

# TAKEN TO ACCESS

Question of the month:

- Q. Can the access specialists performing accessibility plan review services (APR) provide field review visits during construction to insure that all new work is compliant?
- R. The APR process is not set up for the access specialist to provide input during construction. If a project team determines that accessibility compliance input is desired during the entire duration of the project then the best process is the Alternate Compliance Method (ACM), where the access specialist becomes part of the team in the schematic design phase of the project and provides consulting services through the end of construction. The best way to insure that new work is compliant when following the APR process is to insure that projects are submitted at the 90% milestone, ideally before submitting for building permit and prior to the start of construction.

## RESOLUTIONS

Happy 2013! As we look forward to the new year many of us are thinking about goals to achieve. And just as individuals have annual resolutions, FPD PAC has a plan of its own:

### Publications -

Going forward, we'll include more graphic representation of issues in our monthly newsletter and hope to improve our digital/ electronic forms of communication.

### Education & Outreach -

In every quarter of 2013 we'll be conducting Go To Meetings for the purpose of keeping everyone informed about PAC processes, code updates, and common accessibility issues.

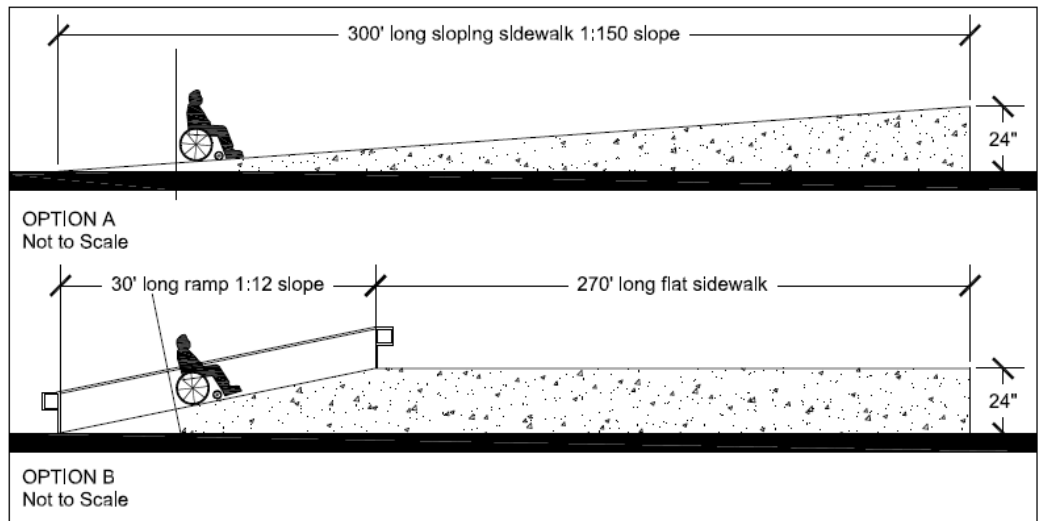
Our schedule is as follows:

- Q1 Accessibility 101—A Brief History of ADA
- Q2 Real Estate Department's Role in Accessibility Compliance
- Q3 PAC Processes overview
- Q4 2013 CBC

We will follow up with specific dates and detailed agendas. We look forward to everyone's participation and input.

## GRAPHIC OF THE MONTH

The drawing below represents two different methods of resolving an elevation difference of 24 inches. Can you guess which one is correct?



The correct answer is Option A. Although both may be technically correct, option A better meets the intent of the code by creating access that is more accommodating to someone with disabilities. Someone in a walker or wheelchair will find it much easier to negotiate a long sidewalk at a gentle slope versus a short ramp at a steeper slope where there may be more opportunities to slip or lose control of mobility device. Also, it may actually be more financially advantageous to provide a new sidewalk with gradual grading versus a steeper ramp that would require railings, extensive grading and potentially new retaining walls.