



Office of Compliance

Report on Americans with Disabilities Act Inspections Relating to Public Services and Accommodations

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The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) established that the public access provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became enforceable within the legislative branch. 2 U.S.C. §1301 et seq. The Office of Compliance (OOC), an independent legislative branch agency, enforces these laws. 2 U.S.C. §1331(b)(1). The OOC also conducts biennial inspections of the legislative branch to ascertain compliance with the ADA. 2 U.S.C. §1331(f)(1). This Report to Congress, and to the entities responsible for fixing violations, presents the findings of the inspection conducted during the 109th Congress.



Summary

Constituents and visitors to the legislative branch with disabilities are guaranteed certain rights regarding access to elected representatives, committees, staff, and to the buildings where these officials are located. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), these rights include equal access to evacuation plans and procedures. During the 109th Congress, planning for the prompt evacuation of individuals with mobility impairments was a priority. In all public buildings on Capitol Hill, employees and visitors with mobility impairments will now be directed to designated staging areas during an emergency. From these staging areas individuals with mobility impairments will be assisted to safety by trained employees.

Further, although additional work needs to be done, steady progress is being made installing visual emergency alarms in public areas and providing hallway signage giving egress information to individuals with disabilities. These changes will assure the prompt alerting and evacuation of visitors with vision and hearing impairments.

The first part of this Report summarizes the findings set forth in the Individual Building Charts, attached at Appendix A. Comments from the inspected entities are attached at Appendix B.



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Americans with Disabilities Act: Public Access

Public Access Provisions of the ADA Especially Relevant to Legislative Branch Entities

Title II of ADA: Access to Public Programs, Services and Activities

Title II of the ADA prohibits public entities from excluding individuals with disabilities from the “services, programs or activities” of the public entity. 42 U.S.C. §12132. See also 28 C.F.R. Part 35. These laws and regulations are applicable to each office of the Senate, each office of the House, each committee, each joint committee, the Capitol Guide Service, the Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician and the Office of Compliance. 2 U.S.C. §1331(a).

A public entity covered by Title II of the ADA must make “reasonable modifications” to practices and procedures to avoid discriminating against individuals with disabilities. Making these changes is mandatory, unless to do so would be an “undue burden” or would fundamentally alter the nature of the program. 28 C.F.R. §35.130(b)(7); 28 C.F.R. §35.150(a)(3). A public entity need not make structural changes in the building it occupies where other modifications would allow the programs or activities to become accessible to individuals with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. §35.150(b). Thus, for example, if a Committee hearing room has a double-leafed door in which a single leaf is too narrow to allow passage of an individual in a wheelchair, the Committee must keep both doors open, or staff the doors, during all Committee hearings which are open to the public.

Title II of the ADA requires public entities, including all Member and Committee offices, to ensure that communication with constituents or individual members of the public with disabilities is “as effective as” communication with others. 28 C.F.R. §35.160(a). The public entity must give “primary consideration” to the request of the individual with disabilities in determining the type of auxiliary aid or services to provide. 28 C.F.R. §35.160(b)(2).¹ Public entities that interact with the public by telephone must have access to a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a telephone relay system. 28 C.F.R. §35.161.

¹ “Primary consideration” is a different standard than the “reasonable accommodation” requirement of the employment provisions of the ADA. See 29 C.F.R. §1630.9.



Title III of ADA: Removal of Barriers to Access

Title III of the ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in places of public accommodation and requires, among other things, the removal of architectural barriers to access. 42 U.S.C. §12132. See also 28 C.F.R. Part 36. Title III allows for different levels of compliance for “existing facilities” and “new construction.”

“Existing buildings” are governed by “readily achievable” barrier removal requirements. 28 C.F.R. §36.304. All of the currently occupied buildings on Capitol Hill are “existing facilities.”² Under this standard, any architectural or structural barriers to accessibility must be removed if the removal is “readily achievable.” The determination of “readily achievable” is made on a case-by-case basis and includes factors such as the cost to remove the barrier and the overall financial resources of the responsible entity. Department of Justice ADA Technical Assistance Manual §III-4.4200.

The ADA regulations provide examples of removal of barriers that should be considered “readily achievable.” 28 C.F.R. §36.304. A number of these barriers still exist in the Capitol Hill complex: lack of visual alarms in rooms and spaces open to the public, non-compliant signage, non-compliant sidewalk curb cuts and non-compliant door weights. The OOC does not have authority to enforce removal of these barriers unless it receives a formal charge from a visitor with a disability. Nevertheless, the OOC strongly suggests that remedying these barriers to accessibility be given a higher level of priority than in the past.

² The Capitol Visitor Center, which is “new construction,” must strictly comply with ADA accessibility standards. 28 CFR §36.401.



Improvements

Improvements Made During 109th Congress

Evacuation Planning

The most notable improvement in public access for individuals with disabilities during the 109th Congress was the planning and preparation for evacuation of visitors and employees with mobility impairments. The United States Capitol Police (USCP) and the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) have worked together to establish safe evacuation routes and procedures to get individuals with mobility impairments out of the buildings. All staging areas are now properly located and certain elevators have been modified so that they can safely be used during an evacuation. Trained USCP officers will operate the designated elevators to evacuate individuals with disabilities from the staging areas on floors above and below ground level. Further, the Emergency Action Plans of each office now include information on getting visitors with disabilities to the designated staging areas.

Maps and Signage

The OOC's previous Report to Congress on disability access highlighted that signage and wall maps within buildings on Capitol Hill did not show accessible exit routes and exits for individuals with mobility impairments. (See www.compliance.gov/reports-studies/ada_11-05/ADA_Inspection_Report.pdf at 11). Since that Report was issued there has been progress in some buildings, but more work remains. In all of the House Office Buildings, the AOC has marked the accessible exits and staging areas on wall maps. The AOC plans to make similar changes to the wall maps in the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol Building, and the OOC will inspect the maps during the biennial inspections of the 110th Congress.

Charges Filed with OOC Led to Corrective Action

Two Disability Access Discrimination charges were filed with the Office of Compliance during the 109th Congress. Both charges led to corrective action. One charge concerned parking access at a Member's district office. The district office was located in a building owned by a private landlord. After negotiations, the landlord created an ADA-compliant parking spot, and the charge was successfully resolved. The other charge concerned sidewalk accessibility on the Capitol Hill



Figure 1: Non-compliant temporary sidewalk ramp

complex. A constituent using a motorized wheelchair was injured while crossing a temporary sidewalk ramp that was too steep. The AOC replaced the ramp with an ADA-compliant ramp, and is now working toward a permanent solution. This charge is pending closure.

Suggestions for Future Improvements

First Priority: Visual Alarms Installed in Public Rooms and Spaces

Visual alarms are essential to promptly alert individuals with hearing impairments to evacuate. The Department of Justice has determined that installation of visual alarms should be considered “readily achievable” by most organizations. 28 C.F.R. § 36.304(a)(7). Such alarms have been installed in public spaces, including restrooms, hallways, and hearing rooms throughout most buildings on Capitol Hill. The major exception is the Hart Building. The AOC reports that it has delayed its budget request for visual alarms in the Hart Building until FY11. The OOC disagrees with the decision to delay remedying this significant hazard. The OOC strongly recommends that the AOC heed the regulations of the Department of Justice and make installation of visual alarms a higher priority. 28 C.F.R. §36.304(c)(2).



Figure 2: Non-compliant newly installed sidewalk curb cut

Second Priority: Sidewalk Curb Cuts and Ramps

OOC inspectors have measured numerous sidewalk curb cuts throughout the Capitol Hill grounds that are too steep to be considered accessible.³ Some of the non-compliant curb cuts were recently installed.⁴ The OOC recommends that the AOC survey all of the Capitol complex’s sidewalks and grounds to ascertain which curb cuts are not in compliance with the ADA, and immediately fix those that are non-compliant. Accessible sidewalks are a fundamental public access issue for any constituent who is in a wheelchair.⁵

³ Curb ramps must have 8.3% rise or less and must otherwise comply with 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.7.

⁴ New curb cuts on existing sidewalk are alterations, and therefore must strictly meet the requirements of the ADA regulations. 28 C.F.R. §36.402(b)(2).

⁵ See also Preamble to Final Rules, 56 Fed. Reg. 35694 at 36 (July 26, 1991) (Other provisions of the ADA “would be meaningless if people who use wheelchairs were not afforded the opportunity to travel on and between the streets.”)



In 2006 an ADA public access charge was filed with the OOC following an injury to a constituent caused by the steep slope of a temporary ramp on the sidewalk along Independence Avenue. The constituent was visiting Capitol Hill and injured his head when his motorized wheelchair fell over backwards as he was attempting to cross the temporary ramp. The AOC fixed the problem after the OOC raised the issue. The AOC should be mindful about using non-compliant temporary ramps for any project in an area open to the public.

