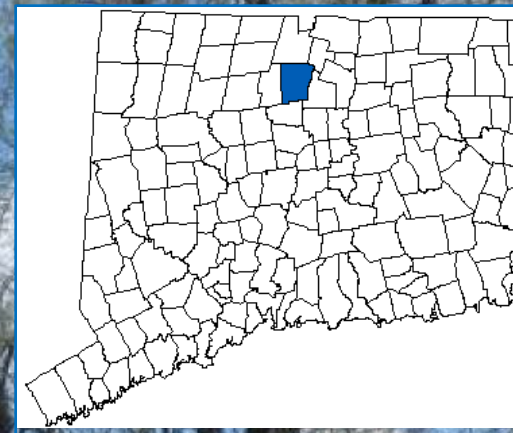# ADA Safety Matters
Coffee and Conversations

Town of Simsbury
Thomas J. Roy, PE
Director of Public Works/Town Engineer

Simsbury Connecticut

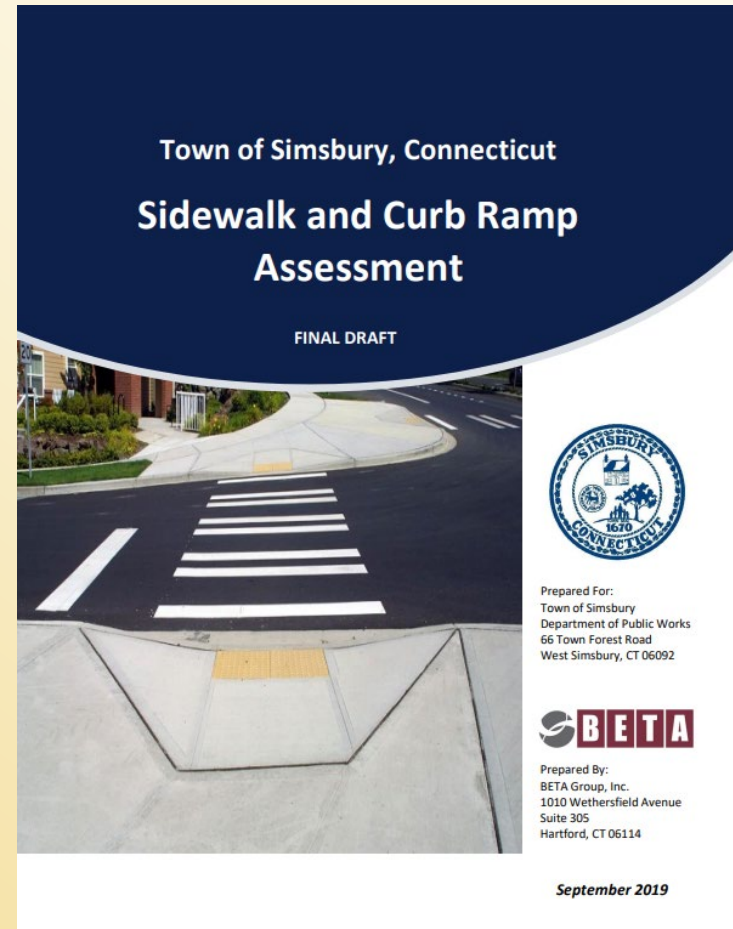| Population	Residential Homes	Roadway Miles	Sidewalk Miles	Curb Ramps	Area Miles^2
24,500	7,500	191	14.7	~320	34.5

How We Started
Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Assessments

In 2019, the Town conducted a Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Assessment Plan with BETA Group

Why did we do it?

- We were building off our Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan that identified walking and sidewalks as a priority.

- It is REQUIRED by Federal Law. Transition Plan Requires:
  - Schedule of Improvements
  - Self Evaluation
  - ADA Compliant Curb Ramps at Crosswalks

- Most importantly – it was the right thing to do!

Town of Simsbury, Connecticut

Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Assessment

FINAL DRAFT

Prepared For:
Town of Simsbury
Department of Public Works
66 Town Forest Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092

Prepared By:
BETA Group, Inc.
1010 Wethersfield Avenue
Suite 305
Hartford, CT 06114

September 2019

Program Development

1. Inventory and ADA Assessment

   Field Data Collection:

