

## **Legislative Summary: Ordinance No. 979-2020**

Ordinance No. 979-2020 amends Codified Ordinance Sections 3115.01, .03, .08 through .10, .13, .18 and Section 411.011 to protect pedestrians and wheelchair riders on sidewalks, walkways and temporary pedestrian access routes through building operation work zones. This ordinance updates and adds additional safety requirements in our building and street obstruction permit codes for construction and rehabilitation projects in the public right-of-way. Many cities, including Columbus, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Houston, Seattle, and the District of Columbia have enacted ordinances and policies that require safe, temporary sidewalk, walkway, and re-routing access for pedestrians and wheelchair riders during construction work as conditions of a permit to obstruct the public right-of-way.

Some main ordinance requirements include:

- 1) Existing sidewalks should be preserved; if passage on the existing sidewalk is not possible, a convenient and accessible pedestrian walkway shall be provided that replicates as nearly as practicable the existing sidewalk;
- 2) Sidewalk closure with an alternative re-route or detour shall be a last resort; signs shall be provided to direct pedestrian traffic in accordance with the approved pedestrian maintenance plan;
- 3) An application for a street obstruction permit for construction and rehabilitation projects regulated by Chapter 3115 shall include a traffic and pedestrian maintenance plan, subject to approval by the Division of Engineering and Construction in consultation with the Division of Traffic Engineering; and
- 4) Rules and regulations establishing the criteria for required traffic and pedestrian maintenance plans shall be promulgated by the Directors of Capital Projects and Public Works based on Ohio Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (OMUTCD) standards and specific criteria required by ordinance;

Council worked with the Administration on clarifying, agreed-upon amendments.