

ADA Advisory Committee Priority Recommendations

January 16, 2001, Revised May 16, 2001 and September 25, 2001

The ADA Advisory Committee has made recommendations to the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee for addressing ADA project needs using major maintenance funds. The committee has recommended prioritization based on the priority of the building as well as the priority of the structural barrier to be removed. The committee has also recommended guidelines for determining who should pay when requests are made to remove architectural barriers or to provide other accommodations. The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee approved these recommendations on December 14, 2000.

1. Buildings should be prioritized as follows:
 - Priority 1 Buildings that provide access to elected officials
 - Priority 2 Buildings that have programs and services most frequently used by the general public
 - Priority 3 New buildings designed in compliance with ADA regulations and needing few modifications
 - Priority 4 Buildings and grounds with programs and services used less frequently by the general public
 - Priority 5 Buildings that will be or may be replaced within 5 years
2. Structural barriers to be removed should be prioritized as follows, so as to enable persons with disabilities to:
 - Priority 1 Get into the building
 - Priority 2 Get to the programs or services offered in the building
 - Priority 3 Use the restrooms and building services
 - Priority 4 Get additional accommodations to access a program or service.(These priorities follow the recommendations of the ADA.)

Infrastructure funds should be used for removing barriers that are structural in nature and a benefit to all for items 1, 2 and 3 above. Individual department operating funds should be used for accommodating a state employee and the public to assist in participating or obtaining the programs and services that are of a non-structural nature, such as modifications to furnishings and equipment.

When an accommodation request is submitted, it should be reviewed to determine if it is in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines (ADAAG). If the requested accommodation exceeds ADAAG, the requesting agency should pay for the accommodation. If the accommodation is necessary for compliance with ADAAG, the infrastructure fund should pay for the accommodation.

It is expected that newly constructed or renovated buildings will be in compliance with ADAAG.