

STATE OF WASHINGTON

## STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 99-14**

- **CODE:** 1997 State Regulation for Barrier-Free Facilities
- **SECTION:** WAC 51-40-1102 Definition: Path of Travel
- **QUESTION:** Where two public ways are adjacent to a building required to be accessible, a paved alley way used for vehicular and pedestrian access, and a public street with the sidewalk improvements, does the code require barrier free pedestrian access from the public sidewalk, or may access from the alley satisfy the requirement to provide access to the 'public way'?
- ANSWER: An accessible path of travel to the public sidewalk adjacent to the building is not the only way to satisfy required building access. The definition of Path of Travel includes provision for exterior approach to a building by a variety of ways (including sidewalks, streets, and parking areas). If the alley in this question is a public way used for pedestrian access and there is a connecting route of travel to the primary entrance of the building, exterior approach to the building by way of the alley could satisfy the access requirement (See Sections 1106.4.8 and 1103.2.3). All other building access and accessible route requirements would also have to be met.

## SUPERSEDES: None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of Edmonds