

Purpose of This Handbook

Access management is defined as the control of driveways and intersections to maintain safety at a roadway's full traffic carrying capacity. Implementing an access management program based on the principles described in this handbook will encourage smooth and safe traffic flow on a community's roadways and will help communities avoid some of the traffic problems caused by uncontrolled strip development.

This handbook emphasizes the importance of including access management principles in a community's comprehensive development plan. However, communities without a comprehensive plan or whose plan does not address access management can still use the guidelines suggested in this handbook to develop a successful access management program.

This book will be especially helpful for city and county officials who want to include access management standards in local ordinances such as zoning, subdivision, or site plan review ordinances. The appendices include the Iowa Primary Road Access Management Policy adopted by the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), and example ordinances that can be implemented at the city and county levels.

While this handbook is designed specifically for Iowa, officials from other states may find the general definitions and principles helpful. Of course, the code of other states may be different from Iowa's, and therefore portions of this handbook may not be pertinent to officials in those states.

How to Use This Handbook

Chapter 1 defines the terms used throughout this handbook.

Chapter 2 addresses current problems, including traffic congestion resulting from unplanned roadside development along arterial roadways, and the need for collaboration between state and local governments.

Overview

Chapter 3 explains the basic principles and benefits of access management. Benefits include preserving highway capacity, reducing crashes, and enhancing economic vitality.

Chapter 4 describes and illustrates types of access management strategies that are best suited for the local level, including strategies to limit driveway numbers and remove slow turning vehicles from the arterial. This chapter also suggests access management strategies related to other issues like transit and pedestrians.

Chapter 5 shows how a comprehensive plan plays an important role in developing and implementing a local access management program. This chapter also discusses some of the unique issues involved with retrofitting existing corridors.

Chapter 6 discusses how to involve the public in support of a community's access management project.

Appendix A provides an example access management ordinance that can be adopted by a city in Iowa. **Appendix B** provides an example access management ordinance that can be adopted by a county in Iowa. **Appendix C** contains the text of Chapter 306A of the Code of Iowa, which grants the authority to the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) to control access on the state's highways, and The Iowa Primary Road Access Management Policy, which implements Chapter 306A through rules and regulations promulgated by the Iowa DOT.

The **Endnotes** section lists sources of tables, charts, graphics, and other information used throughout the text. The **References** section lists additional readings that users of this handbook may find helpful.