



FDM 7-1-1 Purpose and Benefits

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1.1 Originator

The Director of the Bureau of Technical Services is the originator of this chapter. All questions and comments about the contents of this chapter should be directed to Michael Roach at (608) 516-6340.

1.2 General

Access management is the process of planning and maintaining appropriate access spacing, access-point design, and total number of access points to a highway system. The benefits of access management are substantial, and access management actions are expected to be cost effective. The goals of access management are to:

- Protect the public investment in highway facilities;
- Protect the function of state highways;
- Preserve operational safety, capacity and efficiency;
- Promote orderly development of adjacent properties;
- Minimize long-range adverse impacts of future improvements;
- Minimize maintenance costs;
- Delay or eliminate the need to expand or relocate a facility;
- Permit expansion of two-lane facilities to four-lane facilities on the existing location, eliminating the need to completely relocate the facility.

WisDOT intends to provide these benefits to the state trunk highway system by implementing reasonable access management provisions.

The department recognizes that, in implementing access management, a balance must be sought among the following:

- The interests of highway users and the owners or occupants of nearby lands;
- Public investments in highway improvement and maintenance;
- Desirable land development.

This balance requires that access reasonably and suitably accommodates landowners' use of their property while providing a safe and efficient highway.

Therefore, it is not the intent that access management actions limit, restrict, or otherwise reduce access below a point that is deemed by WisDOT to be necessary and adaptable to serve the needs of the landowners. The intent of access management is to allow adequate, safe, and reasonably convenient access to land and land uses, consistent with the interest of public safety and the preservation of the public investment in the highway facility.

The following is a list of tools used by WisDOT to manage access on state highways. Each of these tools is described in detail in following sections of this chapter.

- Statutory control of highway access
- Purchase of access rights
- Driveway permitting
- Access covenants
- Land use/access management plans
- Transportation impact analyses
- Land division/development proposal review
- Joint access easement agreements
- Official mapping
- Early review of local rezoning and/or site plan development
- Input into local zoning ordinances and land use plans that affect state highways

- Freeway or expressway designation
- Subdivision plat review
- Scenic easements
- Access spacing and design guidelines
- Interchange and frontage road spacing and design.