Access Management Planning vs. Practice

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Introduction

■ Access Management – A Good Policy
  – Safety benefits
  – Capacity benefits
  – Aesthetic benefits
  – Overall – very useful in transportation planning

■ “What should we consider when applying access management?”
  – Driveway spacing
  – Signal spacing
  – Safety
  – Is there more?

■ “Why should we look at the bigger picture?”
  – In-fill situations
  – Operational issues
  – Overall affect on corridor as a whole

■ Need to look at more than just driveway and median opening placement.
Disclaimer

- The examples you will see are real, all names and faces have been changed to protect the innocent.
- The examples you see here are innocent until proven guilty.
- The views represented here are not a reflection of views of the management or employees of this station.
- I am an engineer. I am not a lawyer, I am not a land use planner, I am not a policy maker. Nor do I play one on TV.
The Challengers

- Look at a variety of real projects
- Just a general overview
- Access Management vs.:
  - The Environment
  - Future Development
  - Land use
  - Safety
  - The Drivers
  - “The Big Picture”
Access Management vs. The Environment
Access Management vs. The Environment

- Wetlands make up a large portion of our Florida landscape – 20% of the wetlands in the lower US are located in Florida
- Northwest Florida has over 120,000 acres of wetlands alone
- Wetland restraints often times result in less than ideal situations
Access Management vs. Future Development
Access Management vs. The Environment

“To what extent should we consider future development when granting access rights?”
Access Management vs. Land Use
Access Management vs. Land Use

“Should the proposed land use be considered when granting access rights?”

“Should there be some sort of provision in place to account for change in access to benefit the corridor as a whole?”
Access Management vs. Safety
Access Management improves safety on roadways
- True - has been proven by many sources

May improve safety at access point; but impacts to the corridor as a whole should also be considered.
- Redistribution of left turns and u-turns to other median openings

“How do you predict future safety concerns as a result of access management?”
Access Management vs. The Drivers
Access Management vs. The Drivers

“What is the primary purpose of this roadway?”
- FIHS
- Major regional arterial
- Collector road
- Local street

“Who are the major users of this roadway?”
- Population of the community
- Types of vehicles using the roadway
- Types of customers attracted to the local land uses

Many times the answers to these questions conflict!
Access Management vs. The Drivers

- Florida is unique as it serves a very diverse population.
  - High concentration of elderly in certain parts of the state
  - High concentration of non-familiar drivers (tourists) in certain parts of the state

“How should access management be used in these situations?”
Access Management
vs.
The Drivers

“Do the access management standards, as written, make sense for this community?”
Access Management vs. The Drivers

Hernando Picture
Access Management vs. “The Big Picture”
Access Management vs. “The Big Picture”

“Should access management guidelines evaluate just the driveway/signal/connection spacing, or the access management plan of a project as a whole?”
So Now What?
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So now what?

Yes, each of these examples are unique and have SEVERAL other details that could have, and probably did impact access decisions.

Purpose wasn’t to dispute whether or not the access as granted or denied was justified, not justified etc… but just to identify some of the issues that come up when putting access management into practice.
Ask the Questions!
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“What should we consider when applying access management to this project?”

“How will the access management standards currently in place apply to this project?”

“Is there a better way to provide access to this property?”
Ask The Questions!

“How will that affect the corridor as a whole?”

Safety
Operations
Future Development

“Did I leave the iron on?”

“Does this access management application make sense for this community?”

And many, many, more…
Thank you!

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