

# **Very Basic Concepts on Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility for People Who are Blind**

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# Disability and Blindness Statistics

- The ADA defines a person with a disability as a person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.
- Generally, this means the inability to see, hear, or walk, someone with cognitive issues, mental health conditions, neurodiverse conditions, developmental delay and more.
- One in four Americans has a disability, CDC, 2020.
- According to estimates from the 2022 National Health Interview Survey, 50.18 million American Adults aged 18 and older reported experiencing some degree of vision loss. Of these, 3.89 million adults have a lot of trouble seeing, even when wearing glasses, and 340,000 cannot see at all.



Intersection as Seen by Someone with  
Normal Vision



Intersection as Seen by Someone with Overall Acuity Loss

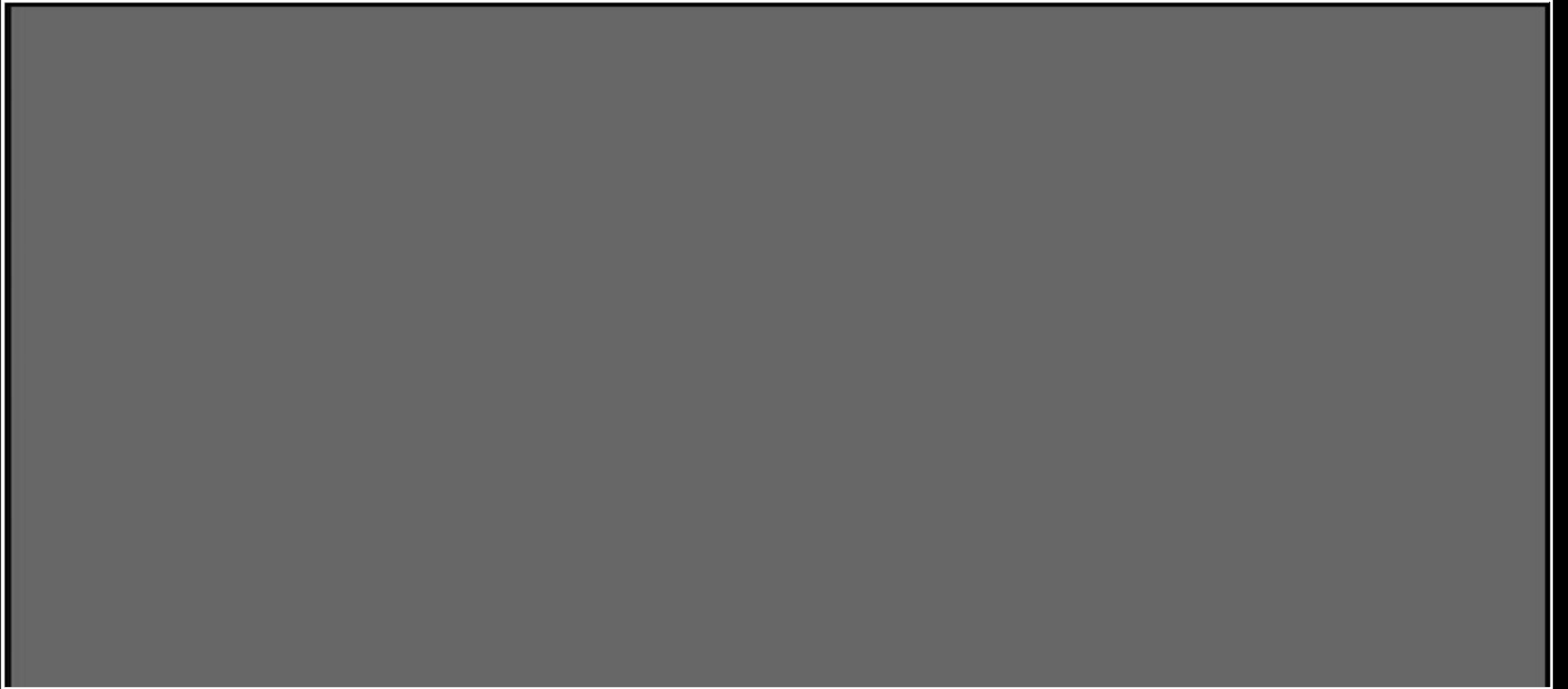




Intersection as Seen by Someone with  
Central Vision Loss



Intersection as Seen by Someone with  
Peripheral Vision Loss



Intersection as Seen by Someone with  
No Usable Vision

# Orientation/Mobility Independence Training

- The white cane and the dog guide are the primary navigation tools used by people who are blind and DeafBlind and are internationally recognized navigation symbols.
- People who are blind and DeafBlind learn cane travel and dog guide skills from Master's level Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist, or professionals with a National Mobility and Orientation Certificate.
- Orientation and mobility training occurs throughout the lifespan to accommodate learning environments such as a neighborhood, high school, college or corporate campus, a new city or town, recreation area or park, etc.
- When one has “appropriate” orientation skills, one possesses the ability to independently orient in most settings, being clear on the current location, the direction of travel and the chosen destination.
- When one has “appropriate” mobility skills, one can employ the tools, the modes, and the means for independently and safely navigating to the chosen destination.



