

The following provides information responding to the questions most frequently asked about the Notice of Proposed Settlement of Class Action Lawsuit:

How can I report an access barrier to Caltrans?

If you are experiencing an access barrier along a sidewalk or at an intersection that you believe is or may be under Caltrans' jurisdiction or within a Park and Ride facility, you may report this access barrier to Caltrans most simply by submitting an "access request" to Caltrans. The access request should identify with as much specificity as possible the location (e.g., intersection of two streets) and the barrier at issue (e.g., no curb ramp).

You may send your request by U.S. Mail to the ADA Coordinator at:

Charles Wahnnon
Caltrans Statewide ADA Coordinator
1823 14th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

You may fax your request to the ADA Coordinator at:

916-324-1869, ATTN: Caltrans Statewide ADA Coordinator.

You may communicate your request verbally by calling the ADA Coordinator at:

Toll-free: 1-866-810-6346
TTY: Use 711

You may e-mail your request to Caltrans' ADA Compliance Office at:

ADA_Compliance_Office@dot.ca.gov

You may also file a formal accessibility grievance with Caltrans *in writing* by mail, e-mail or fax (see contact information above). The grievance must contain information about the alleged discrimination, condition, policy or practice at issue, such as name address, phone number of grievant and location, date and description of the problem.

What does this settlement mean?

This settlement means that Caltrans will improve sidewalk accessibility along the over 2,500 miles of sidewalks, crosswalks, and pedestrian overpasses and underpasses that it owns and/or maintains throughout the state as well as accessibility in Park and Ride facilities throughout the state. Prior to this lawsuit, Caltrans was spending only \$1 million per year on ADA improvements to its sidewalks. This settlement requires Caltrans to spend over \$1.1 billion over the next 30 years to improve access along the sidewalks and Park and Ride facilities it owns and/or maintains. That means Caltrans will spend \$25 million per year for five years, \$35 million per year for the next ten years, then \$40 million per year for the following 10 years and \$45 million per year for the final 5 years.

Also Caltrans will spend additional funds on sidewalk accessibility because the settlement requires that when Caltrans does any resurfacing of its roadways, it must install and/or upgrade all curb ramps adjacent to that roadway.

Why will it take 30 years to remove all access barriers?

Caltrans will begin spending at least \$25 million annually on removing access barriers starting on July 1, 2010. It will continue removing access barriers for the next 30 years. It will take 30 years to remove all access barriers along its sidewalks and in its Park and Ride facilities because Caltrans has limited funding. The cost of removing the access barriers and installing/upgrading curb ramps when resurfacing will be over \$1.1 billion. Caltrans must spread these costs over time in order not to jeopardize other critical transportation maintenance and rehabilitation programs. Even with 30 years, Caltrans will still have to take funding from other transportation projects and programs in order to focus on pedestrian access barrier removal.

Where is Caltrans getting the money?

The funding for improving sidewalk and Park and Ride accessibility is coming from dedicated transportation funding provided by the federal and state governments to Caltrans. It will not impact the general fund or other disability services provided by the state, such as IHSS.

As a class member, am I entitled to any money damages?

This settlement does not provide for any money damages for the named plaintiffs or any class members. However, it explicitly does not release any damage claims that class members may have. Accordingly, you may sue for money damages if you feel that Caltrans has discriminated against you.