Third Priority: Tactile Signage

OOC inspectors found that none of the buildings on Capitol Hill has tactile signage at any of the building exits, including the exit stairwells in hallways. Accessible tactile signage is in raised, contrasting and brailled characters and is mounted at 60" above the floor at the centerline of the sign. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App. A §4.30. Such signage enables visitors who are blind or have low vision to find their way out of the building during an emergency. The OOC recommends that installing egress signage accessible to individuals with vision impairments should be a top priority.

OOC inspectors found that brailled office number signage was sometimes inaccurate. These signs were also usually mounted incorrectly, either several inches too high or too low. The House Superintendent's office recently purchased a machine to make brailled signage and has begun replacing the older signs in the House Office Buildings. The OOC recommends that the other jurisdictions take a similar step. This would also provide for consistent tactile signage throughout all buildings on Capitol Hill.



Figure 3: Braille signage not approachable within three inches

Objects placed in front of brailled and raised character signage present a barrier to an individual who must touch the sign to understand it. The OOC recommends that building Superintendents and the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) regularly remind each office to remove items in front of hallway signage.



Figure 4: Testing restroom door weight

Fourth Priority: Decrease Door Weight for Designated Accessible Restrooms

The force required to open the door to the designated accessible restrooms in many buildings is too great.⁶ If the door weight is too heavy, an otherwise accessible restroom becomes inaccessible to an individual with mobility impairments. The OOC recommends that the AOC periodically measure and adjust the door opening force of all public restrooms in all buildings that are designated as accessible. Alternatively, the AOC should install automatic door openers for the doors on all designated restrooms.

Fifth Priority: Install Accessible Communications Device in All Staging Areas

At the invitation of the AOC Fire Marshal's office, the OOC examined an accessible two-way communication device⁷ that is being installed in some staging areas of the Capitol Building. The communications device connects directly to the USCP communication center. The OOC agrees with the AOC's decision to install the emergency communication devices and supports AOC's efforts to install similar devices in all Capitol Hill buildings open to the public.

Sixth Priority: Remove All Obstacles in Hallways

The OOC inspectors found that hallways and corridors in the buildings on Capitol Hill were not always kept free of protruding objects such as public telephones and drinking fountains,⁸ or tripping hazards such as welcome mats. Such objects are potentially harmful to individuals with low vision who are visiting the buildings on Capitol Hill. The OOC supports ongoing efforts of building Superintendents and the CAO to keep the hallways free of these hazards.

⁶ To be compliant, the maximum force needed to open these doors must be 5 lbf. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.13.11(2)(a).

⁷ An accessible communications device is within reach of someone in a wheelchair and provides both visual and audible information. For example, a light goes on when help is on its way in case the person in the Staging Area cannot hear. Similarly, the location of the activated device is indicated on the central control panel in case the person in the Staging Area cannot talk to give his or her location.

⁸ A "protruding object" is something that protrudes into the corridor more than four inches and whose leading edge is higher than 27". 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36., App A §4.4.1. It cannot be detected by an individual with low vision who uses a cane to navigate.



Website Accessibility

The OOC does not currently have jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act which require websites and other electronic information to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.⁹ Nevertheless the OOC encourages individual offices to ensure that their websites are accessible.¹⁰

⁹ 29 U.S.C. §794(d). The OOC has recommended an amendment to the CAA so that the accessibility of websites would be enforceable. See e.g. Section 102(b) Report Dec. 2006, at 18, http://www.compliance.gov/reports-studies/sec102b/sec102b_12-06.pdf

¹⁰ Offices of House Information Resources (202-225-6002) and the Assistant Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Information Officer (202-224-8313) can provide assistance in creating webpages that are compliant with these provisions of the Rehabilitation Act.



Acknowledgements

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Kate Tapley, Senior Attorney with the OOC, is the primary author of the Report. She also oversaw the inspection of facilities and procedures. Editorial assistance was provided by Stephen Mallinger, CIH, who serves as Special Assistant to the OOC General Counsel. Production assistance was provided by Alma Candelaria, Deputy Executive Director of the OOC; Rachel Scherer, OOC Congressional Affairs Specialist and Writer; Carol Griffith, former Administrative Assistant to the General Counsel; Hugh Jackson, OOC intern; and Kathy Schluter, Administrative Assistant to the General Counsel.

The inspection and writing teams appreciate the cooperation of the covered entities during the inspection process. They particularly note the assistance and time given by employees of the AOC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter Ames Eveleth". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Peter Ames Eveleth
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Office of Compliance

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Appendix A: Building Charts

Cannon House Office Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
New Jersey Avenue Entrance	Accessible. ^{11a}	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	Curb cuts near the accessible entrance are too steep. ^{11b}	AOC: May need further information; will address in subsequent submission

11a Accessible means compliant with the ADA Standards for Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability promulgated by the U.S. Department of Justice and published at 28 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 35 and 36.

11b Sidewalk curb cuts must have a maximum slope of 8.33% A slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	There is currently not a marked secondary accessible egress route from the building. ^{12a} The SW tunnel between Cannon and Longworth could be used as a secondary accessible egress route if fire doors were installed to create a separate fire zone for each building.	AOC: Design for the installation of fire doors at this point to be done by December 2007. Funding: Unknown, except that similar project several years ago cost \$140,000.

^{12a} A second accessible exit from the building is required by the National Fire Protection Association codes. NFPA 101-2000 §39.2.4.2. See also Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirement at 29 C.F.R. §1910.36(b)(1).



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

<p>Exit Door/Exit Route Signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Non-compliant. Brailled, contrasting and raised character signage must be installed at all building exits including in the hallways at exit stairwells.^{12b} ▫ Brailled, contrasting and raised character signage has been installed within the exit stairwells, but should be moved wherever the sign overhangs the stair. An individual must be able to touch the sign without creating a tripping or falling hazard.^{12c} ▫ House Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution and encourages other jurisdictions to do the same. 	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ New signs will be installed at entrances and stairwells beginning in FY07. Estimated cost: Already funded. ▫ Signs will be moved back from edge of stairs beginning in Spring 07. Estimated completion date: FY08. Estimated cost: Already funded.
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12b All signage designating permanent building spaces must have brailled, raised and contrasting characters and be mounted at 60” to the center line. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.

12c Tactile signage must be mounted so that a person may approach within 3”. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.30.6.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the *****. Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. ▫ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired employees of and visitors to their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas^{12d}</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Staging areas have been moved to appropriate locations. ▫ The alternate staging areas on some floors are difficult to find because their indicated location on the wall maps is confusing. 	<p>AOC: New Directory (wall maps) will be installed beginning in April, 2007. Estimated completion date: 7/1/07.</p>

^{12d} Staging areas are part of the accessible egress route for this and other buildings on Capitol Hill.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<p>□ USCP procedures ***** **</p> <p>□ The fire fighter phones in all of the staging areas are not accessible because they are too high to be reached by an individual in a wheelchair^{12c} and the cabinet door is difficult to open.^{12f} The fire fighter phones in the alternate staging areas are also blocked by stored ladders.</p>	<p>AOC:</p> <p>□ Fire fighter tele-phones to be used by emergency or authorized use only. Not intended for public use or access.</p> <p>□ Fire fighter phones in alternate staging areas: Researching options for stored ladders. Estimated completion date: 9/30/07.</p> <p>□ HOB will install two-way communication devices at designated elevator staging areas. Estimated completion date: FY '08, Estimated Cost: \$300,000.</p>
<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<p>Visual alarms have been installed in most areas of the building open to the public except Committee hearing rooms 304 and 340 and restroom C4C1.</p>	<p>AOC: Visual alarms were installed in these two Committee hearing rooms in the summer of 2006.</p>

12e The permissible reach range is 9"-54" if a parallel approach is possible and 15"-48" if a parallel approach is not possible. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.

12f The accessible two-way communication devices now installed in the staging areas of the Capitol Building should be considered by the House Buildings Superintendent when the communication system in the staging areas is upgraded.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<p>□ Many of the older braille signs in Cannon are mounted at a non-compliant height.^{13a} Some of the signs contain inaccurate braille. The House Superintendent plans to replace these signs on an ongoing basis, and the OOC will report on progress in future reports.</p> <p>□ Signage at the entrance to many of-fices is blocked by the placement of flags or other objects in the hallway. This makes it difficult for a visitor with visual impairments to find the correct office.^{13b}</p>	<p>AOC: All new signage has appropriate braille and is at the appropriate height. We will begin a program designed to correct signage beginning in FY07 and continuing until complete. Estimated cost: Already funded.</p> <p>OHEC: Abatement in progress as of March 2007.</p>

13a All signage designating permanent building spaces must be mounted at 60” to the center line and have raised, braille and contrasting characters. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3.(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5.

