



# PROWAG & Pedestrian Push Buttons



## 8 Quick Facts

### 1. PROWAG is the official federal standard for pedestrian accessibility.

The *Public Right-Of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)* provide minimum scoping and technical requirements for various spaces and elements in the public right-of-way, including signals, crosswalks, and push buttons.

### 2. PROWAG will carry the force of law once adopted by the DOT & DOJ.

The agencies responsible for enforcing the ADA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Architectural Barriers Act must adopt PROWAG, going through the usual federal rulemaking process.

### 3. All new/altered pedestrian signals must have accessible pedestrian signals (APS).

Pedestrian push buttons at signalized crossings (intersections and midblock with PHB/HAWK systems) must have audible and vibrotactile features indicating the walk interval.

### 4. All new/altered crosswalk warning devices, such as RRFBs, must have accessible features.

Anywhere a push button or passive detection device is provided for pedestrian activated warning devices (e.g. RRFBs, circular flashing beacons), they must be accompanied by a speech message that indicates the status of the beacon. This describes the function of an Audible Information Device (AID).

### 5. Signals and buttons must be upgraded when pedestrian facilities are altered.

The final rule does not include specific actions that trigger the requirement to install APS, stating only that they are subject to the same alteration requirements as other pedestrian facilities. USDOT & DOJ may provide further specifics in their rulemakings.

### 6. Crosswalks at multi-lane roundabouts and channelized turn lanes require accessibility measures.

These crossings must include one or more of the following: a traffic control signal with a pedestrian signal head (with APS), a pedestrian hybrid beacon (with APS), a pedestrian actuated rectangular rapid flashing beacon (with AID), or a raised crossing.

### 7. Push buttons must meet requirements for clear spaces, reach ranges, and operable parts.

PROWAG covers these in detail, largely repeating the requirements in the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. The diagram on the reverse distills these requirements and compares them to the MUTCD.

### 8. Regular push buttons, speakers and phone apps (alone) aren't compliant.

All APS must include an audible tone or speech message during the walk phase, a high-contrast vibrotactile arrow, and locator tone that enables pedestrians who are blind or have low vision to locate the push button. See details on reverse.



# PROWAG Factsheet

## Required features comparison: MUTCD vs. PROWAG

### Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS)

Required features for pedestrian push buttons at signal-controlled crossings.

- P** A locator tone that repeats every second, audible 6-12 ft from the button or to the building line, intensity responsive to ambient sound.
- P** Audible walk indication during the WALK interval. WALK tone should repeat 8-10 ticks/second, with dominant 880Hz tone. If APS are closer than 10ft, the WALK indication shall be a speech message.
- M** If a pilot light is present, it should light when actuated and the word "Wait" should play. The light should stay lit until the WALK interval begins.
- P** A tactile arrow with high visual contrast aligned with the crosswalk on the pushbutton. The arrow vibrates during the WALK interval.
- M** The push button vibrates during the WALK interval.
- P** Automatic volume adjustment in response to ambient traffic sound level up to a maximum volume of 100 dBA.



▲ Polara iNS

▲ Polara iNX

- P** Parts shall be operable with one hand and shall not require tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist. Maximum force required to activate operable parts shall be 5 pounds (22.2 N).

### Audible Information Devices (AID)

Required features for push buttons at pedestrian activated warning devices, like RRFBs or round beacons.

- P** A locator tone that repeats every second, audible 6-12 ft from the button or to the building line, intensity responsive to ambient sound.
- P** Speech message indicating the status of the beacon.
- P** A tactile arrow with high visual contrast aligned with the crosswalk. No vibration.
- P** Automatic volume adjustment in response to ambient traffic sound level up to a maximum volume of 100 dBA.

