

## What is Access Management?

Access management involves making good decisions about where and how vehicles get on or off major routes. Studies show that routes with frequent driveways and intersections experience more accidents and congestion than routes with more moderate access spacing. Many states, counties and cities regulate access to serve the property adjacent to the roadway while keeping accidents and congestion to a minimum.

Some common highway features are used in access management. Those features include:

- Spacing of driveways and intersections
- Spacing of traffic signals
- Using medians in congested conditions
- Turn lanes for heavy traffic movement

Driveway spacing, in particular, gets close scrutiny when applications for new access are reviewed.

South Dakota has established access management through laws and administrative rules. Two of the most important regulations are SDCL 11-3-12.1 and Section 70:09 of the state administrative rules. Section 11-3-12.1 provides that access to any property adjacent to a state highway must be approved by SDDOT prior to approval of the property plat by a local government. Section 70:09 outlines the rules for access to state highways and the procedures for access permits. Permits, permitting information, and approach permit forms may be obtained from SDDOT Area Offices.



*Raised median on 26th Street in Sioux Falls.*

## SDDOT Area Offices

Aberdeen Area Office  
PO Box 1767  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-1767  
605-626-7885

Watertown Area Office  
PO Box 1446  
Watertown, SD 57201-1446  
605-882-5166

Sioux Falls Area Office  
PO Box L  
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1927  
605-367-5680

Mobridge Area Office  
PO Box 488  
Mobridge, SD 57601-0488  
605-845-3844

Belle Fourche Area Office  
PO Box 786  
Belle Fourche, SD 57717-0786  
605-892-2872

Rapid City Area Office  
PO Box 1970  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1970  
605-394-2248

Huron Area Office  
PO Box 940  
Huron, SD 57350-0940  
605-353-7140

Mitchell Area Office  
PO Box 1206  
Mitchell, SD 57301-7206  
605-995-8120

Yankton Area Office  
1306 W. 31<sup>st</sup> St.  
Yankton, SD 57078-9662  
605-668-2929

Pierre Area Office  
104 S. Garfield  
Pierre, SD 57501-5405  
605-773-5294

Winner Area Office  
PO Box 771  
Winner, SD 57580-0771  
605-842-0810

Custer Area Office  
PO Box 431  
Custer, SD 57730-0431  
605-673-4948

For more information on access management contact:

Corridor Preservation Specialist  
South Dakota Department of Transportation  
5316 W. 60th Street N.  
Sioux Falls, SD 57107  
(605) 367-5680

or

Corridor Preservation Specialist  
South Dakota Department of Transportation  
P. O. Box 1970  
Rapid City, SD 57709-1970  
(605) 394-2248

*For additional copies of this brochure, contact any of the Area Offices of the Department of Transportation listed above, or print a copy from the web site:  
[www.sddot.com/pub.asp?mode=list&TypeID=1](http://www.sddot.com/pub.asp?mode=list&TypeID=1)*



## The South Dakota Department of Transportation's Commitment to Safety





# Why Access Management?

When a road fills up with traffic, build more roads. That's been the traditional transportation role of state and local governments in the past. But things are changing in American transportation and government's role is also changing.

Changes in American highway transportation are reflected in statistics that show a widening gap between our desire to travel and our ability to pay for highway improvements.

One technique being used to maximize public invest-

## *Goal of Access Management*

*Provide access to land development while preserving safety, capacity and speed of traffic on streets and highways.*

ment is *access management* that controls the number of approaches along a roadway and their location. Twenty years of experience shows access management provides public benefits in safety and efficiency.

Highway trends during the last decade show marked increases in accidents and traffic. The total number of accidents in South Dakota rose from roughly 15,000 per year in 1990 to nearly 20,000 per year in 2000. Vehicle miles traveled in South Dakota also



*Streets with access management can become attractive parkways*

increased, from about 7 billion per year to 8.6 billion per year.

National statistics reveal similar growth in accidents and miles traveled by Americans. They also show that road and street mileage increased by about 2% between 1980 and 2000, but the number of vehicles using those facilities increased by 39.8%. While highway demand increased, the money spent on roads nationally during this time period decreased by 46%, when adjusted for the effect of inflation.

State and local governments have reacted to increased traffic demands, stagnant supply and decreased funding by trying to be more efficient. They are seeking to manage roadways so they operate safely and efficiently over longer periods, maximizing the return from public highway investment.

## *Access Management Minimizes Costs*

*Driveway-access accidents alone cost South Dakota approximately \$36.5 million each year.*

Access management provides South Dakota benefits in three ways:

- **Minimizes access-related accidents** – Well-managed access points can improve user safety by reducing the number, severity and cost of access-related accidents. For example, increased spacing between driveways allows motorists more time to anticipate and recover from slowing and turning traffic. Drivers also face fewer decisions and chances for error when driveway spacing is increased.
- **Preserves our investment and mobility** – South Dakota's roadways represent a major public investment. Poorly designed access points increase congestion and accidents, decrease speed, degrade our investment and cause us to spend more for roadways. Managing access maintains regional mobility. When drivers can use existing roadways

without excessive delays, people and goods flow more freely through our state, reducing shipping costs and inventory costs. That can mean a lot. Saving one hour of carrier time reduces transportation costs by \$168.

## *Access Management Extends Public Investment*

*Managing access not only increases regional mobility but also prolongs the life of existing roads.*

- **Preserves opportunities for healthy economic development** – When roadways are not carefully managed, the adjacent properties can be affected. Streets and highways with congestion and accidents will eventually drive away customers to other businesses. The best long-term environment for business and economic development includes transportation service from well-planned and managed roadways.

South Dakota has entrusted SDDOT with providing good stewardship of the roadway system, and the public investment the system represents. Access management is a proven tool to meet that stewardship responsibility.



*Access management can be used to keep traffic moving in rapidly growing suburbs*