13b Individuals must be able to approach within 3” of the sign. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36., App A §4.30.6.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

Effective Communication: Hearing Room	Permanent assistive listening systems or portable induction loops are available in all Committee hearing rooms.	
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Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Do individuals who have a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel from Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	The water fountains in Cannon act as “protruding objects.” A protruding object cannot be detected at floor level by an individual who is blind and uses a cane for navigation. ^{14a} A solution might be to install an object below the water fountain that could be detected by a cane.	AOC: Replacement of drinking fountains in Cannon and Rayburn to be added to project list. Estimated start date FY08. Estimated cost (RHOB & CHOB): \$1.75M
Member Office Entrances	Accessible. ^{14b}	

14a The leading edge of any object that protrudes into the hallway must be 27 inches or lower so that it will fall within the detection range of a cane. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36., App A §4.4.1

14b The office doors in Cannon are accessible because they are not on automatically closers; therefore the force necessary to open to doors is less than the maximum permitted 5 lbf. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.13.11(2)(a).



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

Pathways Within Offices	Route ^{14c} to public space within the office suite is not accessible in room 405 because items are placed in the passage-ways.	OHEC: Abated as of March 15, 2007.
Materials Available to the Public	Brochures, pamphlets and other materials available to the public are out of reach range ^{14d} of an individual who uses a wheelchair at the Post Office Stamp Counter and in offices 204, 213, 214, 215, 217, 222 and 224.	OHEC: Abatement in progress as of March, 2007 for rooms 213 and 214. Full abatement for all other rooms as of March, 2007. CAO: The CAO has notified the USPS regarding this matter as relates to its space.
Elevators	Accessible.	
Doors to Each Committee Hearing Room	Although non-compliant door hardware ^{14e} makes the doors non-accessible, Committee staff are posted at entrance doors during all Committee hearings.	
Witness Tables	Non-accessible witness table ^{14f} in Committee room 340.	CAO: Upon request by the Committee, the CAO elevates the table to meet the requirements for access.

14c To be accessible the route must be at least 36” wide except at doorways where it may be 32” wide. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.3.2(2) and 4.3.3.

14d If a parallel approach is possible for an individual in a wheelchair, the acceptable reach range is 9”-54”; if a parallel approach is not possible, the acceptable reach range is 15”-48”. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.

14e Door handles must not require tight grasping to operate and must have a shape that is easily graspable with one hand. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.13.9.

14f To be considered accessible the table must have sufficient knee clearance for a witness who is in a wheelchair. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.32.3.



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ There are no accessible restrooms on the 5th floor. ▫ Door opening force is too heavy making designated accessible restroom non-accessible for restrooms C1AB1, CBCD2, C1D1, C2AD7 and C4AB1. ▫ Sink is not accessible in designated accessible restroom CBCD2. 	<p>AOC: ADA compliance needs identified in our Facility Condition Assessment. Estimated design cost: \$480k. Estimated cost in two phases for installation: \$4.8 million. Based on availability of funds, design scheduled for FY 2009. Phase one (construction) estimated to begin: 2011. AOC will see if schedule can be moved up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Door pressure adjusted. ACD: 3/17/07 ▫ Sink inspected and will be renovated as necessary. Estimated completion date: 8/07.
Public Telephones	Accessible.	



Cannon House Office Building, cont.

	There is at least one drinking fountain per floor that can be used by a person in a wheelchair. However, the controls require tight grasping and therefore are not compliant with the requirements of the ADA. ^{15a}	
Health Unit	Accessible.	
Cannon Carry-Out	Accessible.	

^{15a} Controls must be operable with less than 5 lbf, with one hand, and not require a tight grasp. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.27.4



Longworth House Office Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Independence Avenue Entrance	Not accessible. Landing area on ramp is too small where direction changes. ^{16a}	AOC: Modification scheduled for August 2007. Estimated cost: \$80k not including handrail.
Signage for Designated Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	Accessible.	

^{16a} The minimum permissible size of a landing where the ramp direction changes is 60"x60". 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.8.4(3).



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	Ramp at South Capitol accessible exit discharge is too steep and must be changed. ^{17a}	AOC: A new ramp will be installed by in-house forces. Scheduled to be completed by September 2007.

^{17a} The ramp from the door level to the driveway level at the South Capitol Carriage entrance is 10.3% and can easily be changed. Ramps must have a maximum slope of 8.33%; a slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

<p>Exit Door/Exit Route Signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Non-compliant. Brailled, contrasting and raised character signage must be installed at all building exits including in the hallways at exit stairwells.^{17b} ▫ Braille, contrasting and raised character signage has been installed within the exit stairwells, but should be moved wherever the sign overhangs the stair. An individual must be able to touch the sign without creating a tripping or falling hazard.^{17c} ▫ House Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution and encourages other jurisdictions to do the same. 	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ New signs will be installed at entrances and stairwells beginning in FY07. ▫ Signs will be moved back from edge of stairs beginning in Spring 07. Estimated completion date: FY08.
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17b All signage designating permanent building spaces must have raised, braille and contrasting characters and be mounted at 60” to the center line. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1; ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4

17c Tactile signage must be mounted so that a person may approach within 3”. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.30.6.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. ▫ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired employees of and visitors to their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas</p>	<p>Primary staging areas are now properly located at the “new” elevator lobby on each floor.</p>	



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated. ▫ There is no other way for those awaiting assistance to contact rescuers; nearby fire fighter phones are in locked cabinets and their location is not indicated at the staging areas. The House Buildings Superintendent should consider installing accessible two-way communication devices similar to those now installed in the staging areas of the Capitol Building. 	<p>AOC: HOB will install two-way communication devices at designated elevator staging areas. Estimated completion date: FY '08, Estimated Cost: \$300,000.</p>
<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<p>Visual alarms have been installed in most areas of the building open to the public except Committee hearing rooms 1302 and 1334 and restrooms L1B5, LDB6 L1B6 and L607.</p>	<p>AOC: Visual alarms were installed in the Committee rooms and restrooms in the summer of 2006.</p>



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Building Wide</p>	<p>□ * ***** ***** ***** ** **** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ** ** ***** ** ** ***** □ ** ***** ***** ***** ** ** ***** ***** ** ***** ***** *****17d. ** ***** ** ***** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ** *****17c</p>	<p>AOC: The USCP Board mandates *** ***** ***** ***** ***** ** ** ***** ** ***** ***** **** ***** ** * ***** ***** ***** *****This procedure complies with NFPA 101(2003):38.3.4.3(2) for New Business Occupancies, and with NFPA 72(1999):1.5.4.10.^{17f}</p>
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17d When the water sprinklers activate, * ***** ** ***** *****
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 ***** ***** The National Fire Protection Code allows for a ***** ** ** *****
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 ** ***** ** ***** NFPA-101 §9.6.3.4 and NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2. ***
 ***** ***** ***** ** ** ** ***** The OOC has been informed that
 it often ***** ** ** ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ** *****
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 Congress the OOC will further ***** ** ***** ** ***** ***** *****
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17e OSHA requires that alarms provide sufficient “reaction time for safe escape of employees from the workplace.” 29 C.F.R. §1910.165(b)(1).

17f OOC response to AOC comment: AOC’s response is not applicable to this older building. It also does not address OOC concerns ***** ** *****
 ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
 ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
 ***** ***** NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.3. In this building the fire alarm control panel **** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
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 ***** ** * ***** ** ** ***** ***** ***** NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.4; NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2 and definition of “positive alarm sequence.” The NFPA permits *** * ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
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Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<p>▫ Many of the older braille signs in Longworth are mounted at a non-compliant height.^{18a} Some of the signs contain inaccurate braille. The House Superintendent plans to replace these signs on an ongoing basis, and the OOC will report on progress in future reports.</p> <p>▫ Signage at the entrance to many offices is blocked^{18b} by the placement of flags, cabinets, sign-in stands or other objects in the hallway. This makes it difficult for a visitor with visual impairments to find the correct office for: 1029, 1024, 1023, 1022, 1111, 1114, 1210, 1213, 1632, 1605, 1516, 1519, 1532, 1535, 1732, 1727 and 1221.</p>	<p>AOC: All new signage has appropriate braille and is at the appropriate height. We will begin a program designed to correct signage beginning in FY07 and continuing until complete.</p> <p>OHEC: Abated as of March 15, 2007 for all offices.</p>

18a All signage designating permanent building spaces must be mounted at 60” to the center line and have raised, brailled and contrasting characters. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3.(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5.

