ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Description

Access management is a term for a set of techniques that control several elements of a street, such as the spacing, design, and operation of driveways, turns, medians, and intersections. It serves as an effective congestion reduction technique because it controls where vehicles may enter and leave the road. Adequate access management improves safety on roads by limiting the number of locations where cars can slow down or speed up to exit or enter the road. In retrofit situations, public agencies must work with developers in a cooperative process to create the best solution.

Target Market

Access management can be applied at any scale, but typically focuses on driveways to development (spacing, removing, and sharing), turning movements on streets (restricting left turns, installing raised medians, and regulating frequency), and intersections (spacing). TxDOT's *Access Management Manual* provides spacing standards for state facilities.

Cost:	●●○○○
Time:	Short
Impact:	Corridor
Who:	City/State
Hurdles:	Retrofit/Business
	Perceptions

How Will This Help?

- <u>Maximize efficiency</u> by increasing traffic flow and reducing stop-and-go traffic.
- <u>Increase safety</u> by limiting drivers' decision points and removing potential conflicts.
- <u>Preserve public investment</u> because managed roads will operate as designed.
- <u>Improve aesthetics</u> by providing landscaping opportunities and adding visual appeal.

Success Stories

- Arlington, Texas: FM 157 (Cooper Street)—Raised median installation resulted in crash rate approaching a 50 percent decrease.

- Houston, Texas: Westheimer Road—Raised median openings that allowed full access were altered, limiting left-turn movements to improve traffic safety and traffic flow.

Implementation Issues

Good access management begins at the early stages of development when techniques can more easily be integrated into the design. Retrofitting is difficult and costly, but possible. Subdivision regulations and development standards/ordinances should be carefully crafted to facilitate access management implementation.

For more information, please refer to: http://mobility.tamu.edu/mip/strategies.php.

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INVESTMENT PRIORITIES