January 26, 2015

CIRCULAR LETTER 2015-03

ACCESSIBILITY SYMBOL FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICE APPLICATIONS

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS/MAYORS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The Illinois Department of Transportation has been informed by the Federal Highway Administration that requests are being made to transportation agencies and municipalities to substitute the International Symbol of Accessibility with alternative “dynamic” designs created by advocacy groups. These alternative symbol designs are not authorized for use in traffic control device applications, nor have they been adopted or endorsed by the U.S. Access Board, which reports to the U.S. Department of Justice and is responsible for issuing federal regulations on accessibility.

The only symbols allowed for use in traffic control device applications are those found in the MUTCD. Details on the accessibility symbol can be found in the attachment and in the MUTCD Chapter 3B. Additional information on accessible parking space striping may be found in the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets Circular Letter 2011-07 “Accessible Parking Spaces Striping” issued on June 22, 2011.

If you have questions concerning this issue, please contact the Local Policy and Technology Unit at DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

James K. Klein, P.E., S.E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

TP/tw

Attachment

cc: Greg Smothers, Illinois Association of County Engineers
   Joe Schatteman, Illinois Municipal League
   Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
This figure shows the International Symbol of Accessibility parking space marking. The figure shows a blue square with rounded corners and with a white border, also with rounded corners. The blue background and white border are noted as optional. Centered within the blue square is a white symbol of a person sitting in a wheelchair.

The height of the wheelchair symbol is shown as a minimum of 28 inches and a special height of 41 inches.

The width of the symbol is shown as a minimum of 24 inches and a special width of 36 inches.

The stroke width of the white border and wheelchair symbol is shown as a minimum of 3 inches and a special width of 4 inches.