18b Individuals must be able to approach within 3” of the sign. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.30.6.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Effective Communication: Hearing Room	Permanent assistive listening systems or portable induction loops are available in all Committee hearing rooms.	
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Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Does an individual who has a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel From Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Floor mats placed in the corridor outside of certain Member offices create a tripping hazard. ^{19a} This makes the corridors hazardous for individuals who are blind or have low vision.	

^{19a} Any carpeting must be securely attached or fastened to the floor. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.5.3.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Member Office Entrances	Too much force ^{19b} is required to open the entrance door to most Member offices in Longworth. The offices are therefore non-accessible unless the door opening force is adjusted, the door is kept open, or a staff member is posted next to the door at all times the office is open for business.	AOC: Staff is available at all times to accommodate visitors to their offices.
Pathways Within Member Offices	Route ^{19c} to public space within the office suite is not accessible in 1122, 1130, 1201, 1203, 1205, 1207, 1223, 1317, 1404, 1406, 1410, 1507, 1510, 1513, and 1536.	CAO: The CAO is available to assist a Member Office in moving furniture. OHEC: Abated in all offices as of March 20, 2007.

19b The force needed to open the door must be 5 lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

19c To be accessible the route must be at least 36" wide except at doorways where it may be 32" wide. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.3.2(2), 4.3.3.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Materials Available to the Public	Brochures, pamphlets and other materials available to the public are out of reach range ^{19d} of an individual who uses a wheelchair in the following rooms and spaces: 1027, 1111, 1117, 1119, 1122, 1130, 1210, 1213, 1217, 1218, 1223, 1305, 1330, 1333, 1339 and 1514.	
Doors to Each Committee Hearing Room	Although non-compliant door hardware ^{19e} makes certain hearing room doors in Longworth non-accessible, Committee staff are posted at entrance doors during all committee hearings.	
Witness Tables	Non-accessible witness table ^{19f} in Committee room 1332 and 1324.	
Path of Travel Within Committee Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	

19d If a parallel approach is possible for an individual in a wheelchair, the acceptable reach range is 9"-54"; if a parallel approach is not possible, the acceptable reach range is 15"-48". 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.

19e Door handles must not require tight grasping to operate and must have a shape that is easily graspable with one hand. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.13.9.

19f To be considered accessible the table must have sufficient knee clearance for a witness who is in a wheelchair. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.27.4.



Longworth House Office Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Disability	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<p>□ Door opening force is too heavy^{20a} making designated accessible restroom non-accessible for restrooms LDA2, L1B5, women's restroom near 303 and men's restroom near loading dock.</p> <p>□ Toilet and grab bar height non-accessible^{20b} in designated accessible women's restroom near 303.</p>	<p>AOC: Door pressure adjusted at L1B5. ACD: 3/17/07. To be adjusted Men's near LD. Estimated completion date: 7/07. No such room as LDA2 or 303 in the LHOB.</p>
Public Telephones	Accessible public telephones are available but there is no signage indicating their location.	<p>AOC: Telephones will be shown on the new directories being installed in the building beginning 4/07. Estimated completion date: 7/1/07</p>
Health Unit	Accessible.	
Longworth Food Court	Accessible.	

20a 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

20b 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §§4.16.3 and 4.17.6.



Rayburn House Office Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
South Capitol Street Entrance	Accessible.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	Non-accessible curb cut at South Capitol and Independence. ^{21a}	AOC: Will address in subsequent submission

^{21a} The curb ramp is not within the marked crossing. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.7.9.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safety evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	Primary accessible exit is at the main South Capitol Street entrance. House Superintendent has informed the OOC that a secondary accessible exit route will be established from G3 level. To be compliant with ADA and fire codes, this route must have emergency lighting, a proper exit discharge door, modified slopes, a handrail at the exit discharge, no protruding objects, and clear marking of the route.	AOC: Design estimated completion date: December 2007. Cost estimate: to be forthcoming.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

	<p>□ Non-compliant. Brailled, contrasting and raised character signage must be installed at all building exits including in the hallways at exit stairwells.^{22a}</p> <p>□ Brailled, contrasting and raised character signage has been installed within the exit stairwells, but should be moved wherever the sign overhangs the stair. An individual must be able to touch the sign without creating a tripping or falling hazard.^{22b}</p> <p>□ House Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution and encourages other jurisdictions to do the same.</p>	
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22a All signage designating permanent building spaces must have raised, brailled and contrasting characters and be mounted at 60” to the center line. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1; ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4

22b Tactile signage must be mounted so that a person may approach within 3”. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.30.6.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. ▫ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired employees of and visitors to their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The location of the staging areas is appropriate. ▫ During the inspections, the OOC noted minor compliance issues with the signs in the staging areas. The House Superintendent replaced the signs shortly after the inspection. 	



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<p>USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated. The existing fire fighter telephones^{22c} can also be used by individuals awaiting rescue assistance.</p>	
<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<p>▫ AOC reports that visual alarms have been installed in all public restrooms. ▫ No visual alarm in public restroom near 303.</p>	<p>AOC: There is no room in Rayburn designated as 303. Need additional information.</p>

22c These fire fighter telephones are not locked so are usable in an emergency. However, fire fighter phones are not an accessible two-way communication system because they do not provide effective communication for an individual who is deaf or cannot speak. When the system is upgraded the House Superintendent should consider the accessible two-way communication devices now installed in the staging areas of the Capitol Building.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Building Wide</p>	<p>□ * ***** ***** ***** ** **** ***** ***** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ** ***** ** □ ** ***** **** ***** ** ** ***** ***** ** ***** ***** *****^{22d} ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****^{22c}</p>	<p>AOC: The USCP Board mandates *** ***** ** ***** ***** ** ** ***** ** ***** ***** **** ***** ** * ***** ***** **** ***** This procedure complies with NFPA 101(2003):38.3.4.3(2) for New Business Occupancies, and with NFPA 72(1999):1.5.4.10.^{22f}</p>
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22d When the water sprinklers activate, * ***** ** **** * ***** *****
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 ***** ***** The National Fire Protection Code allows for * ***** ** ** *****
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 ***** ** ***** ** building NFPA-101 §9.6.3.4 and NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2.
 The ***** ***** ***** ** ** ** ***** The OOC has been informed
 that it often ***** ** ** ** ***** ** ** ** ***** ***** ***** ** *****
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22e OSHA requires that alarms provide sufficient “reaction time for safe escape of employees from the workplace.” 29 C.F.R. §1910.165(b)(1).

22f OOC response to AOC comment: AOC’s response is not applicable to this older building. It also does not address OOC concerns about ** ***** ** *****
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 **** ***** NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.3. In this building the fire alarm control panel ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
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 * ***** ** ***** alarm panel. NFPA-101-2000 § 9.6.3.4; NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2 and definition of “positive alarm sequence.” The NFPA permits the *
 ***** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
 **** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** Commentary, 2003 Life Safety Code Handbook §9.6.3.4. * ***** ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
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Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<p>▫ Many of the older braille signs in Rayburn are mounted at a non-compliant height.^{23a} Some of the signs contain inaccurate braille. The House AOC plans to replace these signs on an on-going basis, and the OOC will report on progress in future reports.</p> <p>▫ Signage at the entrance to many offices is blocked by the placement of flags in the hallway. This makes it difficult for a visitor with visual impairments to find the correct office.^{23b}</p>	<p>AOC: All new signage has appropriate braille and is at the appropriate height. We will begin a program designed to correct signage beginning in FY07 and continuing until complete. Estimated cost: Already funded.</p> <p>OHEC: Offices have been notified of the existence of the issue and abatement is in progress.</p>

23a All signage designating permanent building spaces must be mounted at 60” to the center line and have raised, braille and contrasting characters. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3.(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5.

23b Individuals must be able to approach within 3” of the sign. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.30.6.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Effective Communication: Hearing Room	Permanent assistive listening systems or portable induction loops are available in all Committee hearing rooms. However the signage outside the Committee rooms in Rayburn does not indicate that the system is available. ^{23c}	AOC: Signs to be installed outside of hearing rooms. We are in the process of designing. Estimated completion date: 12/31/07.
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Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Do individuals who have a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel from Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	

^{23c} Signage must indicate that an assistive listening system is available. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App. A §4.30.7(4).



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Member Office Entrances	Too much force ^{24a} is required to open the entrance door to most Member offices in Rayburn. The offices are therefore non-accessible unless the door opening force is adjusted, the door is kept open, or a staff member is posted next to the door at all times the office is open for business.	AOC: Staff is available at official business hours to accommodate visitors to their offices.
Elevators	Accessible.	
Doors to Each Committee Hearing Room	Although the door width and door hardware make many Committee hearing room doors in Rayburn non-accessible, staff are posted at entrance doors during all Committee hearings.	
Witness Tables	Witness tables are a non-accessible height ^{24b} in 2203, 2247, 2220, 2128, 2318, 2218, 2322, 2123, 2125, 2255, 2167, 2216, 2212, 2361, B318 and 2257.	

