

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

SMART DESIGN FOR HAPPY COMMUNITIES



WHAT IS ACCESS MANAGEMENT?

Transportation access management is a means of controlling access on major roadways to adjacent land and development. It aims to minimize and mitigate conflict points – driveways and side streets – which induce vehicles to turn, merge, slow, and stop. Access management includes a combination of local regulations and improved design of roadways and developments. There are three major benefits:

- Increased roadway capacity
- Fewer accidents
- Shorter travel times for motorists

HOW CAN MUNICIPALITIES MANAGE ACCESS?

The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) enables municipalities to use subdivision and zoning ordinances to manage road access. Municipalities have power to regulate layout and design of streets and lots, as well as land uses and intensity of development along roads. Municipal ordinances can:

- Regulate the spacing of intersections and traffic signals
- Regulate the number and location of driveways
- Require use of service roads and shared driveways
- Require exclusive turning lanes
- Require raised medians to prevent cross traffic
- Set minimum spacing for median openings
- Require traffic calming measures
- Set minimum building setbacks
- Regulate location, size, and types of signs

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Pittsburgh, PA

THE OFFICIAL MAP CONNECTION

An Official Map Ordinance can be effective for access management. It allows a municipality to identify and reserve land for future public use. Uses can include:

- New streets and access roads
- Right-of-way for addition of turn and through lanes and for road and intersection realignments
- Pedestrian ways

See the *Official Map Tip Sheet* for more details or refer to Article IV of the MPC.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Governor's Center for Local Government Services provides technical assistance on a variety of planning, land use, and development matters to planning commissions, zoning officers, zoning hearing boards, and other local government officials. For more information visit dced.pa.gov/planning.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) *Access Management Model Ordinances for Pennsylvania Municipalities Handbook* is a guide for local governments. The handbook can be obtained on the Department's website at penndot.gov.

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING AN ACCESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

✓ DEFINE A ROADWAY CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In the municipal comprehensive plan, classify all roads based on their function and level and nature of traffic. Two classification systems are:

Classification by Function

- Interstate
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local

Classification by Development

- Downtown
- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

✓ DETERMINE BEST PRACTICES

In the comprehensive plan or by supplemental transportation study, research and recommend appropriate subdivision and zoning regulations. Match regulations to road classifications and current and projected traffic.

✓ REQUIRE TRAFFIC IMPACT STUDIES

Municipalities can require development expected to generate significant traffic to prepare a traffic impact study. The study should identify access management practices needed to mitigate the traffic impacts of the development.