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## MEMORANDUM


**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR &  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Josh Rowan  
Director, Department of  
Transportation

**SUBJECT:** Annual Curb Ramps Program (July  
1, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

**DATE:** March 20, 2025

City Administrator  
Approval

  
Justin Johnson (May 3, 2025 09:06 PDT)

Date:

May 9, 2025

### INFORMATION

This memo is to provide the Oakland City Council, the Mayor's Office, City staff, and the community with a report on curb ramp construction activities for the Fiscal Year 2024 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024).

### GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Oakland Department of Transportation (OakDOT) receives and investigates curb requests through [OAK311](#) and through the ADA Curb Ramp Request Program, designs and constructs compliant curb ramps to standards of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Title II requirements, and maintains citywide curb ramp data that is up-to-date and accessible.

The City installed 1154 curb ramps in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). During this fiscal year, OakDOT received 31 service requests for curb ramp repair or installation.

### BACKGROUND

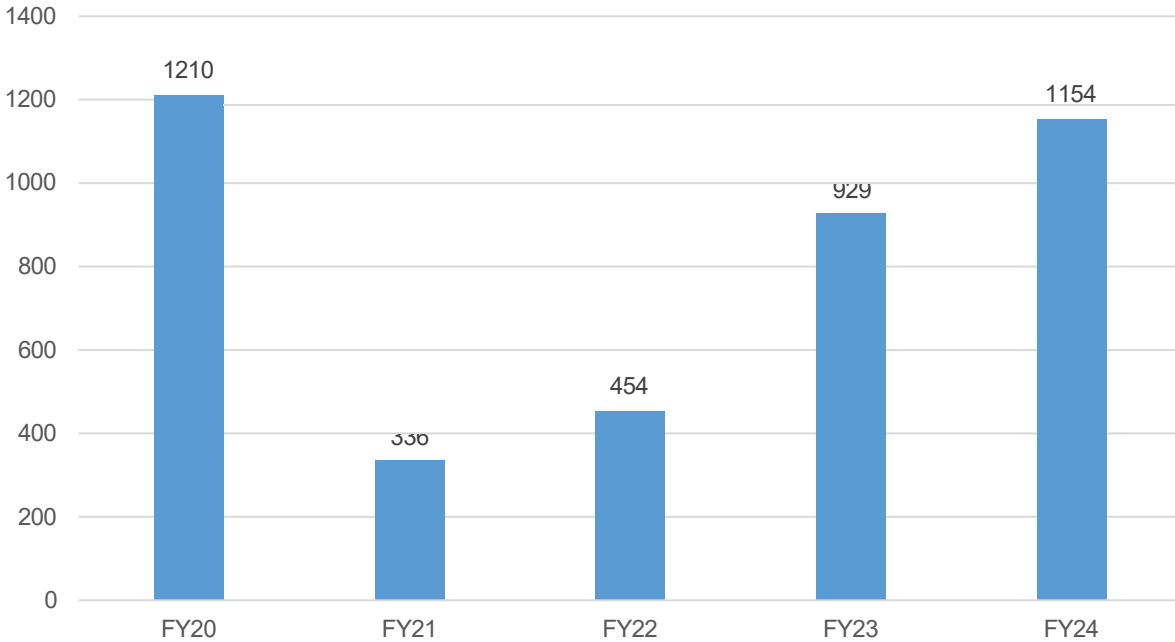
In 1976, the City of Oakland began installing curb ramps to meet Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, which prohibited discrimination against people with disabilities in programs receiving federal funding. After the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed in 1990, the City launched the On-Call Curb Ramp Program, installing curb ramps in response to requests from people with disabilities.

In 2009, in accordance with U.S. Department of Justice and DOT Title II ADA regulations, the City adopted the City of Oakland ADA Curb Ramp Transition Plan, initiating the process of prioritizing the construction of compliant curb ramps across the entire city. Understanding that the definition of compliant evolves over time as updates and changes are made to ADA, currently, curb ramps are considered compliant when they follow the City's Curb Ramp Standards and Specifications and are accepted by the City's ADA Programs Manager. The City's Curb Ramp Standards model Caltrans Curb Ramp Standards and utilizes the Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guideline (PROWAG)'s best practices and has been molded to fit the City's environment and needs while still adhering to Title II's 2010 ADA Standards. Under the transition plan, key locations identified for prioritization include curb ramps near transit, schools, medical centers, and city buildings.

