

Access Management

‘One-pager’ originally prepared for the HQ Quarterly Review

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Program Area: Arterial Congestion Management (Halkias’ team).

Focus Area: Access Management

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Goals:

1. Encourage good access management principles whenever new or improved land development, and new or improved roadway construction, is considered.
2. Revisit and improve upon existing access management whenever safety studies are instituted.
3. To promote that national, regional, and local business groups and authorities acknowledge the importance of good access management. Ideally, state and local jurisdictions should incorporate and apply written guidelines, strategies, and “positions” that promote these practices among their respective permitting agencies, for those are the groups that have authority to enforce and employ good practices.

Scope: Access Management is a set of techniques that State and local governments can use to control access to highways, major arterials, and other roadways. The benefits of access management include improved movement of traffic, reduced crashes, and fewer vehicle conflicts. Four proven access management techniques are:

1. *Access Spacing:* increasing the distance between traffic signals improves the flow of traffic on major arterials, reduces congestion, and improves air quality for heavily traveled corridors.
2. *Driveway Spacing:* Fewer driveways spaced further apart allows for more orderly merging of traffic and presents fewer challenges to drivers.
3. *Safe Turning Lanes:* dedicated left- and right-turn, indirect left-turns and U-turns, and roundabouts keep through-traffic flowing. Roundabouts represent an opportunity to reduce an intersection with many conflict points or a severe crash history (T-bone crashes) to one that operates with fewer conflict points and less severe crashes (sideswipes) if they occur.
4. *Median Treatments:* two-way left-turn lanes (TWLTL) and nontraversable, raised medians are examples of some of the most effective means to regulate access and reduce crashes.

Key Activity Since Last Quarterly Review:

1. A teleconference meeting was held on April 19, 2004, primarily for the purpose of discussing Christine Johnson’s concerns relating to access issues on highways in the western region. An improved Roadmap and Program Plan were discussed, as well as intent to have a follow up meeting to address that there needs to be discussion of this specific topic at the Associate Administrator’s level. Specifically, access management of interchanges may need to encompass more than just the FHWA eight (8) guiding principles that mostly address justification and conformity.

2. The Roadmap and Program Plan have been significantly revised and are currently undergoing final review and acceptance.
3. Washington State is in the midst of creating an AM “overview” video for topics or projects in their state. Grant Zammit and others have promoted the idea of piggybacking on their work to extrapolate an updated (from 1997) generic AM video that presents the benefits of this topic.
4. The revision for the NHI course #133078 on Access Management was scoped and was subsequently solicited by NHI for a sole-source bid.

Planned Activity over the Next Quarter

1. Staff (Spiller) will participate on the panel for NCHRP 08-46 *A Guide for Including Access Management in Transportation Plans*. The next panel meeting is scheduled for July 15 in Washington, D.C. at the National Academies.
2. Staff (Spiller) will participate on the panel for NCHRP 35-06 *Access Rights*, replacing John Harding in this capacity. Next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2004 in Washington D.C.
3. Neil Spiller from HQ staff and other FHWA staff will attend the 6th National Conference on Access Management, Aug 29 – September 1, 2004, in Kansas City, Missouri. Kathy Facer (HEP) is directly involved with the conference program planning committee.
4. Award of the contract to revise the NHI Access Management course #133078 and initiation of this effort is expected in the coming quarter.
5. \$50,000 ‘Outreach’ money was spent thusly; \$5200 to purchase 100 more copies of the TRB Manual for availability to FHWA division staff, and the remainder (\$44,800) was obligated to NHI to supplement funds to update the AM Course. Another \$25,000 was allocated towards the 6th National Conference to fund the conference proceedings.

Current Interest or Potential Future Areas of Attention

- Beaumont, TX is looking at Access Management on US 69 project frontage roads; including the use of simulation to support analysis.
- The WA division has elevated interest in linking Asset Management and Access Management (several overlapping benefits of one serving the other). One potential avenue for this is to include discussion in the NHI AM Course update. Look for other avenues.
- How do we (or should we) consider Access Management on Arterials in the context of the Interstate Access Request - Policy Points 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7? If this is not the reason for Stewarding Access Management, what is the basis / justification of our focusing on Access Management?
- There is an increasing inquiry regarding what FHWA Policy is regarding Access Management. Is there a stand-alone policy statement?
- Video “testimonials” will be recorded during the 6th National Conference on Access Management (Kansas City, Mo., Aug 29 – Sept 1, 2004) for future use in products such as conference proceedings, educational tools (videos, CD’s) or a web-based “toolbox” of AM ideas.