24a The force needed to open the door must be 5 lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

24b 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.32.3.



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Door opening force is too heavy^{25a} for all designated accessible restrooms in Rayburn, thus the restrooms are made non-accessible. ▫ Toilet is inaccessible in designated accessible restroom near 303 and R3A3. ▫ Sink inaccessible in designated accessible restroom near 303. 	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ All restrooms in the House Office Buildings slated for renovations over the next 10 years. At the time of renovation, automatic door openers will be installed. Repairs will be made on cited doors to adjust pressure. Estimated completion date: 7/31/07 ▫ Toilet to be inspected and renovated as necessary (R3A3). Estimated completion date: 7/31/07 ▫ No room in Rayburn designated as 303. Need additional information.

^{25a} 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A §4.13.11(2)(b).



Rayburn House Office Building, cont.

Public Telephones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ TTY public telephone is available in the building but there is no signage indicating its location. ▫ The public telephones have been outfitted so they no longer act as protruding objects for an individual who uses a cane to navigate. 	<p>AOC: TTY is identified on new Directories (wall maps). New signs to be installed beginning in April, 2007. Estimated completion date: 7/1/07.</p>
Drinking Fountains	The drinking fountains in Rayburn are not accessible.	<p>AOC: Replacement of drinking fountains in Cannon and Rayburn to be added to project list. Estimated start date FY08. Estimated cost: \$1.75M</p>
Rayburn Deli	Accessible.	



Dirksen Senate Office Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
1st and C Street Entrance	Accessible. ^{26a}	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	The newly installed curb cuts at 1st and C are not accessible because they are too steep. ^{26b}	AOC: N.E. side is complete. Will comply with the rest of the curb cuts. Estimated completion date is October 2007. Cost: \$30K

^{26a} Accessible means compliant with the ADA Standards for Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability promulgated by the U.S. Department of Justice and published at 28 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 35 and 36.

^{26b} Curb cuts must have a maximum slope of 8.33%. A slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	There are two accessible exits from the Dirksen building. The secondary accessible exit is via the Hart building.	



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Exit Door/Exit Route Signs	<p>▫ Signage and wall maps on all floors except the Ground floor do not provide visitors with disabilities any information about location of staging areas or other elements of the accessible exit route.^{27a}</p> <p>The National Fire Protection Code requires that all exit routes, including accessible exit routes, be clearly indicated.^{27b}</p> <p>▫ Exit signage at all building exits, including at and within exit stairwells, must be in brailled, raised, and contrasting characters, and be mounted at a height of 60".^{27c}</p>	
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^{27a} The House Office Building Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution for wall maps.

^{27b} NFPA 101-2000 Life Safety Code §7.10.1.4

^{27c} 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.3.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3 and 4.30.5 gives the requirements for signage designating permanent building spaces. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. □ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired visitors to and employees of their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas^{27d}</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Primary staging areas are properly located. There must be at least two accessible means of egress from each floor^{27e} but there are currently no secondary staging areas. □ Signage at the staging area is non-compliant.^{27f} 	

27d Staging areas are part of the accessible egress route for this and other buildings on Capitol Hill.

27e NFPA 101-2000 § 39.2.4.2.

27f The clear border around the pictogram must be at least 6” high. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §4.30.4.



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<p>USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated. The Senate Building Superintendent should consider installing an emergency two-way communication system at all staging areas similar to the accessible communications devices now installed in the staging areas of the Capitol Building.</p>	<p>AOC: The Senate Superintendent will install two-way communication devices in staging areas by the end of FY 08. Cost: \$80k.</p>
<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<p>There are visual alarms in most areas of the building open to the public. However, there are still no visual alarms in Committee hearing room G11 and public restrooms SDBM2A and SDBW2A.</p>	<p>AOC: The Senate Superintendent has installed visual alarms in Committee room SD-G11. Public restrooms SDBM2A and SDBW2A will be completed by December 2009. Cost: \$5k per alarm.</p>



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ All signage in the building indicating building room numbers is too high to be accessible.^{28a} ▫ The location of accessible features in the building, including accessible restrooms, public telephones and egress routes are not indicated on the building's wall maps. 	<p>AOC: Will comply by October 2008 as part of the Interior Way-finding signage program. Cost: \$400k.</p>

27i, cont. In this building the fire alarm control panel **** ** ***** *****
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 ***** ***** ***** * ***** ** * ***** ** ** ***** ***** *****
 NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.4; NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2 and definition of "positive
 alarm sequence." The NFPA permits the * ***** ***** ***** *****
 ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** * ***** ***** ***** *****
 Commentary, 2003 Life Safety Code Handbook §9.6.3.4. * ***** ** ***** *
 ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ** ***** ** * ***** ***** ***** *****

28a Signs indicating room number must be mounted 60" to the centerline, and be in raised, brailled, and contrasting characters. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App. A §§4.30.4, 4.30.5 and 4.30.6.



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Effective Communication: Hearing Room	There is no assistive listening system in Committee hearing rooms 116 and G50. ^{28b}	SCCE: SD-116 has a hearing loop to allow for an ear piece and headphone. Currently, software programs are provided on a laptop to individuals needing assistance, which provides them access to a written transcript. AOC: Assistive listening devices are being installed as part of the Committee hearing room renovations project. All rooms are scheduled to be completed by 2010.
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28b 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36 App A, §4.1.3(19)(b).



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Does an individual who has a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel From Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	
Senator Office Entrances	Too much force ^{29a} is required to open the entrance door to most offices in Dirksen. The offices are therefore non-accessible unless the door opening force is adjusted, the door is kept open, or a staff member is posted next to the door at all times the office is open for business.	SCCE: Staff members are available during business hours to assist with door entrances to offices. AOC: The doors to the reception rooms of the Senator's offices are always held open during the office's normal business hours; as such the entrance is ADA compliant through equivalent facilitation.
Pathways Within Senator Offices	Accessible.	
Materials Available to the Public	Brochures, pamphlets and other materials available to the public must be kept within the reach range ^{29b} of an individual who uses a wheelchair.	SCCE: If these materials are available, they will be kept within the acceptable reach range to conform to ADA standards.

29a The force needed to open the door must be 5lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

29b If a parallel approach is possible for an individual in a wheelchair, the acceptable reach range is 9"-54"; if a parallel approach is not possible, the acceptable reach range is 15"-48". 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Elevators	Accessible.	
Doors to Each Committee Hearing Room	Accessible.	
Witness Tables	Non-accessible table height in Committee hearing rooms 116 and G50. ^{29c}	<p>SCCE: Committee staff is working with the AOC to modify the existing table heights to ADA standards.</p> <p>AOC: SD 116 is not a hearing room. Will comply in SD-G50 with an expected completion date of May 2007.</p>

^{29c} To be accessible the table must have sufficient knee clearance for a witness who is in a wheelchair. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.32.3.



Dirksen Senate Office Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Generally compliant. □ Wall maps and signage do not indicate the location of the accessible restrooms.^{30a} 	<p>AOC: Will comply. See signage comments above.</p>
Public Telephones	<p>The public telephone is not accessible for visitors who use a wheelchair.^{30b}</p>	
Drinking Fountains	<p>Controls are not accessible because they require a tight grasp and too much force to operate.^{30c}</p>	<p>AOC: Dirksen drinking fountains, operated by push buttons, are ADA compliant.</p>

30a 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.1.2(7)(d).

30b 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.31.3.

30c 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.15.4 and 4.27.4.



Hart Senate Office Building Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
2nd Street Entrance	Accessible.	
Constitution Avenue Entrance	Designated accessible entrance is not accessible because handrails on outside ramp are inaccessible ^{31a} and slope of outside ramp is slightly too steep.	AOC: Handrail will be retrofitted in FY 08. In terms of the slope, please refer to our previous response (<i>See http://www.compliance.gov/reports-studies/ada_11-05/ADA_Inspection_Report.htm</i>) which states that 28 CFR 36A 4.1.(1) indicates that the application of the accessible element requirements being stated as non-compliant are only applicable to newly designed and newly constructed facilities, or altered portions of existing facilities.
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	Accessible.	

^{31a} 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.8.5.



Hart Senate Office Building, Emergency Procedures
cont.

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	There are two accessible emergency exit discharge points from the building, as required. ^{32a} The secondary accessible exit route is through the Dirksen Building.	

^{32a} NFPA 101-2000 §39.2.4.2. See also OSHA requirement at 29 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §1910.36(b)(1).