   ✓ Sidewalks

   ✓ Curb Ramps

2. Data Analysis & GIS Mapping

3. Prioritization & Planning

4. Schedule of Improvements
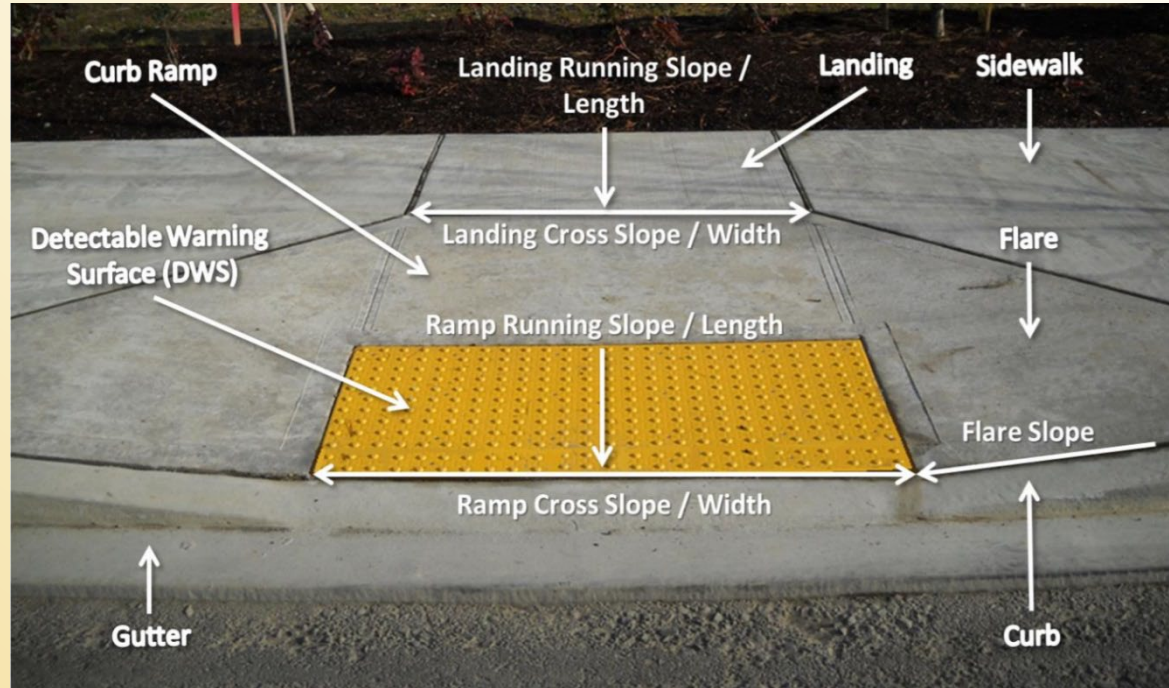
5. Data Management & Tracking

Good

Poor

Curb Ramp Inventory & Assessment

Attribute Data Collected:

General:

➢ Ramp Location
  (Street Name & Intersecting Street)

➢ Ramp Material Type
  (Concrete, Asphalt, Other)

➢ General Condition of Ramp
  (Good, Fair, Poor)

ADA Assessment:

➢ Ramp Dimensions (Opening and Landing Widths, Landing Length)

➢ Slope (Smart Level Reading)

➢ Detectable Warning Panel Exists (Yes/No)

➢ Visible Obstructions (Pole, Catch Basin, Sign, etc.)
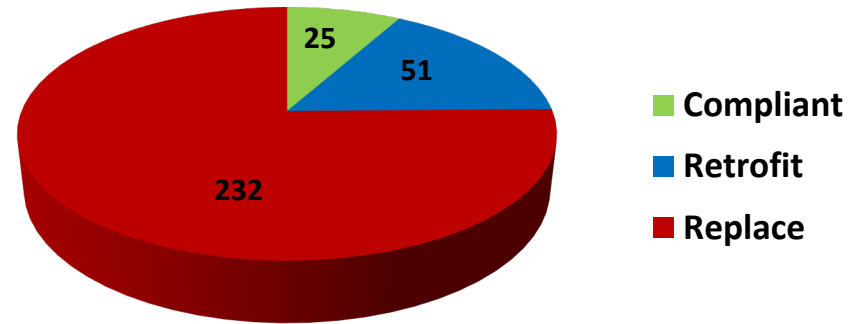
➢ Crosswalk Exists (Yes/No)

Ramps – Existing Conditions 2019

Curb Ramp by Condition

- Total – 308
- Good – 204
- Fair – 76
- Poor – 28

Not Good!

Ramp Compliance

Compliant	25
Retrofit	51
Replace	232

ADA Status	Total	Percentage
COMPLIANT	25	8.2%
NON-COMPLIANT	283	91.8%
TOTAL	308	100.0%

Curb Ramp Backlog Summary

Repair Type	Estimated Cost	Count
Replace	$1,102,000	232
Retrofit	$25,500	51
Total	$1,127,500	283

Ramp Prioritization & Planning

By Location   &   By Physical Information

- ➢ Improve accessibility around Downtown Areas (Hopmeadow and Tariffville)

- ➢ Increase safety around Schools (Both Public and Private Schools)

- ➢ Improve accessibility around Public Housing Developments

❖ **Ramp Point System Prioritization**

Priority 5 - Lowest
1. Passes Slope
2. Passes Detectable Warning Panel
3. Does not pass overall

Priority 4 - Low
1. Fails Slope
2. Passes Detectable Warning Panel
3. Does not pass overall

Priority 3 - Med
1. Fails Slope
2. Fails Detectable Warning Panel

Priority 2 - High
1. Material = Asphalt
2. Retrofit a warning panel

Priority 1 - Highest
1. Missing Ramp

*As part of this project, pedestrian network gaps such as missing ramps were identified.

Replacement Program

➢ Replace 7.5 miles of sidewalks in poor & fair condition

➢ Replace or rehabilitate all 283 non-compliant ramps

➢ Prioritization for walks/ramps near schools and business

➢ Replace neighborhood sidewalks with asphalt walks and use concrete walks along state and collector roadways

➢ Assume 7 years for replacement of sidewalks

➢ Allow 15 years for full compliance for curb ramps

• Should this be done sooner?

Program Totals:

➢ Sidewalks - $200,000/yr

➢ Sidewalks - 7 years

➢ Ramps - 15 years for full compliance

Lessons Learned

➢ Simple plans for replacement work best – we use GIS Mapping with overlay and call-outs for ramp type

➢ Complete ramps with sidewalk rehabilitation and paving work

➢ Always verify ramp compliance before placing concrete – good inspector is key

➢ Use replaceable Tactile Panels