

Access Management

What is It? What Does it Do?

Transportation access management is a planning tool that controls the ways vehicles move along major highways and access local roads that lead to properties. Its purpose is to:

- 👉 Safely and efficiently increase highway and road capacity
- 👉 Manage congestion
- 👉 Reduce traffic accidents
- 👉 Increase access to properties and planned development

Major highways and arterials provide a higher degree of mobility (or movement of vehicles), while local roads have lower degrees of mobility, but higher degrees of land access to properties. Collector roads, which lead from local roads onto major highways, should strike a balance between highway mobility and local access.



An effectively planned and implemented access management program can improve public safety and reduce overall traffic congestion.

What are the Benefits of Access Management?

Communities and neighborhoods enjoy:

- 👉 Safer roads, walkways, bike paths
- 👉 More attractive roadways and development
- 👉 Preserved and protected property values
- 👉 Reduced fuel consumption and air emissions
- 👉 Reduced delay in travel times
- 👉 Greater choice in alternative routes
- 👉 Less stop-and-go traffic

Local governments can achieve:

- 👉 Lower costs in safe, efficient roadways
- 👉 Greater coordination among the state and municipality
- 👉 Lower numbers of accidents and accident response costs

How can Access Management be Achieved?

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) enables local governments to use zoning and subdivision ordinance regulations to manage transportation access in communities. Local governments can:

- 👉 Regulate the spacing and location of intersections and driveways
- 👉 Locate and space street connections among parcels and between subdivisions
- 👉 Institute exclusive turning lanes
- 👉 Use service and frontage roads
- 👉 Space median openings
- 👉 Use raised medians to prevent movements across a roadway
- 👉 Limit right-of-way-access to highways
- 👉 Coordinate and space traffic signals
- 👉 Incorporate traffic calming devices
- 👉 Make traffic flows efficient and more predictable
- 👉 Regulate off-street parking, design and access
- 👉 Design guidelines for the number of access points for individual parcels



