

Sidewalks Standards

Online Engagement Opportunity

February 9 to 16, 2021



Welcome

- Welcome to the Online Engagement Opportunity to learn about the City of Ottawa's sidewalk standards.
- The City of Ottawa is undertaking a review of the application of the standards for sidewalks and is seeking feedback from members of the public on the two adopted sidewalk standards: traditional style and ramp style.
- **This review will focus on the two sidewalk standard designs at a vehicular access.**

Considerations

- This review will focus on traditional style and ramp style sidewalk standard designs at a vehicular access
- Key considerations to sidewalk standards are finding a balance between:
 - accessibility,
 - pedestrian movements,
 - safety,
 - parking and cycling impacts,
 - traffic,
 - maintenance, and
 - vehicular access.
- The feedback received from the public and other stakeholders will help shape the adopted sidewalk standards in the City of Ottawa design and construction documents.

Background

Over the years, the City has incorporated two sidewalk standards: Traditional style and Ramp Style

Traditional style



Ramp style



Background

- In 2006 the City of Ottawa adopted the ramp style vehicle access to improve pedestrian accessibility at the driveway/sidewalk interface.
- At that time, the City committed to continue to monitor and review the application of the two standards.
- The City continues to be a leader in developing accessible environments for all, embracing the principles of “universal design”.
- The City is committed to identifying, removing and preventing barriers as per the scope and application of the City of Ottawa’s *Accessibility Design Standards*.

What is a Vehicle Access?

- A vehicle access is where a driveway and sidewalk connect.
- In locations where the sidewalk is installed immediately adjacent to the roadway/curb, the vehicle access to driveways must be incorporated into the sidewalk itself.
- **The City of Ottawa has two standards**
 - Ramp Style Vehicle Access (known as Toronto style)
 - Traditional Style Vehicle Access (known as roller coaster)

Traditional Style

- Traditional style sidewalks prioritize a level entry for vehicles, and require sidewalk users to navigate the grade change at each vehicular entry.
- Traditional style sidewalks are used for high-volume commercial and institutional entrances.
- They may also be applied when site conditions exist that could warrant their use—these conditions include areas with longitudinal slope greater than 5 percent or where there are frequent driveways with a span greater than 20 meters.
- Traditional style sidewalks may also be used on sidewalk only rehabilitation projects where the existing conditions are restrictive to the application of the ramp style.



