

13th April, 2009

To,
The Commisioner,
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike,
Bangalore

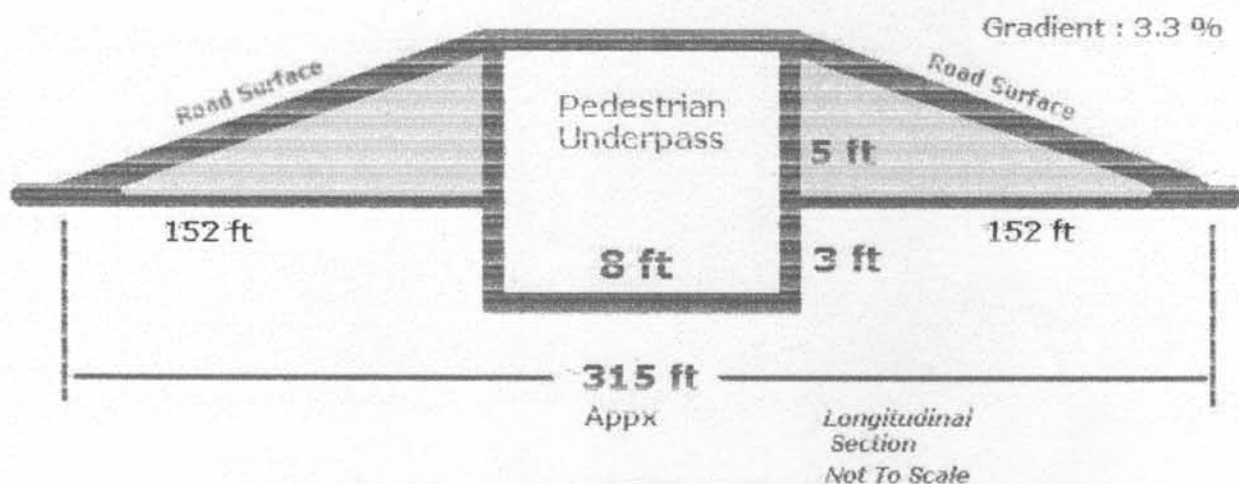
Dear Sir,

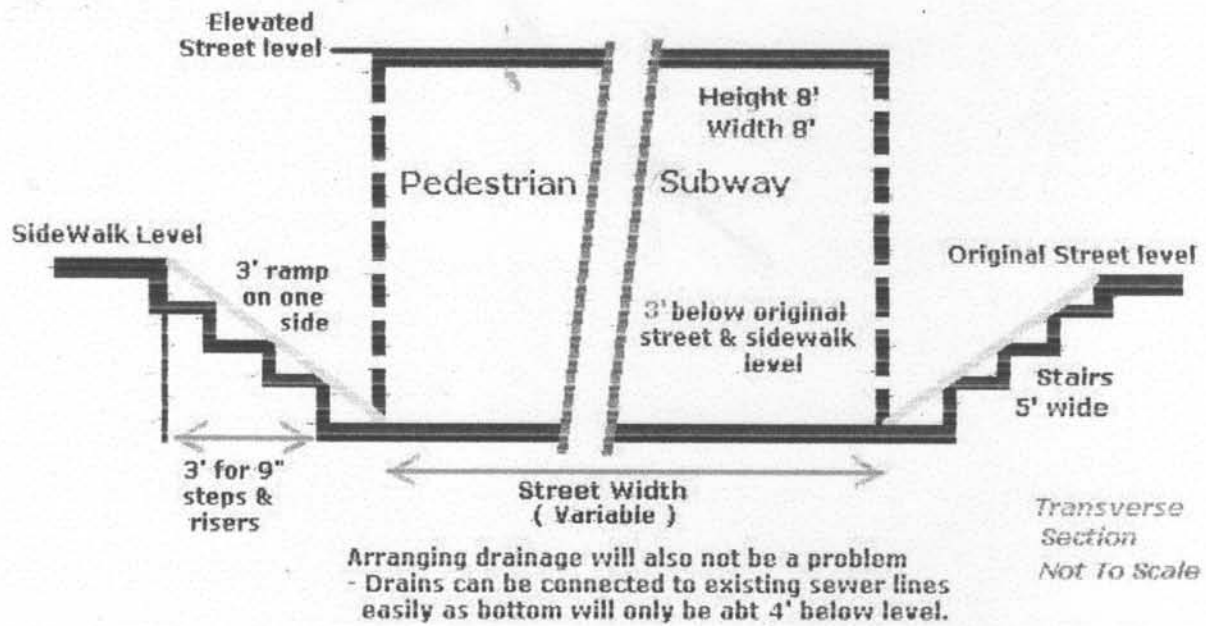
Re: Pedestrian Underpass Design

I would first like to thank BBMP's effort to provide Pedestrian Underpasses. This had long been due & we are happy to see things moving on this front. However, I couldn't help noticing that most of the new underpasses were not being utilized much & are being ignored by the public, generally, unless the medians at the center of roads are barricaded to prevent people from crossing & there are no options left to get across street/s.

The obvious reason is that of inconvenience with climbing stairs, especially for old people, children, disabled individuals & pregnant women. The ordeal of descending & then ascending stair-cases coupled with walking, sometimes long distances, makes them un-preferable. Thus, if there are no median barricades that prevent them from crossing the street, they end up walking across when there is a break in traffic flow, endangering their own lives as also motorists.

I came across a few pedestrian subways in Mumbai & also in some Chinese cities where the subway is sub-sunk by a few feet & the road is elevated over it. This is much easier for pedestrians & utilization is greatly improved as there are only a few steps to negotiate, instead of going down one full level. The two diagrams below illustrate this design :





The edges of the elevated roads were finished with solid, vertical retainer walls & the sloped road surfaces had no signs of any caving in. In Mumbai, these are fitted along the western & eastern express highways, catering to heavy trucks & buses. They had obviously compacted the earth below fully & then tarred the surface. Sufficiently high medians & walls along the length of the sloped section of the road were installed, thus preventing jay-walking & making it safe for all.

I believe that if designs that minimize inconveniences for pedestrians are used, such as the one above, the utilization of pedestrian subways will be far better than with the ones being fitted now, which are fully "buried" below the road surface.

I request you to please consider this suggestion for revising the design for pedestrian subways to ease pedestrians' woes & to see better utilization & safety on the streets.

Thanking You for your Kind attention,
 Your's faithfully,

Capt.Naveen Chandra
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