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

<p>Exit Door/Exit Route Signs</p>	<p>▫ Signage and wall maps^{32b} on all floors do not provide visitors with disabilities with any information about the accessible egress route including the location of staging areas. The National Fire Protection Code requires that all exit routes, including all accessible exit routes, be clearly indicated.^{32c}</p> <p>▫ There is no brailled, raised and contrasting character signage at building exits including exit stairwells and within exit stairwells. All signage designating permanent building spaces must have such signage and be mounted at 60” to the center line.^{32d}</p> <p>▫ The signage at the staging areas is non-compliant and should be changed.^{32e}</p>	<p>AOC: We estimate that signage will be installed^{32f} throughout the Hart building by January 2008 as part of the Interior Wayfinding program. Cost: \$400,000.</p>
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32b The House Office Building Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution for wall maps.

32c NFPA 101-2000 Life Safety Code §7.10.1.4.

32d 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3 and 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.

32e The clear border around the pictogram must be at least 6” high. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §4.30.4.

32f The maps in the House Office Buildings now have stickers showing accessible egress route features. This is an appropriate solution and could easily be replicated on the existing wall maps of the Senate Office Buildings prior to installation of the new maps.



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. ▫ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired employees of and visitors to their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas</p>	<p>The location of the staging areas is appropriate.</p>	<p>AOC: Primary and secondary staging area signage will be installed by June 07.</p>



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated. ▫ Because there is no two-way communication device in the building's staging areas, there is no other way for those awaiting assistance to contact rescuers. The Senate Building Superintendent should consider installing an emergency two-way communication device similar to the type being installed in the staging areas of the Capitol Building. 	<p>AOC: The Senate Superintendent will install two way communication devices in staging areas by December 2008. Cost: \$80k.</p>
<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<p>There are no visual alarms in most areas of the Hart Building open to the public, including the building's restrooms.</p>	<p>AOC: We estimate that visual alarms will be installed as part of the Hart Building Fire Alarm System Replacement Project which will cost \$15,950,000 and was in the initial requested 07 budget. Due to budgetary constraints the visual alarms were eliminated from the 07 budget but will be requested in FY 11.</p>



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

Emergency Com- munication: Building Wide	□ ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** □ ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****32g ***** ** ***** ***** * ***** ***** ***** *****32h	AOC: Occupant notification is code compliant in accord- ance with NFPA 101.39.3.4.3.B there- fore comment is inapplicable. ³²ⁱ
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32g When the water sprinklers activate, ***** ** ***** ** ***** *****
***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
***** ***** The National Fire Protection Code allows for ***** ** ** *****
***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
The permitted ***** ***** ** ** ** ***** The OOC has been informed
that it ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
***** ***** ** ** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
32h OSHA requires that alarms provide sufficient “reaction time for safe escape
of employees from the workplace.” 29 C.F.R. §1910.165(b)(1).
32i OOC response to AOC comment: AOC’s response does not address OOC
concerns about ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****
***** * ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ** ***** ***** ***** *****
***** ** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****



Hart Senate Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Brailled signage throughout the building is mounted several inches too high.^{33a} □ As noted above, the building does not have appropriate egress signage. 	<p>AOC: We estimate that signage will be installed throughout the Hart building by January 2008 as part of the Interior way finding program. Cost: \$400k.</p>

32i, cont. In this building the fire alarm control panel **** *
 ** *

 NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.4; NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2 and definition of “positive alarm sequence.” The NFPA permits *
 **** *
 Commentary, 2003 Life Safety Code Handbook §9.6.3.4. *

33a All signage designating permanent building spaces must be mounted at 60” to the center line and have raised, braille and contrasting characters. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3.(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5.



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

Effective Communication: Hearing Rooms	There is no assistive listening system in Committee room 216. ^{33b}	AOC: Assistive listening devices are being installed as part of the Committee hearing room renovations project. Rooms are scheduled to be completed by 2010. SCCE: Committees within the Senate have programs in place for individuals needing assistance.
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Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Does an individual who has a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel from Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	

^{33b} Assistive listening systems are required in assembly areas where audible communications are integral to the use of the space. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.1.3(19)(b).



**Hart Senate Office Building,
cont.**

Senator Office Entrances	Too much force ^{34a} is required to open the entrance door to most of the offices in Hart. The offices are therefore non-accessible unless the door opening force is adjusted, the door is kept open, or a staff member is posted next to the door at all times the office is open for business.	AOC: The doors to the reception rooms of the Senators' offices are only open during the office's normal business hours. Since the doors are glass and always attended during normal business hours, reception staff assists mobility impaired guests; as such the entrance is ADA compliant through equivalent facilitation. SCCE: Staff members are available during business hours to assist with door entrances to offices.
Pathways Within Offices	Accessible.	
Materials Available to the Public	Accessible.	
Elevators	Accessible.	
Doors to Committee Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	
Witness Tables	Non-accessible table height ^{34b} in Committee hearing room 216.	AOC: Will comply. Expected completion date of May 2007. SCCE: Committee staff is working with the AOC to modify the existing table heights to ADA standards.

34a The force needed to open the door must be 5 lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

34b To be considered accessible the table must have sufficient knee clearance for a witness who is in a wheelchair. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.32.3.



Hart Senate Office Building, Other Building Features cont.

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Too much force is required to open the doors of most designated accessible restrooms in the building, thus making the restrooms inaccessible. □ Paper towel dispensers are out of reach range^{35a} for an individual in a wheelchair in all designated accessible restrooms. 	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Adjusting the door weight on each designated accessible restroom will cost \$90,000 and will be completed by June 2008. □ Paper towels are stocked on the ADA sink counters and are compliant.
Public Telephones	Accessible.	
Drinking Fountains	There are no accessible drinking fountains in the building	AOC: Accessible drinking fountains are located at the basement levels.

^{35a} If a parallel approach is possible for an individual in a wheelchair, the highest operable part must be less than 54"; if a parallel approach is not possible, the highest operable part must be less than 48". 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.



Russell Senate Office Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Delaware Avenue Entrance	Accessible. ^{36a}	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	
Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	The curb cuts are too steep near the accessible entrance. ^{36b}	AOC: Complete

Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

^{36a} Accessible means compliant with the ADA Standards for Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability promulgated by the U.S. Department of Justice and published at 28 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 35 and 36.

^{36b} Curb cuts must have a maximum slope of 8.33%. A slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
<p>Accessible Emergency Exit Routes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Discharge doors at accessible exit onto Delaware Avenue are locked with a dead-bolt at 8pm. These doors must be modified immediately so they can be opened in an emergency at any hour. ▫ There is no secondary accessible discharge from the Russell ‘swing space’ and such an exit is required.^{37a} ▫ The slope in the basement level tunnel between Dirksen and Russell is accessible. This route would be an acceptable secondary accessible egress route if handrails are installed and if the route is indicated on wall maps and signage. ▫ Additional accessible exits for use in emergencies could easily be created at the Carriage entrance and the loading dock. 	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ A project will eliminate the deadbolt and provide push bars to exit. This will be completed in FY 07. Cost: \$25k. ▫ There are two accessible exits from the swing space. One is the main hallway to the Russell Building and the other is the southwest exit door that discharges to the Russell Courtyard. ▫ Russell loading dock project is complete and is now a compliant ADA exit.

^{37a} A second accessible exit from this office space is required by NFPA 101-2000. See also OSHA requirement at 29 C.F.R. §1910.36(b)(1).



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

<p>Exit Door/Exit Route Signs</p>	<p>□ Signage and wall maps^{37b} on all floors in the building do not provide visitors with disabilities with any information about the accessible egress route including the location of staging areas. The National Fire Protection Code requires that all exit routes, including all accessible exit routes, be clearly indicated.^{37c}</p> <p>□ There is no brailled, raised and contrasting character signage at building exits including at exit stairwells and within exit stairwells. All signage designating permanent building spaces must have such signage and be mounted at 60” to the center line.^{37d}</p>	<p>AOC: Accessible signage will be installed in the Russell Building in December 2008 as part of the Interior way-finding project. Cost: \$300k.^{37e}</p>
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37b The House Office Building Superintendent has attached small stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas which are accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution for wall maps.

37c NFPA 101-2000 Life Safety Code §7.10.1.4.

37d 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3 and 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.

37e The maps in the House Office Buildings now have stickers showing accessible egress route features. This is an appropriate temporary solution and could easily be replicated on the existing wall maps of the Senate Office Buildings prior to installation of the new maps.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas. ▫ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired employees of and visitors to their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP. 	
<p>Staging Areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Location of staging areas is not indicated on wall maps or other signage. ▫ There is no signage at the basement staging area. ▫ Signage at staging areas on other floors is non-compliant because the pictogram is incorrect.^{37f} 	<p>AOC: Primary and secondary staging area signage will be installed by June 07. Cost: \$10K.</p>

37f 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36 App A §4.30.4.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Emergency Communication: Staging Areas	USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated. The existing fire fighter telephones ^{37g} can also be used by individuals awaiting rescue assistance.	AOC: The Senate Superintendent will install two way communication devices in staging areas by the end of FY 08. Cost: \$60k.
Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms	There are no visual alarms ^{37h} in the following locations open to the public: restrooms SR2M3, SR3M1, SR3M4, SR4W1, Caucus Room and Committee hearing rooms 325, 336, 485, 428A, 222 and 189.	AOC: The Senate Superintendent will install strobes in Committees and rest rooms by the end of December 2007. SCCE: These offices are working with the AOC to install visual alarms for emergency communication.

