



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



Infrastructure access paths: Requirement for handrails in overbridges and subways

Currently, the Transport Standards lack clarity regarding exactly where handrails must be provided on access paths. Many overbridges and subways do not have continuous handrails, creating a barrier to using public transport for people who use handrails for wayfinding support. There is an opportunity to ensure that all passengers have continuous access to stair and ramp handrails in overbridges and subways.

Reform options

Maintain current requirements in the Transport Standards

Transport Standards Section 11.2 *Handrails to be provided on access paths*, would remain unchanged and no additional guidance would be issued.

Non-regulatory option

Guidance may be updated to encourage operators and providers that overbridges and subways have continuous handrails on both sides, broken only at entry and exit points, including:

- Importance of handrails
- Where handrails may be broken
- When handrails cannot be installed
- Other areas that would benefit the installation of handrails
- Handrail design

Guidance would be relevant to premises (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and infrastructure (except airports that do not accept regular public transport services).

Regulatory option

Transport Standards Section 11.2 would be amended to include the following (including any requirements retained or amended from the status quo):

- Access paths on overbridges and through subways must have handrails on both sides.

- Handrails may be broken at stair, walkway and ramp entry points, at lift doors, and at any other entry and exit points for the overbridge or subway.
- When concourses serve as overbridges or subways, handrails may break at facilities and fixtures such as fare gates, ticket vending machines, public information displays, service counters, staff doors, public toilet doors or access corridors and the like.

These requirements would pertain to premises (except premises to which the Premises Standards apply) and infrastructure (except airports that do not accept regular public transport services).

The Transport Standards Guidelines and / or The Whole Journey Guide would be updated to reflect new requirements.

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=28715&name=requirement-for-handrails-in-overbridges-and-subways>