**SUMMARY**

In FY24, the City constructed 1154 curb ramps, the second most productive year on record behind FY20 (Figure 1).

**Figure 1: Annual Curb Ramp Construction (FY20-FY24)**



Curb ramps are primarily constructed through OakDOT’s paving capital improvement program and curb ramp capital improvement program. Federal guidelines require improvement of curb ramps within the project limits of pavement rehabilitation projects; as such, OakDOT’s paving program is responsible to improve a significant number of ramps each year. Similarly, any project that is performing pavement rehabilitation or other significant alterations to the roadway must improve ramps within the project limits. Therefore, ramps are also constructed as part of OakDOT traffic engineering and streetscape improvement projects, public facilities projects built by Oakland Public Works (OPW), and private development and utility projects.

In FY24, 93% of all ramps constructed citywide derived from OakDOT’s pavement management capital improvement program (**Table 1**).

**Table 1: Curb Ramp Construction by Capital Improvement Program (CIP)**

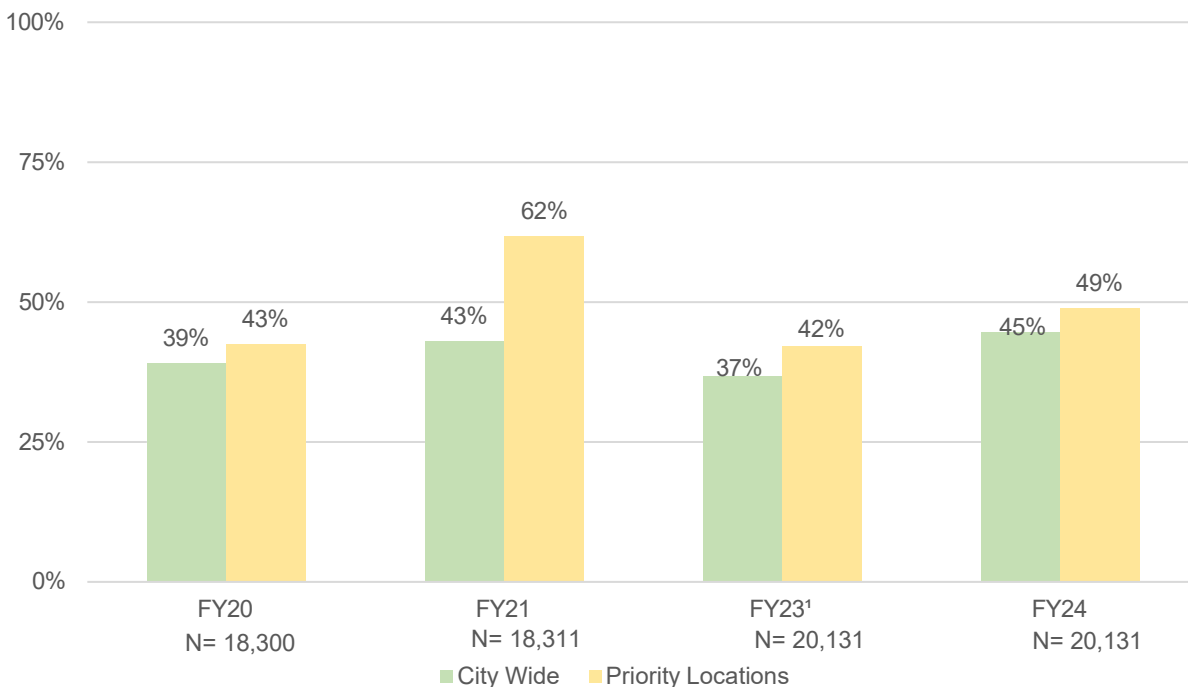
	FY22	FY23	FY24
Curb Ramp CIP	168	69	0
Pavement Management CIP	252	759	1077
Other DOT CIP	0	26	37
DOT Crews	29	29	1
Private Development Projects	5	46	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1154</b>

The City of Oakland currently has 20,131 curb ramp locations recorded in its asset management database, Cityworks. A curb ramp location reflects a location in which curb ramp(s) may be placed. One curb ramp location may have zero ramps, if none have been constructed yet, or 1 or 2 curb ramps. Curb ramp locations are at street intersections, or at mid-block.

