

ADA Access

Why is ADA access important?

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) improvements provide access to transit services for people who may have difficulty getting to the platform of a CTA station. The elderly, people with disabilities, and people with children and strollers are challenged by using stations with only stairs, steep ramps, slippery surfaces, poor lighting, poor signage, limited tactile definitions, and platforms with limited widths and clearances.

What ADA changes would be done to stations?

Some potential ADA improvements include adding vertical access such as elevators and escalators; adding or improving horizontal access through improved geometrics and clearances on ramps and platforms; improved signage; adding visual and audible way-finding; improved lighting in and around stationhouses; firmer, more defined surfaces; and improved weather protection for customers on sidewalks and platforms.



What ADA access currently exists?

Six of the twenty-one stations on the North Red and Purple Lines are identified as ADA accessible. These stations have been rebuilt over the past three decades and have incorporated various degrees of ADA improvements such as elevators, ramps, tactile platform edges, lighting upgrades, signage improvements, and geometric improvements. The remaining fifteen stations have limited accessibility for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people with children and strollers.



Narrow platform at Sheridan

What ADA access would stations have with the proposed upgrades?

Various levels of station improvements and compliance with ADA are included under the different alternatives. Under the rehabilitation alternatives, the minimal standards to meet ADA requirements would be addressed. Requirements such as an elevator would be provided, but due to existing condition constraints, without major station overhaul the elevator might not be as convenient as would be desirable or the platform widths may not be as wide or geometrically proportioned as would be optimal.

Under the modernization alternatives, the ADA improvements would fully address accessibility requirements and concerns, and would provide optimal configurations. This would include centralized access and wider and longer platforms in order to meet current and future needs.