

# ADA Immersive Experience

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# Agenda

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- Background / Purpose
- Stakeholders
- Planning
- Structure
- Resources
- Continued Education
- Conclusion



# Background / Purpose

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- How to get persons with disabilities involved in ITE?
- How to gain better train engineers to the needs of the disabled community?
- Inspiration
- Connection



# Background / Purpose

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- Intended Audience
- Guidelines / Standards Tested

## Sidewalk

- Cross-slope
- Passing areas / continuous widths
- Clearance from vertical / horizontal obstructions
- Vertical surface discontinuities
- Surfaces – stable, slip resistant, etc.
- Presence of Buffer Zone and/or Frontage Zone

## Access Ramps

- Cross-slope / Running Slope
- Proximity to signal equipment / Reach ranges met
- Level landing zones / turning spaces
- Detectable warning devices
- Surfaces – stable, slip resistant, etc.
- Crossing distance / alignment
- Clearance from vertical / horizontal obstructions
- Drainage obstructions or ponding

# Stakeholders

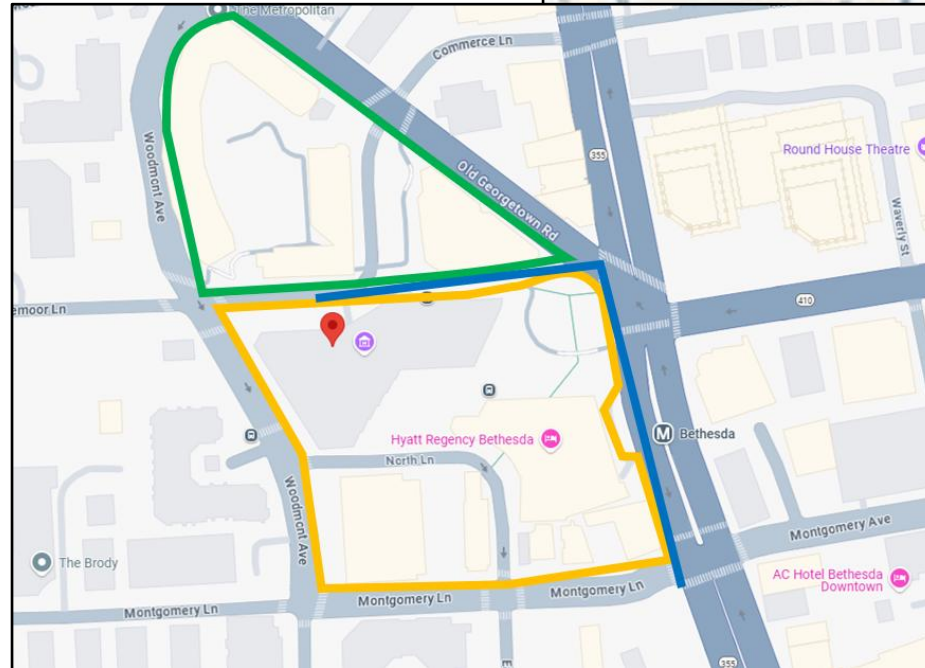
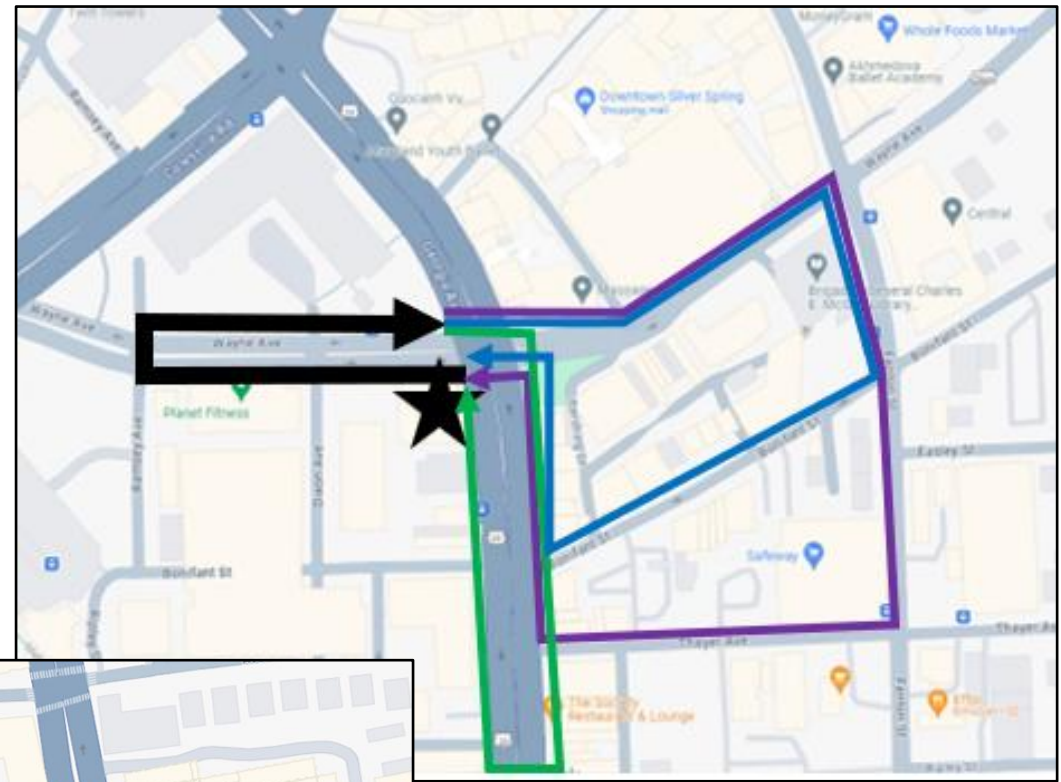
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- ADA Experts
  - Mid-Atlantic ADA Center
  - Centers of Independent Living (CIL)
  - Volunteer Panelists
- ITE Members
  - Engineers / Planners