In Summer 2023, OakDOT completed the first citywide comprehensive curb ramp inventory since 2016. Incorporating both the survey results and ramp construction in FY24, performed after the survey, 45% of citywide curb ramp locations in Oakland are ADA compliant (Figure 2). Non-compliant locations include locations with no ramp as well as ramps that are constructed but non-compliant, such as those constructed under superseded specifications or with design constraints. OakDOT estimates that approximately 5% of non-compliant curb ramps have design constraints that prevent them from being a fully standard compliant ramp, such as sub-sidewalk basements.

Figure 2 presents the percentage of compliant ramps citywide since FY20. It also provides the percentage of compliant ramps adjacent to key priority locations each year since FY20. The apparent decrease in the percentage of compliant ramps for both citywide and priority locations between FY21 and FY23 is representative of the citywide survey identifying nearly new potential locations for curb ramps and incorporating new requirements that made previously compliant ramps non-compliant. The 2023 survey identified almost two thousand new curb ramp locations that were added to the City's curb ramp location database, as indicated in the total number of curb ramps per FY in the below chart. Then, the City incorporated new guidelines which require that each corner have two directional curb ramps where feasible. This resulted in the recategorization of some previously compliant curb ramp locations.

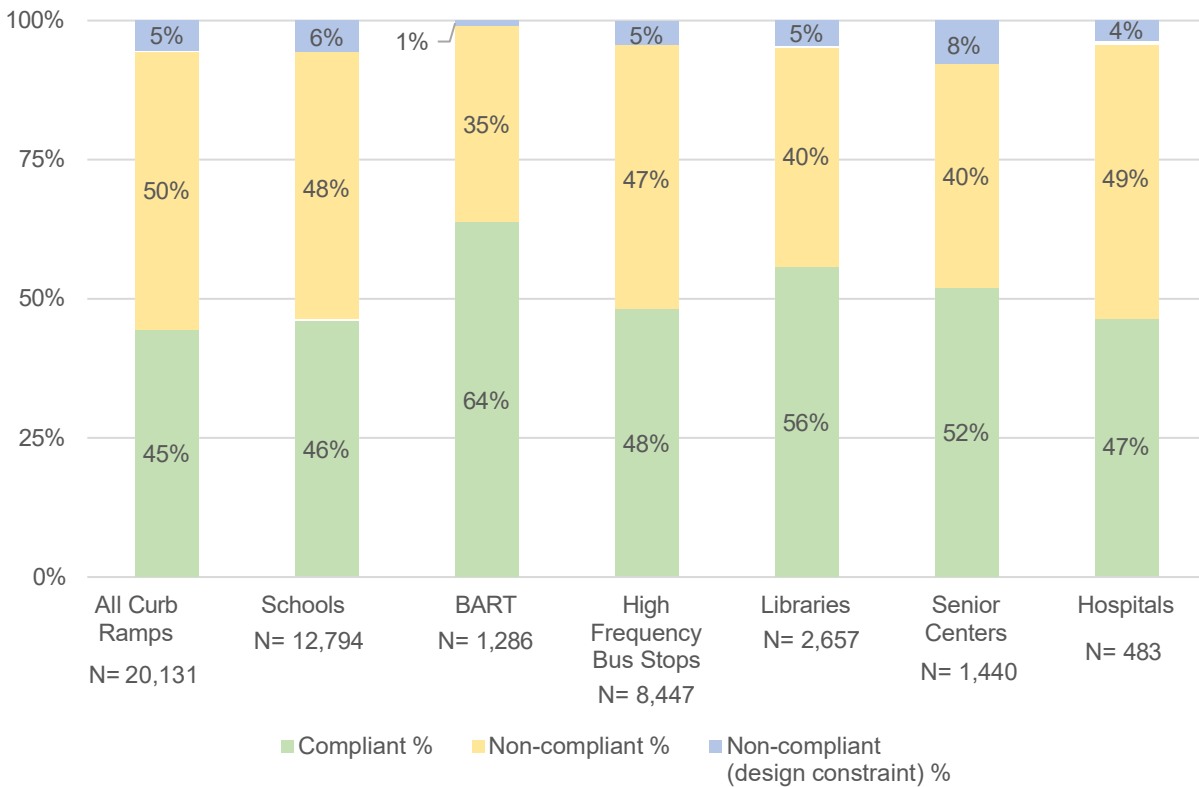
**Figure 2: Percentage of Citywide and Priority Compliant Curb Ramp Locations (FY20 - FY24)**



