

ADA¹ Bus Stop Accessibility Study

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Focus: SunTran – Regional Fixed Route Transit System

Updated: December 2011

What is the purpose of the study?

- To develop an inventory of the bus stops within the SunTran Regional Fixed Route Transit System in coordination with SunTran
- Identify the accessibility of the bus stops
- Prioritize improvements related to the ADA accessibility and connectivity
- Create an Action Plan to implement improvements needed at the bus stops

What are the *proposed* goals (What are we trying to accomplish)?

- Improve mobility independence for transit users (disabled and non-disabled)
- Remove environmental barriers for the disabled community
- Improve connectivity throughout the entire fixed route system
- Improve bus stop comfort and safety
- Improve coordination between the local jurisdictions, their internal departments (i.e.: Transportation and Development Services), and SunTran in regards to projects that may affect transit accessibility

What is the definition of an ADA-accessible bus stop?

- An accessible bus stop uses the ADA guidelines, which includes a minimum lift area of 60" wide x 96" deep. In addition, the stop should have continuous sidewalks from curb to curb and accessible curb cuts. Bus shelter accessibility was also evaluated if a shelter was present.

As part of the inventory, we qualified and quantified these areas to give a maximum score of 5 points (or 5 stars). 1 point was assessed for the concrete level lift area, 1 point for a curb cut in each direction (maximum 2 points), and 1 point for continuous sidewalk in each direction (maximum 2 points) with a total score of five

Were bus stops inventoried for any additional features?

- Yes, other features that may be desirable at a bus stop were inventoried. These additional amenities include lighting, trashcans, bike racks, and route map display cases. These amenities were also scored as part of the overall quality of the bus stop, if all the scores were added together (both accessibility and other amenities) an ideal bus stop would score 10 points.

- **How many bus stops have lighting?**

518

Change from December 2008 ... add 16

- **How many bus stops have bike racks?**

35

Change from December 2008 ... add 14

- **How many bus stops have trashcans?**

1105

Change from December 2008 ... add 81

- **How many bus stops have route maps**

453

Change from December 2008 ... add 41

How many bus stops have shade?

- Shade is not an ADA requirement. However, shade is very important in the desert. Shade types were qualified and ranked based on amount of shade available for example a shelter received a higher score than a young tree.
 - Shelters: 956
Change from December 2008 ... add 81
 - Trees: 364
Change from December 2008 ... decrease 14
 - Other: 34
Change from December 2008 ... decrease 35
 - Total: 1354
Change from December 2008 ... add 32 overall

Approximately 61% of the bus stops have some type of shade

How many bus stop benches are there in the region?

- 698 Change from December 2008 ... add 62

Some benches are provided through a private advertising contractor and others are owned by the local jurisdictions

Of the bus stops that have the highest number of boardings (riders-on), how many are ADA-accessible?

- 200 + 50 of 56 (89%)
(includes 30 transit center stops)
Change from December 2008 – April 2010 ...
increase boardings 200 + 22 of 26 (85%)
- 100 – 199 60 of 100 (60%)
(includes 2 transit center stops)
Change from December 2008– April 2010
increase boardings 100 – 199 53 of 97 (55%)
- 75 – 99 49 of 78 (63%)
Change from December 2008– April 2010 ...
increase boardings 75 – 99 40 of 66 (61%)
- 50 – 74 84 of 152 (55%)
Change from December 2008– April 2010
decrease boardings 50 – 74 88 of 153 (58%)
- 25 – 49 153 of 320 (48%)
Change from December 2008– April 2010 ...
increase boardings 20 – 49 138 of 320 (43%)

What is the plan of action?

- Identify and improve bus stop accessibility needs and priorities based on the analysis of the inventory using ADA recommended guidelines (35 stops currently identified and planned for improvement).
(87 stops improved for accessibility, 7 currently planned with an additional 18 identified for improvement).
- Identify bus stop amenity needs (i.e. shelters, shade, benches, lighting, etc.)
- Secure additional funding sources to improve bus stops
- Coordinate improvements with SunTran, TDOT Engineering, ATA, other jurisdictions, and RTA

**For more information Contact:
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¹ADA stands for the American Disabilities Act, a law prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, and public services such as transportation. The ADA considers regular city bus service (SunTran) to be “the primary mode of public transportation for everyone.” For these reason cities with regular bus service must make that service ‘accessible’ to (usable by) individuals with disabilities