHWA removes the second sentence from the sixth SUPPORT statement regarding the use of tape,