<sup>1</sup> FY22 and FY23 curb ramp data was combined into single a bi-annual curb ramp report.

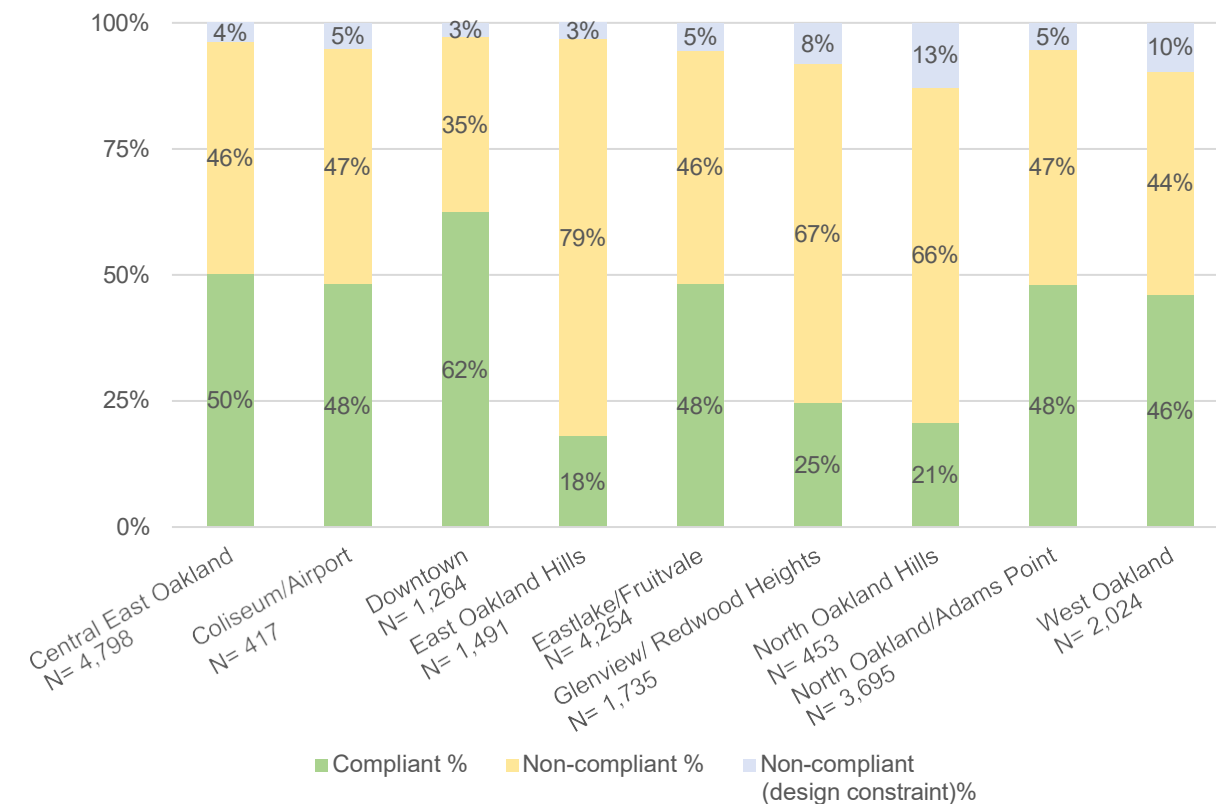
Priority locations are those identified in the City’s ADA Curb Ramp Transition Plan, including curb ramp locations that are within ¼ mile of BART stations, high-frequency bus stops, libraries, senior centers, and hospitals.

