



# Washington State Building Code Council

*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 17-01

**CODE:** 2015 International Building Code

**SECTION:** 105, Permits

**QUESTIONS:**

1. Is a building permit required under the state building code for pedestrian sidewalks, stairways and ramps, retaining walls, vehicle or pedestrian bridges and other similar transportation structures that are not buildings intended for human habitation or occupancy if they are located within a public way? If so, are there specific exemptions related to these structures?
2. If an public agency has an accessible pedestrian path connecting a ferry ticket building to a pedestrian drop off area, and the path includes a ramp, stairs and retaining wall that are located partially within street right-of-way (clearly meeting definition of public way) and partially on adjacent publically owned property, is a building permit required for the ramp, stairs and retaining wall? Does this answer change if the adjacent publically owned property meets the definition of "public way", and the ticket booth entrance opens directly onto the "public way"?

**ANSWERS:**

1. **Permit requirements fall under the administrative provisions of the building code, so it is up to the local jurisdiction to set their policy on when a permit is required.**

2. **The building code pertains to buildings and the building site. Site is defined as bordered by a property line or public way. Therefore, construction within the public way does not come under the building code permitting requirements unless adopted by ordinance.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** San Juan County