Source:

- P** PROWAG R206.2, R307-308, R403.4
- M** 11<sup>th</sup> ed. MUTCD §4K.03-04

Source:

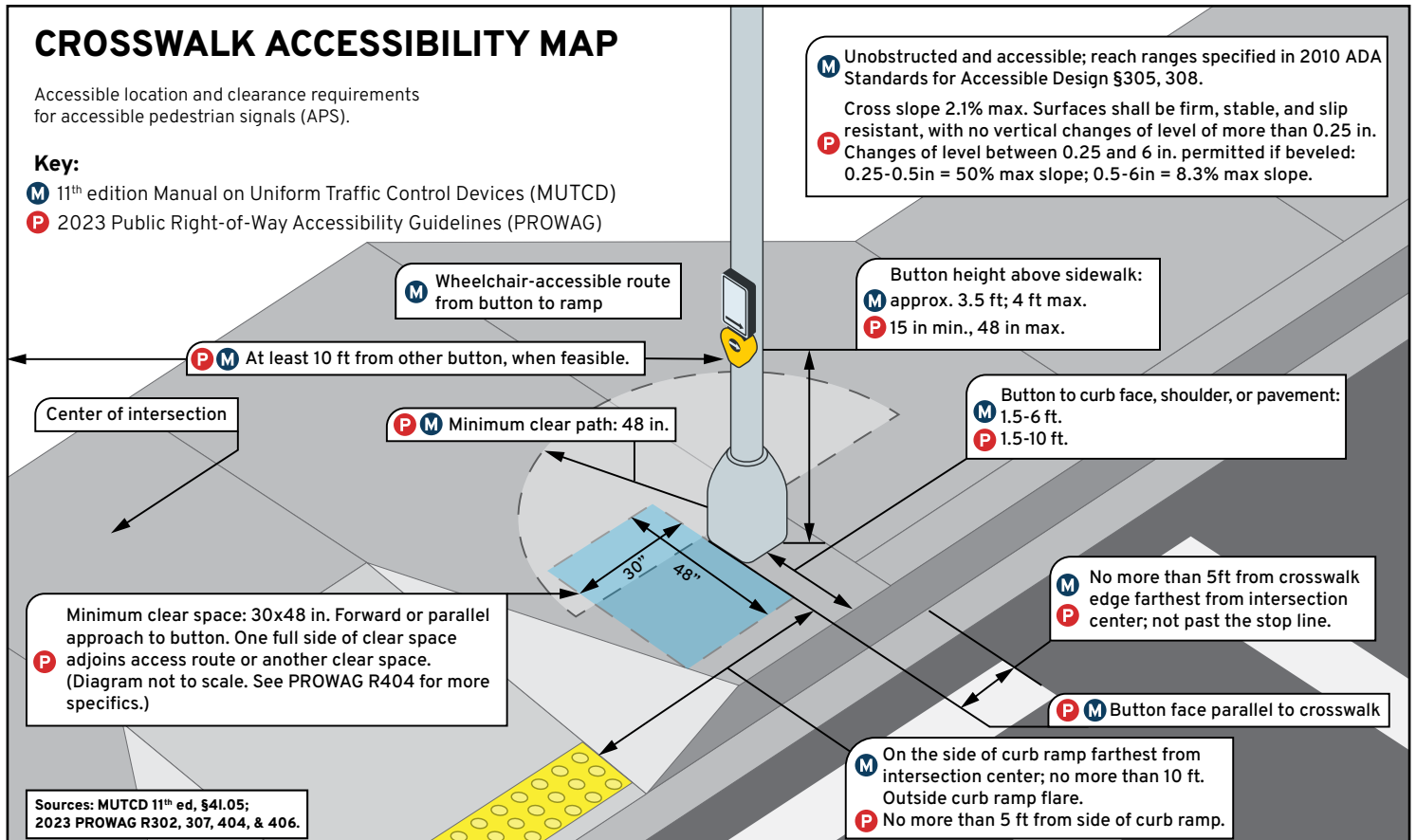
- P** PROWAG R307, R403.4

## CROSSWALK ACCESSIBILITY MAP

Accessible location and clearance requirements for accessible pedestrian signals (APS).

### Key:

- M** 11<sup>th</sup> edition Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- P** 2023 Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG)



Sources: MUTCD 11<sup>th</sup> ed, §4I.05; 2023 PROWAG R302, 307, 404, & 406.

