The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) will be updating sidewalk corners and non-compliant mid-block sidewalk locations throughout the City of Townsend. These updates will allow all users to more easily get on and off sidewalks, including people with disabilities, parents with strollers or small children on bikes, delivery drivers, and older adults.

Townsend ADA is rooted in MDT’s ongoing efforts to provide greater accessibility to residents and visitors across Montana and are part of MDT’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan. These improvements serve the Townsend residents and visitors who have a disability, as well as people who use walkers or canes and other assistive devices like crutches and people pushing strollers, bikes or delivery dollies.

WHERE ARE THE ADA IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED?
PUBLIC IMPACT

78 sidewalk corners in Townsend will be updated with ramps and 13 sidewalks will be improved to make Townsend more accessible.

Construction is scheduled to begin in late August/early September and last for 35 days, with dates subject to change due to weather. MDT is using a streamlined construction process designed to reduce the time required to finish these improvements. That means less noise and disruption for neighbors and travelers around the work zone. During construction, the public should expect minor mild noise disturbances, minor pedestrian detours, and intermittent loss of parking.

MDT, Helena Sand and Gravel, White Resources Group and Stahly Engineering are united in their intention to minimize disruptions where ADA improvements are performed.

HOW WILL TOWNSEND ADA IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY?

A sidewalk curb with no ramp is difficult to navigate for people with disabilities, people who use walkers or canes and other assistive devices like crutches, as well as people pushing strollers and delivery dollies. New curbs will have the following features:

- **Gentler slopes** to ease a wheeled device down with landing areas at the top where pedestrians can prepare to turn and access the crosswalk. The ramps are designed to be long enough to provide a gentle slope, but not so long that a user becomes fatigued pushing up the ramp. For users with a stroller or using a walker or wheelchair, these landing areas are crucial to making a safe turn into the ramp leading to the crosswalk.

- **Detectable warnings** are the colored and textured surfaces found in the areas where a curb ramp connects with the street. Detectable warnings provide a sensory warning to users with vision impairments, alerting them that they are entering a roadway where vehicle traffic is present.

- **Limit water pooling** in the area where the curb ramp transitions into roadway, keeping everyone’s shoes dry when possible.

QUESTIONS? WE’RE HERE TO HELP.

- Email to subscribe to email updates about the project, email Melissa at melissas@strategies360.com
- **406-422-2922**
- Text “TownsendADA” to 555-888
- [www.mdt.mt.gov/publicinvolve/townsendada](http://www.mdt.mt.gov/publicinvolve/townsendada)

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