

# Temporary Pedestrian Access Routes (TPAR) Audible Message Content

*From the Office of Traffic, Safety & Technology, MnDOT, State of Minnesota*

**Version:** 2.00

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## Guidance Statement

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This guidance gives recommended elements for Audible Messages to assist pedestrians with visual disabilities navigate areas with Temporary Traffic Control installed. The use of the terms 'shall', 'should', and 'may' in this document follow the conventions of the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MN MUTCD).

## Reason for the Guidance

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Per the MN MUTCD, if a Temporary Traffic Control zone affects the movement of pedestrians, adequate pedestrian access and walkways shall be provided. A primary accessibility consideration for Alternate Pedestrian Routes (APRs) is the accommodation of pedestrians with visual disabilities. As stated in **MN MUTCD 6D.2 Accessibility Considerations:**

Because printed signs and surface delineation are not usable by pedestrians with visual disabilities, blocked routes, alternate crossings, and sign and signal information should be communicated to pedestrians with visual disabilities by providing audible information devices, accessible pedestrian signals, and barriers and channelizing devices that are detectable to pedestrians traveling with the aid of a long can or who have low vision.

There has been confusion about the appropriate information to provide to pedestrians with visual disabilities in an APR. One of the tasks for a MnDOT commissioned study with the University of Minnesota, [Development of a Navigation System Using Smartphone and Bluetooth Technologies to Help the Visually Impaired Navigate Work Zones Safely \(Feb 2014\)](#), was to develop appropriate audible messages for these pedestrians. This guidance summarizes the recommended elements.

## Roles & Responsibilities

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This guidance is meant for those that are responsible for the programming or recording of Audible Message Devices that are provided in APRs. It is also a resource for those responsible for the maintenance of the APR, such as project inspectors and engineers.

## Applicability

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This guidance was developed for use on MnDOT state highway construction and maintenance projects. It may be useful as a resource for other agencies that install APRs due to construction and maintenance.

## Guidance

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When used, an Audible Message Device should provide a complete physical description of the temporary pedestrian by-pass including duration, length of (and/or distance to) the bypass, any restrictions/hazards, and project contact information. The message device(s) may also describe an alternate route. The number and location of devices should be determined for each project prior to starting work. Devices may be placed prior to sidewalk work to warn regular users of the planned work. Following are the specific message elements to include:

- Brief announcement to get pedestrian's attention
- Current location of the pedestrian
- What is occurring
- Where is the impact (accessible path availability and event duration)
- Advisory action
- Project information

### Message examples

Attention southbound Lyndale Avenue pedestrians.  
You are at the southwest corner of Lyndale and Franklin.  
West sidewalk closed from 22nd to 26th street for 4 blocks.  
Cross Lyndale for more bypassing messages.  
This detour will continue until Friday, May 16.  
Project contact number 651-555-5555.

Attention eastbound Washington Avenue pedestrians.  
You are at the southeast corner of Washington and Church.  
Road construction on Washington from Church St to Huron for 7 blocks  
Protected pedestrian path open on this side.  
Work will continue until Wednesday, August 20.  
Project contact number 651-555-5555.

### For more information

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/trafficeng/workzone/apr.html>

## History

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Version	Description	Date
1.0	Initial publication on MnDOT Pedestrian Accommodations through Work Zones website	February 2014
2.0	Update content, contacts and utilize new standard template	January 2018

## Contact

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