



City of Seattle  
**Department of Planning & Development**

## **2009 SBC Code Solution**

Section 3411.7  
Accessibility Improvements  
for Seismic Upgrades  
Release Date: February 25, 2011  
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*The following interpretation, policy or code alternate is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code alternate to specific projects may vary.*

### **Code Issue:**

Are the 20% accessibility path of travel improvements required on projects where the only work being performed under the permit is a voluntary seismic retrofit?

### **Interpretation:**

Improvements to the accessible path of travel are not required where the seismic retrofit work alters only structural elements that do not affect the path of travel, such as strengthening a roof diaphragm or bracing an exterior wall parapet.

Where the seismic retrofit also affects the path of travel (e.g., installation of a new interior shear wall that changes how a space is used), the path of travel upgrade will be required. The maximum amount required to be spent is up to 20% of the cost of the project.

For questions about whether this code solution applies to your project:

- *If you have submitted a permit application, contact the Building Code plan reviewer assigned to your application*
- *If you have not submitted an application, contact DPD Building Code Technical Support at 206-684-4630 or in person at the Applicant Services Center. Visit the Applicant Services Center website for more information about hours and location [http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/Process\\_Overview/Location\\_Hours/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Permits/Process_Overview/Location_Hours/default.asp)*

