Access Ramps

This summer, you may see construction crews removing the street corner to install pedestrian access ramps. These ramps are intended to allow easy access to crosswalks for pedestrians with disabilities, families with young children, seniors and other travelers when crossing the street.

To be compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (commonly known as "ADA") the ramps do not exceed a slope of 1:20 or 5%. A gentle slope assists wheelchairs, families with strollers, and pedestrians with compromised mobility along their travel route. A "detectable warning surface" pad is placed in each access ramp and is used to alert those with vision impairment that the sidewalk makes a transition to the street. The pad literally acts as Braille for your feet!

Each ramp takes approximately one to two weeks to complete construction. You are invited to scroll through the pictures below to see how access ramps are built.

How are Access Ramps Built?

First, the existing curb, gutter, sidewalk and street are removed. This area may be quite large, but is necessary to accommodate the forms required to construct the new access ramp and replace adjacent sidewalks, curbs and gutters.

You may see a temporary disruption to traffic
during access ramp construction.

The photo above shows the forms that hold the concrete in place
to construct the access ramp and adjacent sidewalk.
Notice in this picture the curbs and gutters have been installed.

The crew pours the concrete, positions the "detectable warning surface" pad and finishes the access ramp so it ties seamlessly into the street surface.

A recently completed ramp, curb and gutter are shown above.

As a last step, the street surface is replaced along the gutter and the curbs are painted.

The completed access ramp, ready for pedestrian use.