

DAVID WITTIE



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David Wittie, Organizer
ADAPT of Texas

Comments to:
Texas Sunset Commission
Re: Texas Department of Transportation reauthorization

Commissioners;

ADAPT of Texas is a grassroots disability rights organization with many members and sister organizations across Texas. We represent only a fraction of the estimated 3.5 Million Texans who have disabilities. Even so, most of our members have at one time or another been forced into dangerous intersections, streets or highways due to the lack of accessibility features, accessible sidewalks or, indeed, any sidewalks at all. Much of the time, this problem can be directly traced back to the Texas Department of Transportation's thoughtlessness and seeming lack of concern with the needs of pedestrians with disabilities.

Though not the primary purpose of a recent meeting, these ongoing oversights were recently presented in a TxDOT Focus Group Meeting on November 16, 2016. Titled "Improving Accessibility in Public Rights of Way", the meeting and related pilot project sought and seek to gather data as well as update the 2016 Americans with Disabilities Act Transition Plan of the Department. This particular project and plan will require another twenty-seven years to complete according to their own budget and estimated work timetables. THAT IS MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THE ADA. Why should Texans with disabilities have to wait half a century for their civil rights to be fully recognized by TxDOT???

ADAPT of Texas asks this Sunset Commission to take necessary steps to compel TxDOT to:

- 1: Speed up their full compliance with the civil rights law, The Americans with Disabilities Act, and to not waste additional time and money with more studies.
2. Develop better partnerships with local governments and transportation authorities to make significant accessible pedestrian improvements in TxDOT's Right-of-Way.
3. Stop blaming ADA compliance requirements for slowing constructions of sidewalks.

Thank you.