# Influences Affecting Safe Pedestrian Travel

- Decibel level and ambient noise
- Quiet cars, EBikes and scooters
- Protrusions and obstructions on walking paths
- Lack of tactile reference points
- Lack of related professional and public education/awareness

Shared use path with  
no tactile delineator





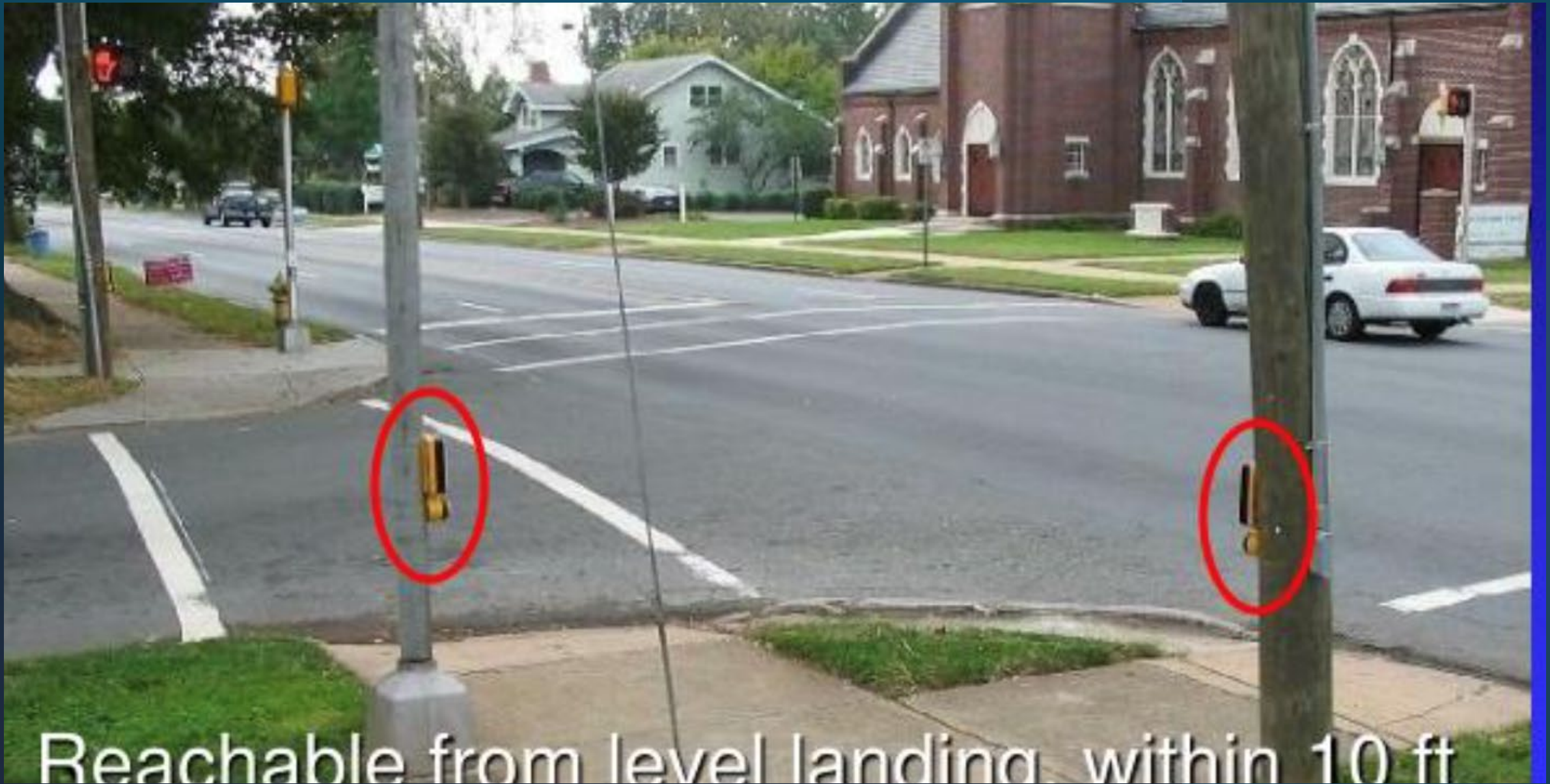
# Shared use path with tactile delineator



Incorrectly  
installed  
pedestrian pole at  
intersection







Reachable from level landing within 10 ft

Intersection showing ped poles correctly aligned with crosswalks



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