# Planning

- Date / Time / Location
- Logistics: Parking, Meeting Space, ADA access
- Outdoor route options <0.5 Mile
- Public Transit
- Event signage
  
- Communication with Stakeholders



# Planning

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- PDH Submission
- Advertise / Registration / Post Event Summary



The Chesapeake and Potomac  
Section of ITE Presents:

## An ADA Immersive Experience For Transportation Practitioners

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**Friday, September 26, 2025 (1 PM to 4 PM)**  
**3 PDH Credits**

The IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities  
300 E Joppa Road, Suite, PL-6  
Towson, MD 21286

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Please join us as we host a volunteer panel of people with disabilities and advocates to discuss challenges faced when navigating the built environment and the importance of ADA-compliant designs.

### Agenda:

- 1) Outdoor field visit with the guest panelists and contributing partners
- 2) Panel discussion of how standards and guidelines translate into "real world" experiences
- 3) Networking at Towson Tavern



### Contributing Partners:

Ann Deschamps, Ed.D.  
Director, Mid-Atlantic ADA Center



Teara Winmond  
Executive Director,  
The IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities

# Planning

- Event space
  - Cap: 20-25 people
  - Volunteers: ~10
- Costs

## TICKETS

\$35.00 CAPSITE Private-Sector Member

\$10.00 CAPSITE Public Sector/Retired Member

\$35.00 Other ITE Section Private-Sector Member

\$10.00 Student

\$45.00 Private Sector Non-ITE Member

\$10.00 Public Sector Non-ITE Member

\$0.00 Speaker



# Structure

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- RSA Inspired
  - (0.5 HR) Intro
  - (0.5 HR) Opening Discussion
  - (1.0 HR) Immersive Experience
  - (1.0 HR) Panel Discussion





# Resources

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## Disability Network Directory – Montgomery County, Maryland

### Access & ADA-Related Issues

- Contacts
- Websites
- Networking
- Living Library



**United Spinal  
Association**



**U.S. Access Board**

Mid-Atlantic



Center



**Independence Now**



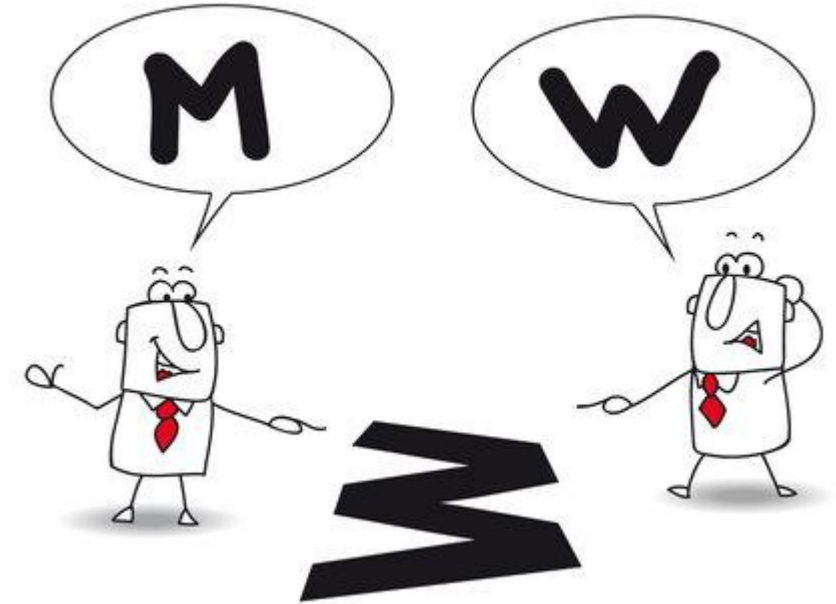
**THE IMAGE CENTER**

**410-982-6311**

# Continued Education

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- Central Business or Historical Districts
- Obstructions for Walker vs. Wheelchair users
- Maintenance of Traffic
- Traditional vs Floating Bus Stops
- Planning / Inspection
- Lighting
- Ideas for Pilot Programs



# Continued Education

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- Acknowledge Impact
- Advocacy
- Education
- Language



ADA-Compliant  
≠  
Accessible

# Conclusion

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*“...this experience has provided a much clearer and shared perspective bridging what engineers see in the design and planning process with what individuals with disabilities experience in real life. Being physically present together in the community, observing barriers and accessibility features side by side, has created meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding*

*– Shannon Minnick (Independence Now)*



*“This is a great way to partner for the greater good of the community and to have the IMAGE Center be a part of increasing accessibility and equity in the community...The volunteers expressed that they felt empowered to be asked to give feedback on their lived experiences. They were excited to have a dialogue with the engineers and the ADA team to share information.”*

*– Teara Winmond (The IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities)*