^{37g} The cabinets holding fire fighter phones are not locked so these phones are usable by individuals awaiting assistance. The accessible two-way communication system now installed in staging areas of the Capitol Building should be considered by the Senate Buildings Superintendent when the communication system in the staging areas is upgraded.

^{37h} 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36 App A, §4.28.1 requires that, at minimum, visual alarms be provided in restrooms, meeting rooms, hallways, lobbies, and any other common use areas.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	□ Throughout the building the numbers on the brailled signs are incorrect and are mounted several inches too high. ^{38a}	AOC: Accessible signage will be installed in the Russell Building in December 2008 as part of the Interior way finding project. Cost: \$300k.
Effective Communication: Hearing Room	An assistive listening system is available in the following Committee hearing rooms, but there is no signage indicating its availability: SR-253, SR-418, SR-325, SR-385, SR-418 and SR-301.	AOC: We are currently installing signs indicating the availability of assistive listening systems. The estimated completion date is June 2007. SCCE: These offices are working with the AOC to provide signage showing the availability of assistive listening systems in these rooms.

37k, cont. In this building the fire alarm control panel **** ** *****
 **** ** *****

 NFPA-101-2000 §§ 9.6.3.4; NFPA-72-1999 §1-5.4.11.1.2 and definition of “positive alarm sequence.” The NFPA permits ** * *****

 Commentary, 2003 Life Safety Code Handbook §9.6.3.4. A *****

 38a 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36 App A §4.30.6.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Does an individual who has a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel from Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Accessible.	
Senator Office Entrances	Too much force ^{39a} is required to open the entrance door to most offices in Russell. The offices are therefore non-accessible unless the door opening force is adjusted, the door is kept open, or a staff member is posted next to the door at all times the office is open for business.	AOC: The doors to the reception rooms of the Senators' offices are always held open during normal business hours; as such the entrance is ADA compliant through equivalent facilitation. SCCE: Staff members are available during business hours to assist with door entrances.
Pathways Within Offices	Accessible.	
Materials Available to the Public	Brochures, pamphlets and other materials available to the public must be kept within the reach range ^{39b} of an individual who uses a wheelchair.	SCCE: If these materials are available, they will be kept within the acceptable reach range to conform with ADA standards.

39a The force needed to open the door must be 5 lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

39b If a parallel approach is possible for an individual in a wheelchair, the acceptable reach range is 9"-54"; if a parallel approach is not possible, the acceptable reach range is 15"-48". 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.2.5, 4.2.6.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Elevators	Accessible.	
Doors to Each Committee Room	Although non-compliant door hardware ^{39c} makes certain hearing room doors in Russell non-accessible, committee staff members are posted at entrance doors during all Committee hearings.	SCCE: Committee staff members are posted at entrance doors during all Committee hearings.
Witness Tables	Non-accessible height ^{39d} of witness table in Committee hearing rooms C3, 188, 418 and 428A.	SCCE: Committee staff is working with AOC to modify the existing table heights to ADA standards. AOC: Location C3 and 188 are not public areas. We will modify the witness tables in 418 and 428A to comply with finding as part of the Committee room renovation program scheduled for completion in 2010.

39c Door handles must not require tight grasping to operate and must have a shape that is easily graspable with one hand. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.13.9.

39d To be considered accessible the table must have sufficient knee clearance for a witness who is in a wheelchair. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §4.32.3.



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<p>▫ Restrooms that are not accessible must indicate the location of the nearest accessible restroom. This signage is not available at restrooms SR4W4 and SR469.^{40a}</p> <p>▫ Designated accessible restroom not accessible because door opening force is too heavy ^{40b} for restrooms SR2M3, SR2M4, SR3M1, SR3M2, SR3M3, SR3M4, SR3W3, SR4W1, SR4M4, SR4M2, SR4M4M, SR4W3 and SRBM1.</p>	

40a 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36 App A, §4.1.2(7)(d).

40b The force needed to open the door must be 5 lbp or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).



Russell Senate Office Building, cont.

<p>Accessible Restrooms, cont.</p>	<p>▫ Sink is non-accessible^{40c} because it lacks insulation on the hot water pipes in restrooms SR3W3, SR2M3, SR4W1 and SRBM1. ▫ Toilet is non-accessible in designated restrooms: SR3M1, SR3W3 and SRBW1.</p>	
<p>Public Telephones</p>	<p>Not accessible because telephone controls are out of reach range.^{40d}</p>	<p>AOC: There are no longer any public telephones in the building.</p>
<p>Drinking Fountains</p>	<p>The water fountains in Russell are not accessible</p>	<p>AOC: ADA accessible drinking fountains have been installed and are located on the basement level.</p>
<p>Cafeteria</p>	<p>Accessible, except the cash register counter-top is too high.</p>	<p>AOC: This comment will be considered as new equipment is purchased.</p>

40c 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §4.19.4.

40d If floor space allows a parallel approach by a person in a wheelchair, the maximum high reach range is 54". If floor space allows only a forward approach by a person in a wheelchair, the maximum high reach range is 48". 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.2.5 and 4.2.6.



Capitol Building

Accessible Building Entrance

Can a visitor who uses a wheelchair or who has other mobility impairments freely enter the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
South Portico Entrance	Accessible. ^{41a}	
North Portico Entrance	Outside ramp is too steep. ^{41b}	AOC: This ramp has been in place for about 15 years and is 5/8" higher than that permitted by the code for a ramp that is 25'-9" long. There are not any current plans to modify this ramp. There are three other handicap accessible entrances, the South Entrance and Law Library and Memorial Door entrances where ramps are in place. Full access to the Capitol will be available after CVC is complete.
Tour Bus Entrance	Accessible.	
Signage for Accessible Entrance	Accessible.	

41a Accessible means compliant with the ADA Standards for Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Disability promulgated by the U.S. Department of Justice and published at 28 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 35 and 36.

41b Ramps must have a maximum slope of 8.33% and a slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Capitol Building, cont.

Sidewalks and Curb Ramps	Newly installed curb cuts on the north side of the Capitol Building are not accessible because they are too steep. ^{41c}	
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Emergency Procedures

Does a visitor with a disability have equal opportunity to safely evacuate the building, or get to a designated shelter-in-place location (on a higher floor, if appropriate), in the event of a drill or an actual emergency?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Emergency Exit Routes	There are two accessible emergency exit routes from the building.	AOC: There are four handicap accessible entrances, the North and South Entrances and Law Library and Memorial Door Entrances (the ramps for these two entrances are in place and full access to these will be available after CVC is complete.)

^{41c} Curb cuts must have a maximum slope of 8.33%. A slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36 App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Exit Door/Exit Route Signs</p>	<p>□ There are no signs or wall maps^{42a} in the building indicating the accessible exit routes including accessible exit discharge and staging areas. The National Fire Protection Code requires that all exit routes, including all accessible exit routes, be clearly indicated.^{42b}</p> <p>□ There is no brailled, raised and contrasting character signage at building exits including at exit stairwells and within exit stairwells. All signage designating permanent building spaces must have such signage and be mounted at 60" to the center line.^{42c}</p>	<p>AOC: The Agency experienced substantial delays with the contract for the Way finding Program. The Agency, through cure notices and consideration of contract termination, has moved this effort forward. The contract for the signs for the 1st-4th floors has been awarded. Signs are projected to be fabricated and installed by July 2007. The final design layout and specifications are underway for the basement level. The Capitol Superintendent has procured a sign fabrication machine to supplement this effort. The sign machine will be used to fabricate several of the standard signs for the basement level. A few more complex signs will be accomplished via contract.^{42d}</p>
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42a The House Office Building Superintendent has attached stickers to existing wall maps indicating the exit discharge points and staging areas accessible for individuals with mobility impairments. The OOC concurs with this solution.

42b NFPA 101-2000 Life Safety Code §7.10.1.4.

42c 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3 and 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.

42d Projected completion date of this effort is Dec. 2007. Estimated Program Cost: \$424,000 has been allotted for this effort. No significant long term additional funding is expected.



Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Plan for Evacuation of Mobility Impaired Employees and Visitors</p>	<p>□ During the 109th Congress USCP initiated the ***** ***** Trained USCP officers will utilize protected elevators to evacuate individuals with mobility impairments from designated staging areas.</p> <p>□ Plans from individual employing offices indicate that they know they are responsible for ensuring that mobility impaired visitors to and employees of their offices get to the staging areas for subsequent assistance by USCP.</p>	<p>AOC: USCP and Guide Services responsibility. These offices have been trained on responsibilities for ensuring visitors and employees with mobility impairments get to staging areas.</p>
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Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Staging Areas^{42e}</p>	<p>Staging areas have been moved to the elevator lobbies in the Capitol Building. OOC concurs with this decision.</p>	<p>AOC: Staging areas for evacuation for mobility impaired occupants have been designated. On the Senate side, the six bank elevator lobby (SBCR1U) has been designated as a staging area with elevator S2A operating on emergency or standby power. On the House side, the elevator lobby H5 (H3CR2D) has been designated as a staging area with H5 operating on emergency or standby power. These areas have the proper signage identifying these areas as staging areas. This action was completed the 1st quarter of FY 2006</p>
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42e Staging areas are part of the accessible emergency egress route for this and other buildings on Capitol Hill.



Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Staging Areas</p>	<p>Accessible two-way communication devices^{42f} are being installed at all staging areas in the building. ***** ***** ** *** **** ***** ***** In addition, USCP procedures require that officers check all staging areas until they are certain everyone has been evacuated.</p>	<p>AOC: Emergency contact phones have been installed in the designated staging area on the House (H5 Elevator Lobby). The phone provides a one touch means of communication with the Capitol Police. The phones provides a direct line to the Capitol Police to request assistance if required in an emergency situation or incident. The phones have also been procured for the Senate side designated staging area. This is currently being coordinated with the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Senate Rules. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ ACD: Phones installed on House side 4th Qtr FY 2006. ▫ Estimated completion date: A decision is expected on proceeding in 2nd quarter of FY 2007 for Senate phones. ▫ Cost: Phones already purchased. No additional funding required. </p>
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^{42f} An accessible two-way communication has both visible and audible signals, is within the reach range of an individual in a wheelchair, and its location is automatically indicated at the control panel when it is in use. 28 C.F.R. Pt 36, App A, §§4.3.11.4 and A4.3.11.4.



Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Visual Alarms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Visual alarms have been installed in the main public areas and most restrooms open to the public. ▫ There is no visual alarm in S308. 	<p>AOC: Installation of strobes throughout the public spaces and restrooms has been completed. The Fire Marshal’s Office conducted acceptance testing in June 2005 and the devices are fully online and operational in accordance with NFPA code compliance. In addition a visual alarm was installed in Room S308 in the 4th quarter of FY06. Action Complete.</p> <p>SCCE: Working with AOC to install visual alarm in S308.</p>
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Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Emergency Communication: Building Wide</p>	<p>***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** ***** *****</p>	<p>AOC: The noted issue from OOC is complete. In addition a design of a new stand alone fire alarm voice evacuation system for the Capitol has been submitted to the Procurement Division to go out for bid. Award is expected in 3rd quarter of FY07. The design calls for a notification system that provides both audible and intelligible voice alarm capability throughout the public and private areas of the building. This new system will interface with the existing Auto Call fire alarm and detection system and will replace the existing voice alarm system. The design of this system will include acoustic modeling to substantiate the proposed design.</p>
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Capitol Building, cont.

Communications Access to Programs, Services and Activities

Does a qualified individual with a disability have equal communications access to the programs and activities of each of the public entities in the building?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Effective Communication: Information and Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ There are no wall maps or other signage indicating accessible exit routes, staging areas, restrooms, elevators or other accessible features of the building.^{43a} □ Signage outside public restrooms is not accessible and is not properly mounted.^{43b} 	<p>AOC: The Agency experienced substantial delays with the contract for the Way finding Program. The Agency, through cure notices and consideration of contract termination, has moved this effort forward. The contract for the signs for the 1st-4th floors has been awarded. Signs are projected to be fabricated and installed by July 2007. The final design layout and specifications are underway for the basement level.</p>

43a All signage designating permanent building spaces, including building exits, must have brailled, raised and contrasting characters and be mounted at 60" to the center line. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §§4.3.3(16), 4.30.2, 4.30.3, 4.30.5. See also NFPA 101-2003 §7.2.2.5.4.1 and ADA-ABA Accessibility Guidelines §216.4.

43b The House Office Building Superintendent has purchased equipment that makes accurate accessible signage. Other jurisdictions should consider purchasing the same equipment so that signage across the campus would be uniform.



Capitol Building, cont.

<p>Effective Communication: Information and Signage, cont.</p>		<p>Additionally, the Capitol Superintendent has procured a sign fabrication machine to supplement this effort. The sign machine will be used to fabricate several of the standard signs identified for the basement level. A few of the signs that are more complex will be accomplished via contract. The sign machine will be used to fabricate several of the standard signs identified for the basement level. A few of the signs that are more complex will be accomplished via contract. Projected completion of this effort is by December 2007. Estimated Program Cost: \$424,000 has been allotted for this effort. No significant long-term additional funding is expected.</p>
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Capitol Building, cont.

Access to Offices and Hearing Rooms

Does an individual who has a mobility impairment have equal access to the public areas in each office and hearing room?

Feature	Description of Current Barriers to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Path of Travel from Accessible Main Entrance to Offices and Hearing Rooms	Generally accessible except that ramps along the designated accessible route at the basement level are too steep. ^{44a}	AOC: These ramps were identified in the 108th Congress ADA inspection as accessible. There are not any current plans to modify these ramps. Any modifications will have significant impact on the historic architectural structure and block entrances to offices on the path.

^{44a} Ramps must have a maximum slope of 8.33% and a slope of between 5% and 6.25% is preferred. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A §§4.8.2 and A4.8.2.



Capitol Building, cont.

Elevators	Although some elevators are very small, others have been modernized and are fully accessible.	<p>AOC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Door closers on accessible restrooms have been adjusted and are on a regular maintenance schedule. However, because of the need to continue to adjust the existing closers, new closures are being identified and will be procured and installed. The new closers will provide new upgraded hardware that will better maintain the required opening force. Estimated completion date: The new door closers will be installed the 3rd quarter of FY07. Cost: \$2,000 ▫ The requirement for under sink insulation in restrooms (HB10M, HB10W, HT28A, HT28B, S137W, S423, ST32M, and ST32W) is complete (1st quarter FY07)
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Capitol Building, cont.

Other Building Features

Are restrooms and other facilities and features in the building readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities such as mobility impaired, vision impaired or hearing impaired?

Feature	Description of Current Barrier to Accessibility	Comments, Plans to Remedy, Estimated Cost and Completion Date
Accessible Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The following designated accessible restrooms are made inaccessible by door opening force that is too heavy: HB10M, HT28A, HT28B, S423, S424, ST32M and S232W.^{45a} ▫ Sink in designated accessible restroom is not accessible because it lacks under sink insulation in the following designated accessible restrooms: HB10M, HB10W, HT28A, HT28B, S137W, S423, ST32M and ST32W.^{45b} 	
Public Telephones	Accessible.	
Drinking Fountains	Accessible.	
Cafeteria	To be inspected during 110th Congress	

^{45a} The force required to open the door must be 5lbf or less. 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.13.11(2)(b).

^{45b} 28 C.F.R. Pt. 36, App A, §4.19.4.



Other Entities and Buildings Congressional Budget Office

The Congressional Budget Office is located in the Ford House office building and has several conference rooms that are open to the public. The Ford House office building was last inspected for ADA compliance during the 108th Congress. It will be inspected again during the 110th Congress.

Office of Compliance

The Office of Compliance is located in the Adams Building of the Library of Congress. The OOC does not have ADA public access jurisdiction in the Library of Congress buildings except in portions of the buildings where covered entities, such as the OOC, are located.

During the 109th Congress the AOC replaced the OOC's entrance and exit doors. These doors are now compliant with the requirements of the ADA.

The building signage in the building where the OOC is located is not compliant with the requirements of the ADA. The restroom signage is incomplete and the brailled numbers are inaccurate on the sign at the entrance to the OOC.

Botanic Garden

The Botanic Garden conservancy building was not inspected during the 109th Congress. The building was recently renovated and the inspection conducted during the 108th Congress indicated only minor compliance issues. It will be inspected again during the 110th Congress.

District and State Offices

District and State offices were not inspected during the 109th Congress. The OOC is working with the House and the Senate to provide information to District and State offices about accessible emergency egress and notification. Additionally, the OOC has requested funds to create a self-certification program and questionnaire for District and State offices regarding their compliance with the ADA and the Occupational Safety and Health Act.



Appendix B: Response Letters from Covered Entities