**Figure 3: Percent of Curb Ramp Compliance by Priority Location**



As shown in Figure 3, the percentage of compliant curb ramps in each of the six key areas in the ADA Transition Plan are slightly better or better than the citywide rate (45%). Ramp locations near BART stations have the highest compliance rate at 64%, while ramp locations around high-frequency bus stops, library branches, senior centers, and hospitals are all 46-56% compliant (Figure 2). There has been a range from 2-8% increase of compliant curb ramps in each category, with the construction of 1154 new curb ramps in FY24.

**Figure 4 : Percentage of Curb Ramp Compliance by Planning Area**



Compliance rates by planning area reflect other trends across the city (Figure 4). Downtown has the highest rate of compliance (62%) in large part due to the density of BART and high-frequency bus stops, as well as numerous developments and paving projects which have built curb ramps recently. Central East Oakland, Coliseum/Airport, Eastlake/Fruitvale, and North Oakland/Adams Point also have higher rates of compliance (48%-50%) in comparison to other planning areas due to recent City projects to upgrade curb ramps in these neighborhoods. The three planning areas within the Oakland hills (East Oakland Hills, Glenview/Redwood Heights, and North Oakland Hills) have low rates of compliance (18%, 25%, and 21% respectively). Since FY23, West Oakland, Central East Oakland, Eastlake/Fruitvale, and North Oakland/Adams Point have seen the most growth in compliant curb ramps (13%, 9%, 8%, and 7%, respectively) this year.

**ADA Curb Ramp Request Program**

The ADA Curb Ramp Program expedites necessary repairs of curb ramps upon request for qualified individuals with disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and as amended. In FY24, OakDOT received 6 applications through the ADA Curb Ramp Request Program. Due to a lack of contracts in FY24, these requests are being constructed in FY25.

**Service Requests for Curb Ramps**

OakDOT processes requests for curb ramp installations that are received by OAK311, Oakland’s call center for city services. OakDOT responds to each service request with an inspection and determination of whether the curb ramp will be constructed by in-house city concrete crews or added to a contract for a city contractor to complete. In FY24, OakDOT received 31 new service requests for curb ramp inspections.

**HONORABLE MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL**

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Date: March 20, 2025

Page 6

**Project 1006308: Citywide Curb Ramps Construction 2023-2025**

There were no curb ramps constructed through the curb ramp CIP in FY24 (see **Table 1**) due to a lack of contracts. Typically, the curb ramp program prepares a large curb ramp contract every 1-2 years. Project 1006308: Citywide Curb Ramps Construction 2024-2025 (Project) for 225 curb ramp installations was prepared and approved for bid by OakDOT in February 2023. With staff turnover in the OPW Capital Contracts Division and overall slowdown of contract processing, the Project was not moved to advertisement until February 2024. On March 19, 2024, City Council pre-authorized the City Administrator to execute a construction contract not to exceed three million, three-hundred and ten thousand dollars, (\$3,310,000.00) with the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder. Following Council approval of Resolution No. 90155, staff proceeded to advertise and bid the project and provided an informational pre-bid meeting on May 2, 2024. There were more bidders interested than usual. On June 13, 2024, four bids were opened. The engineer's estimate was \$2,681,075.00, and Rosas Brothers Construction's bid came in at 14% below the engineer's estimate. The project was awarded in June 2024, and construction commenced in November 2024, addressing priority curb ramp locations.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

Information, web-maps, and reports related to the curb ramp program are maintained on the City's website<sup>2</sup>.

For questions, please contact Sarah Fine, Complete Streets Infrastructure Division Manager at (510) 238-6241.

Respectfully submitted,



Josh Rowan (May 5, 2025 09:33 PDT)

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<sup>2</sup> "City of Oakland | Curb Ramps" <http://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/curb-ramps>