

Accessibility Questions and Answers—Multnomah County Courthouse

The following are questions the project has received from community members. We are sharing answers below. Feel free to contact Mike Pullen (mike.j.pullen@multco.us, 503-209-4111) if you have additional questions about accessibility at the courthouse.

Q: Are all the courtroom doors equipped with power door openers?

The doors to the courtrooms will have 5 lbs maximum closing force, per ADA, but do not have power door openers. Power doors typically require 5 seconds to open, and can stay open up to 30 seconds, and then 5 seconds to close. The doors to the courtrooms are part of a sound vestibule to reduce noise from the corridor and having them open for up to 40 seconds will disrupt the court proceedings.

Q: Are the restrooms equipped with power door openers?

As a result of feedback from consumers, one all-user public restroom per floor will have a power door opener. The remainder will have ADA compliant 5 lb maximum closing force.

Q: Are the sinks and toilets and the urinals in the restrooms equipped with sensor-based faucets, soap dispensers and flushing mechanisms?

The faucets and flushing mechanisms are manual. The soap dispenser paper towel dispensers and electric hand dryers are sensor-controlled. Hand sanitizer dispensers in the public areas will be sensor-controlled.

Q: What will the security screening look like at the entrances for people with mobility devices that are not able to roll through the magnetometers?

There is a by-pass of the main queuing line for people using mobility devices. The Courthouse Facility Security Officers are well trained on how to work with people using mobility devices. For visitors that chose to do the queuing line, the stanchion posts are recessed into the floor to avoid having a floor base that reduces clearances.

Q: What logistical flow-through will be provided in the new building going through the screening process?

Multiple studies were done of the flow through the security screening for a smooth and efficient flow into the building. The queuing area has been sized to accommodate the

expected flow, including 42 inch aisles, and is located in a well daylit location of the building.

Q: Oftentimes in a courthouse, and certainly in the Multnomah County Courthouse, the counters at many of the areas where business is done are too high.

The design includes lower accessible counters throughout.

Q: Are there efforts to lower counters and have cut-out access for somebody using mobility equipment so that they can get under the counter when approaching?

The design includes lower accessible counters throughout. Knee space clearances are provided at all restrooms as required by ADA.

Q: Oftentimes, and certainly in the Multnomah County Courthouse, garbage receptacles or hand sanitizing dispensers, and paper towel dispensers are not at accessible heights or usable. There also needs to be an effort to ensure that any door opening plates for power operated doors are not blocked by other structural aspects or, garbage cans, artwork or planters. This is a very common occurrence. What are the efforts to address the access issues of little people?

The heights of garbage receptacles, hand sanitizers and paper towel dispensers are usable and meet all ADA requirements for heights. The county's ADA consultant (who is in a wheelchair) will go through the building to ensure the usability of these and other items prior to opening the building.

Q: Who is looking into the depths of various counters and other publicly accessible amenities of the courthouse?

The county has an ADA consultant and, using feedback from users (including physical mock-ups reviewed by users with disabilities), the design includes lower accessible counters throughout.

Q: Are any areas where people can drop off payments or documents or paperwork accessible to individuals with mobility disabilities and throughout the building?

Public counters have accessible counter heights throughout the building.

Q: Are all the courtrooms, offices and any other areas open to the public tagged with appropriate Braille signage?

Public counters have accessible counter heights throughout the building. A signage consultant is creating signage drawings that include braille signage, raised letters with appropriate contrast, are at required heights, and are fully compliant with ADA requirements.

Q: There are huge acoustic issues that have to be addressed for individuals with auditory processing issues and certainly individuals along the broad autism spectrum. Has this been looked into or factored into the structure on the interior?

The Acoustic Engineer has carefully laid out the building to respond to the special acoustic needs of a Courthouse. This includes privacy where needed and amplification where needed.

Q: Rise and run are often very key variables for buildings like this, not only on ingress but also while in the building and on egress. What are the efforts underway to predict these types of issues? Are you seeking input from individuals on the usability around rise and run, ingress and egress and usability within the interior of the structure? Also, these factors need to be addressed on the exterior of the building.

All changes in level, stairs/ramps/thresholds fully comply with ADA and exiting requirements for rise/run/width, as do the handrails.

Q: What efforts are being undertaken to look at the issue of arriving at the building, either through public transportation or private transportation? What is the distance from pick-up and drop-off locations, accessible parking, and Transportation stops and how do they correlate with curb cuts, rise and run of entrance to the building, and egress?

The City-owned and operated parking garage across SW First Street from the Courthouse has 18 ADA-designated parking spots with 2 elevators. There are 10 bus lines that pass within one block of the Courthouse and more buses and MAX lines serve the transit mall five blocks away. The building entrance is level with the sidewalk to avoid any ramps into the building. New fully compliant curb cuts are planned for the three corners of the block with crosswalks. There are two 5-minute parking spaces kitty corner to the main entrance. The County is working with PBOT on potential additional locations for drop-off and pick-up parking on or adjacent to the Courthouse block.

Q: What is the ingress/egress clearance for the manual doors to get into the multi-stall restroom?

The clearances vary by location, but exceed the code minimums.

	Pull Side		Push Side	
Floor(s)	Approach Actual (Code)	Latch Side Actual (Code)	Approach Actual (Code)	Latch Side Actual (Code)
5-17	7 ft (5 ft)	21 in (18 in)	9 ft (4 ft)	21 in (12 in)
4	8 ft (5 ft)	29 in (18 in)	6 ft 2in (4 ft)	22 in (12 in)
3 Male	8 ft 3 in (5 ft)	49 in (18 in)	5 ft 3 in (4 ft)	9 ft 5in (12 in)
3 Female	4 ft 10 in (4 ft)	18 ft 6 in (2 ft)	24 ft 8 in (4 ft)	21 in (12 in)
2	7 ft 1 in (5 ft)	25 in (18 in)	7 ft 7 in (4 ft)	22 in (12 in)
1	6 ft 8 in (4 ft)	8 ft 6 in (2 ft)	7 ft 5 in (4 ft)	19 in (12 in)

Q: How many restroom stalls are there on each floor?

Typically, there are seven public stalls on each floor (three female, three male and one single user restroom).

Floors 1 to 3 are unique.

Floor 1--The lobby has five total stalls (two female, two male and an adjacent single user restroom).

Floor 2--Public payment and high volume courts has nine public stalls (four female, four male and an adjacent single user restroom).

Floor 3-- Jury Assembly Area, has 11 stalls (5 female, 5 male and an adjacent single user restroom).

Q: What type of soap and hand dryer will the project use?

The soap dispenser (GOJO TFX Touch Free) is sensor controlled, and the hand dryer (Dyson Airblade V) blows down (does not require hands to be inserted).

Q: Who is the project's ADA consultant?

Robert Pike, Environmental Access Inc. Universal Design and Access Consultant.