



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
*Office of the*  
SECRETARY of TRANSPORTATION

**Access Management Regulations**

Pierce Homer  
Secretary of Transportation  
January 8, 2008



## **Background**

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- **2006: Budget Bill directed VDOT to develop legislative proposal on access management**
- **2007: SB1312 and HB2228 were introduced and unanimously passed**
- **Require VDOT Commissioner to publish regulation by December 31, 2007 with effective date of July 1, 2008**

## **Access Management**

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### **Legislation stated that:**

*The access management standards shall include but not be limited to standards and guidelines for the location, number, spacing, and design of entrances, median openings, turn lanes, street intersections, traffic signals, and interchanges.*

## **Benefits and Goals of Access Management**

- **Preserve public investment in new and existing highways**
- **Enhance public safety by reducing conflicting traffic movements**
- **Reduce the need for new or wider highways by preserving the performance of existing highways**
- **Support economic development by promoting the efficient movement of goods and people**

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## **Implementation**

- **Regulation will be phased**
  - **July 1, 2008: Principal Arterials**
  - **Jan 1, 2009: Minor Arterials**
  - **July 1, 2009: Collectors**
- **Regulation recognizes vested property rights**
  - **Proffered rezonings, site plans, subdivision plats and preliminary subdivision plats may have entrances that do not meet regulations**

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## **Implementation**

- **Regulation is not retroactive**
  - **VDOT will not close existing entrances**
- **Parcels of land abutting a state highway will be granted at least one entrance, except for limited access highways**
- **VDOT may work with individual localities on corridor plans**
- **Appeals and exceptions process with deadlines for VDOT decisions**

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## **Public Input and Process**

- **VDOT technical committee developed draft regulation (summer)**
- **VDOT formed a Policy Advisory Committee (summer/fall)**
  - Consisting of stakeholders, which reviewed and refined the regulation based on input from members and public comment
- **Solicited public comment during the Month of October**
  - Press release announcing public comment period
  - Draft regulations published in Register and Townhall
  - Held Public Hearing October 22

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## **Public Input and Process**

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- **Commonwealth Transportation Board briefed in December on regulation**
- **Commissioner published regulations December 31 in accordance with statutory directive**
- **Additional public comment will be solicited by VDOT**

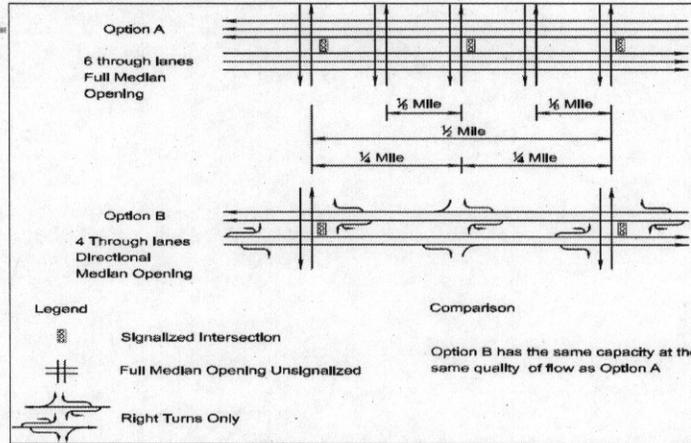
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## **Access Management**

- **Accomplishes goals through:**
  - Spacing standards for entrances and intersections based on the type of entrance and highway functional classification
  - Signal spacing to maximize the progression of traffic on highways
  - Locating entrances a safe distance from intersection turning movements
  - Inter-parcel access between properties such as circulator or frontage roads and access easements
  - Consolidation and sharing of highway entrances

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# Access Management



Source: *Final Report of the Colorado Access Control Demonstration Project*, Colorado Dept of Transportation, Denver, June, 1985 and *Access Management Manual*, Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, Washington, D.C., 2003.

## **Access Management**

**Spacing Standards generally do not apply:**

- **On older, established business corridors**
- **To the streets internal to new urbanism and traditional neighborhood developments**
- **On highway corridors with local access management**

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## **Access Management**

### **Other states and localities with access management standards:**

**States: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Utah.**

**Localities in Virginia: Powhatan, New Kent, Goochland, Fauquier, Route 13 corridor through Accomack and Northampton**



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