

6th National Access Management Conference

Sept. 1, 2004 Kansas City, MO

**Inquiring Minds Want to Know :
Starting a State
Access Management Program**

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Inquiring Minds Want to Know :

**focusing on the questions that
will come to mind when you start
thinking about ...**

Starting a State

Access Management Program

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Inquiring Minds Want to Know : Starting a State Access Management Program

Kansas DOT - Chris Huffman

Minnesota DOT - Peggy Reichert

Missouri DOT - Eileen Rackers

South Dakota DOT - Rick Laughlin

Texas TTI - Bill Frawley

moderator - Jim Gattis, U. of Arkansas

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**Inquiring Minds Want to Know :
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questions & comments WELCOME
(please interrupt me)

Inquiring Minds Want to Know : Starting a State Access Management Program

Realize that organizational and political environments ...

- ✦ can vary from state to state
- ✦ can vary within a state over time

For whatever reason, not every state has had the same experience.

Starting a State Program

⇒ When ?

⊕ = yes	... did the current A M program become effective ?	Was there another program in place before this one ?
Kansas	1997	⊕
Minnesota	2002	⊕
Missouri	2003	
South Dakota	2001	
Texas	2004	

Starting a State Program

- ➡ Was any kind of “steering committee” put in charge of developing the current A M program ?
 - ✦ If “yes”, then what types of job descriptions were on this committee ?

Starting a State Program

- ➡ Discuss the meeting or hearing process employed for the recent start or “upgrade” of your A M program .
- ✦ Were meetings or hearings held ?
- ✦ How many ? Where were they held ?
- ✦ Who attended - general public or only invited people ?
- ✦ Did you “touch base” with key politicians or District Engineers ?

Starting a State Program

- ➡ Discuss the meeting or hearing process employed for the recent start or “upgrade” of your A M program .

YOUR REACTION TO : *If we announced the intent to start A M, I can't imagine how we could overcome opposition from developers and business owners so that we could even get the A M program off the ground ...*

Starting a State Program

- ➡ Was any new enabling legislation enacted for the recent start or “upgrade” of your A M program ?
- ▲ Was new legislation something you wanted to avoid ?

Starting a State Program

➡ What office is your A M program in ?

- ▲ Kansas: central - Traffic Engineering
permit - Area Office (part of District)
- ▲ Minnesota: central - Program Mgmt. (planning)
permit - multidisciplinary Dist. committee
- ▲ Missouri: central - Traffic Engineering
permit - Permit Inspt. (under _____)
- ▲ South Dakota: central - Planning & Programs
permit - Operations
- ▲ Texas: central - Design Division
permit - Area Office (usually; some @ Dist.)

Starting a State Program

- ⇒ What new positions were designated ?
- ⇒ What new documents were created ?
- ⇒ What training has been instituted for ...
 - ✦ employees ?
 - ✦ consultants ?

Starting a State Program

- ➔ Does the current program apply to all roads on the state hwy. system, or just certain categories ? (what about liability concerns?)

⊕ = yes	all roads on the state highway system		just certain categories of state highways
Kansas	⊕		
Minnesota	⊕		
Missouri	SR ⊕	AA ⊕	
South Dakota	⊕		
Texas	SR ⊕	FM ⊕	some exemptions

Starting a State Program

➡ Before allowing access, do you require

+	Fees	Traffic Impact Analysis (sometimes)
Kansas		+
Minnesota		
Missouri		+
S. Dakota		+
Texas		+

Starting a State Program

- ➡ Does your classification system have “rural” and “urban” categories ?
- ✦ If so, how do you set the boundary between rural and urban ?

Starting a State Program

➡ Permits

- ⬆ Does the permit application/review process for a residential or a farm drive differ from an application/review for a commercial development ?

⊕ = yes	Does differ
Kan	⊕
Minn	⊕
Mo	⊕
S D	⊕
Tex	⊕

Starting a State Program

➡ Permits

✦ How are requests for appeals/variances handled ?

- Is there some formal difference between a “minor” and a “major” variance ?

✦ Is it better to write specific, restrictive rules, and have variances; or write general rules and avoid the need for exceptions ?

+	Tough rules	Loose rules
Kan	+	
Minn	+	
Mo	+	
S D	+	
Tex	+	

Starting a State Program

➡ Permits

- Does the permit contain wording so that if the land use changes, the permit does not automatically continue in effect and has to be reapplied for ?
- Do you grant “temporary permits” that expire in the future when alternative access becomes available (such as when a new side road or backage road is finally constructed) ?

Starting a State Program

➡ Land Use Control

- Do you have any land use control powers?
- What has been your experience with circumventing limitations on the number of accesses allowed by subdividing the tract ?
 - How do you deal with this ?

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Realize that organizational and political environments ...

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Perhaps the relative success of an A M program to some degree varies according to who (the key players) is involved
[planners may be more comfortable with this than engineers]

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thank you