



Stage 2 Reforms of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002



Accessible boarding points: Bus, tram and light rail boarding points on infrastructure

There are currently no requirements for bus, tram and light rail boarding points in the Transport Standards. Large gradient and cross fall changes between bus stops and roads can reduce accessibility for people with disability, and make boarding and alighting from conveyances unsafe. There is an opportunity to ensure that wherever possible, boarding points on buses, light rail and trams are made accessible by including clear gradient and cross fall specifications.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

The Transport Standards would remain unchanged and no additional guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

The Whole Journey Guide and / or the Transport Standards Guidelines would be updated to include advice on bus, tram and light rail boarding points

Specific guidance may include the following:

- Design requirements
- Locations where compliant boarding points are not achievable
- Guidance on navigating the intersection of boarding points and shared pathways

Regulatory option

The Transport Standards would include new requirements in relation to bus, tram and light rail boarding points.

Option 1

The Transport Standards would be amended to include requirements for bus, tram and light rail boarding points

The Transport Standards would include the following new requirements:

- Boarding points must have a flat and stable surface to which a boarding device can be safely deployed and have a gradient no steeper than 1:40 (AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 6.5.1*).
- The camber (crossfall) of a boarding point must be no steeper than 1:40, except for bitumen surfaces, where 1:33 is permitted (AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 10.1(d)*).

These requirements pertain to premises and bus, tram and light rail boarding points on infrastructure.

Option 2

The Transport Standards would be amended to include requirements for bus, tram and light rail boarding points, including specific requirements for road gradients where the gradient is steeper than 1:40.

The Transport Standards would include the following new requirements:

- Boarding points must have a flat and stable surface to which a boarding device can be safely deployed and have a gradient no steeper than 1:40 (AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 6.5.1*).
- The camber (crossfall) of a boarding point must be no steeper than 1:40, except for bitumen surfaces where 1:33 is permitted (AS1428.1 (2009) *Clause 10.1(d)*).
- Where road gradient is at a gradient steeper than 1:40 and a 1:40 boarding point gradient would prevent safe deployment of a boarding device, the boarding point gradient may match that of the road.

These requirements would pertain to premises and bus, tram and light rail boarding points on infrastructure.

Under both options, guidance would be updated to reflect new requirements and include guidance for light rail, bus and tram boarding points.

Case study

Gary uses a manual wheelchair and catches the bus a few times a week. He catches the bus at his suburban bus stop, which is on a steep hill.

Gary's experience today

Gary waits at his normal bus stop. As his bus arrives, he crosses the footpath, which has a steep crossfall leading to the road. It takes a lot of effort for Gary to roll in a straight line up the hill to the boarding point, as the cross fall of the footpath pushes him towards the road. As Gary positions himself to board the ramp, his hand slips and he spins to face downhill, knocking his foot on the boarding ramp. Gary repositions himself and boards again, frustrated, tired and embarrassed.

Gary's experience under the proposed reforms

Gary waits at his normal bus stop. As his bus arrives, he crosses the footpath, which has a gentle crossfall towards the road. Gary comfortably rolls up the hill to the boarding point. As Gary positions himself to board the ramp, the flat and stable surface enables him to safely and confidently board the ramp.

Have your say

Public consultation on the Stage 2 reform of the Transport Standards will open from 15 March to 9 August 2022.

For further information:

- **Website:** <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au>
- **Call:** 1800 621 372
- **Email:** DisabilityTransport@infrastructure.gov.au

- **Survey:** <https://edm.infrastructure.gov.au/survey.php?sid=28666&name=bus-tram-and-light-rail-boarding-points-on-infrastructure>