

SECTION 1- INTRODUCTION

Access Management Concepts

Access management provides a systematic approach to balancing the access and mobility necessities of a roadway. Access management can be defined as the process of managing access to land development, while simultaneously preserving the flow of traffic on the surrounding public road system.

Property owners have a right to reasonable access to the general system of streets and highways. In conjunction, adjacent roadway users have the right to freedom of movement, safety, and efficient expenditure of public funds. Balancing these interests is critical at locations where significant changes to the transportation system and/or surrounding land uses are occurring. The safe and efficient operation of the transportation system calls for effectively managing highway access, via entrances, streets, or other access points.

The specific techniques for managing access involve the application of established traffic engineering and planning principles. Ideally, these principles will:

- Limit the number of traffic conflicts;
- Separate basic conflict areas;
- Separate turning volumes from through movements;
- Provide sufficient spacing between at-grade intersections;
- Maintain progressive speeds along arterials;
- Provide adequate on-site storage lanes.

The application of these principles will minimize disruptions to through traffic caused by entrances and intersections. More specifically, good access management can:

- Reduce crashes and crash potential;
- Preserve roadway capacity and the useful life of roads;
- Decrease travel time and congestion;
- Improve access to properties;
- Coordinate land use and transportation decisions;
- Improve air quality;
- Maintain travel efficiency and related economic prosperity.