Traditional Style

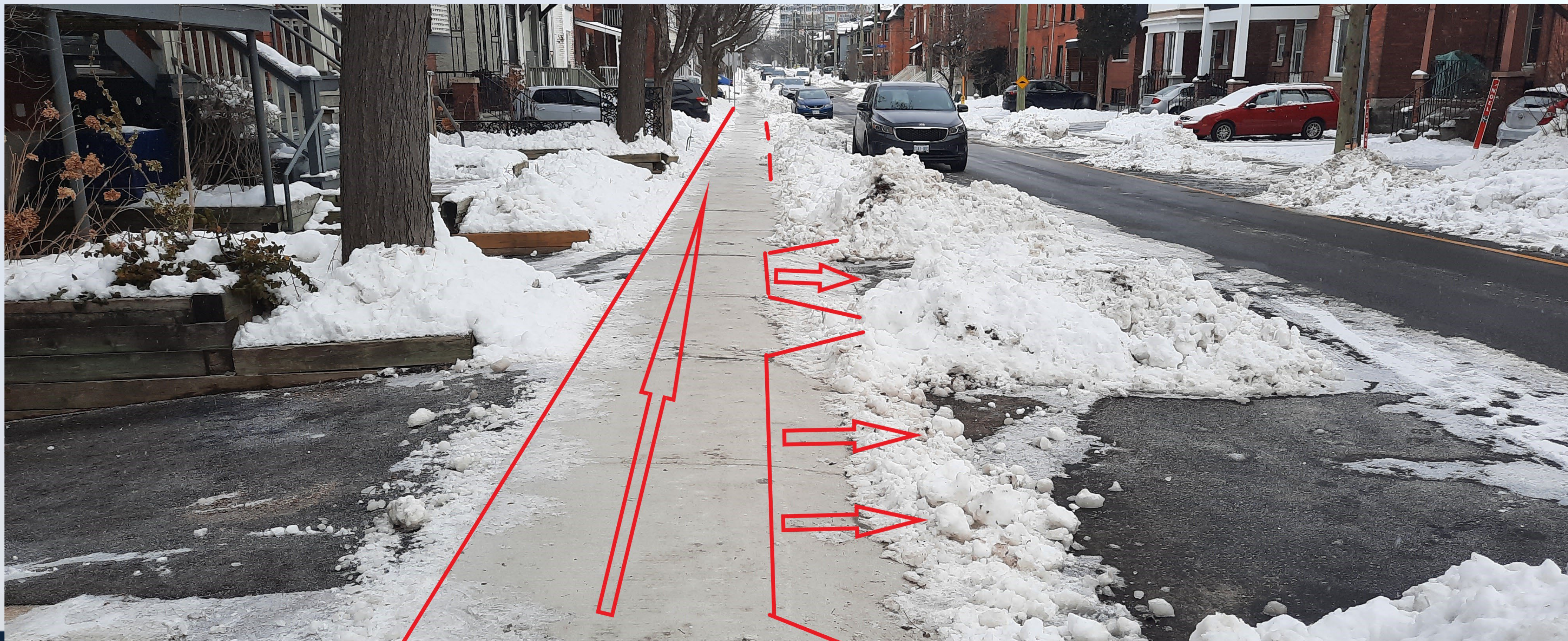
The Roller Coaster Effect

- The frequent lowering and raising of the sidewalk elevation at each Traditional Style driveway vehicle access is commonly referred to as the roller coaster effect.
- The continued grade change for the Traditional Style vehicle access can make it more challenging for pedestrians and sidewalk users due to the continual grade change.
- In winter months, snow and ice accumulate between the normal sidewalk elevation and the lower portion of the sidewalk at the driveway access point. This poses increased safety concerns to pedestrians and sidewalk users and can make snow/ice removal as part of winter operations more challenging.



Ramp Style

- The ramp style incorporates a ramp on the roadside of the sidewalk to avoid the need to lower the sidewalk at the driveways.
- The width of the sidewalk will be one of the factors considered in determining the applicable standard for sidewalks at driveways – for 1.8 meters and wider a “ramp-style” driveway access is applied.



Ramp Style

- Because the sidewalk has to incorporate a ramp for the vehicle access, the flat width of the sidewalk in these areas is reduced.
- For 1.8 meters sidewalks the ramp is 750 millimeters, this leaves a clear sidewalk width of 1.05 meters



What We Have Heard About the Traditional and Ramp Style Sidewalks

What we have heard: Vehicle Access

Traditional Style	Ramp Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicles can enter accesses at a higher speed.• Less concerns with vehicle damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More concerns to damage of vehicles as the sidewalk ramps can catch and damage vehicles that pass close to the curb.

What we have heard: Snow and Ice Removal/Accumulation

Traditional Style	Ramp Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">In winter months, snow and ice accumulate between the normal sidewalk elevation and the lower portion of the sidewalk at the driveway access point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Snow close to the curb is difficult to remove and can cause safety concerns
FR	FR

What we have heard - Sidewalk Width / Consistency

Traditional Style	Ramp Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sidewalk width is consistent for the entire width of sidewalk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sidewalk width is reduced at points to incorporate the ramp
FR	FR

What we have heard: Navigability

Traditional Style	Ramp Style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pedestrians are required to go “down and up” at every driveway access. This can be difficult for users with vision loss and users with increased mobility needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramp style accesses have a consistent grade over their length, making them easier and safer to walk on.• Sidewalk ramps can be difficult to navigate for users with vision loss and users with increased mobility needs.
FR	FR

We Want to Hear From You

- The City is seeking feedback from the public on the two adopted sidewalk standards
- The City is committed to keeping the community informed throughout this review. For more information about this review please visit:
<https://ottawa.ca/sidewalks>
- All information/comments received will be maintained on file and all comments will become part of the public record. (With the exception of personal information).
- Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request, at the following link: www.ottawa.ca/accessibleformat.

Next Steps

We encourage you to provide your comments by email to StandardsSection@ottawa.ca by **February 16, 2021**.

Questions regarding this online engagement opportunity can be directed to:

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