

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

ROSS COUNTY, OHIO

What is Access Management

Access Management is a program to manage a highways ability to move traffic and to improve the design and location of access connections to state, county and township roads while at the same time providing necessary and reasonable ingress and egress to properties along those roads.

Benefits of Access Management

- A. Access Management improves public safety by:
 - Reducing the potential for high driveway densities along a road and conflict points. For example, as driveway spacing increases, motorist's reaction time to turning vehicles, improves;
 - Improving the movement of people and goods by reducing traffic delays;
 - Supporting economic development by providing appropriate accessibility.
- B. Safer and more efficient travel for the traveling public, including pedestrians and bicyclists. Each new access point added to an undivided highway in an urban ,suburban or rural area increases the annual accident rate probability.
- C. Studies have shown that Access Management can reduce accidents and safely increase travel speeds.
- D. Access managed highways are more efficient, and safer, thereby benefiting the taxpayers by providing greater use of existing roads.
- E. Land and surrounding infrastructure are often more efficiently utilized when Access Management tools are applied to property development.
- F. Preserves and plans for healthy economic development – Businesses can often benefit from increased economic vitality when situated along a well-managed corridor because of easier and safer access to and from their establishments.

Article I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01

Authority

These regulations are adopted pursuant to the authority granted to Boards of County Commissioners by Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 5552.

Section 1.02

Purpose

County government working with state, townships, and other local agencies to improve the safety, capacity, and utility of the roads in Ross County.

Section 1.03

Applicability

These regulations apply to all county and township public roads within unincorporated Ross County and to all properties that abut these roadways. These regulations do not apply to State Highways or platted major subdivisions, but do apply to all subdivisions not required to be platted as referenced by (O.R.C. 5552.03).

Section 1.04

Title

These regulations shall be known as the Access Management Regulations for Ross County, Ohio.

Section 1.05

Relation to other restrictions

These regulations shall be the minimum requirements. Whenever these regulations are at variance with any and all laws of the State of Ohio, or other lawfully adopted rules or regulations, the provisions of the most restrictive of such rules or laws shall prevail.

The Ross County Access Management Regulations shall be consistent with the existing Ross County Planning Commission Regulations and should be coordinated with any relevant zoning regulations.

Section 1.06

Severability

Each article, section, or other divisible part of these regulations is hereby declared severable, and if such an article, section or part is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction in a valid judgment or decree, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining portions thereof.

Section 1.07

Preliminary Access Approval for County & Township Roads

Prior to any lot split approval, or the transfer of any applicable lot that is not subject to a lot split approval, the owner of said parcel shall make application to the Ross County Planning & Building Department, for preliminary access approval to County and Township roads. Access to State highways shall require an ODOT access permit, a copy of which shall be submitted to the Ross County Planning & Building Department. The preliminary access approval will indicate which locations are acceptable and in conformance with the Ross County Access Management Regulations and applicable ODOT regulations. The preliminary access approval may be issued within seven working days following submission of documentation required by these regulations for all County and Township roads. Preliminary access approval may not be issued when access is not required or when provisions for access are to be determined at a later date.

For preliminary access approval or for access permit issuance, on County And Township roads, the Ross County Planning & Building Department may require the following information be shown on either a survey plat or other accurate drawing by a registered engineer or surveyor:

1. Distances from the side property lines to the nearest adjacent driveways and their uses.
2. Location of any driveways on the property and their use.
3. Location of proposed driveway.
4. Other information as may be required.

Failure to apply for preliminary access approval will result in the immediate application of a Penalty under Section 1.09 of these regulations.

Section 1.08

Access Permits for County & Township Roads

Prior to the construction of a driveway or approach, the property owner shall obtain the issuance of an access permit from the governmental authority having jurisdiction. The permit will be for a location that is in conformance with all applicable regulations in this document and any applicable ODOT regulations.

- A. Access permits for County Class III road access should be issued within seven (7) working days following submission of all information required by these regulations.
- B. For all other County driveway classifications, access permits should be issued within thirty (30) days following submission of all information required by these regulations.
- C. Any access permit for County or Township roads which is not approved, disapproved or scheduled for a variance hearing within the 30 day time frame shall be deemed approved and shall be issued in accordance with the information submitted.
- D. An access permit fee as established by the Board of Commissioners to cover the cost of administering the County regulations shall accompany the access permit application.
- E. Access permits for County and Township roads shall expire if the driveway is not constructed within one (1) year of the date of access permit issuance.

Section 1.09

Penalties (ORC 5552.99)

Whoever violates an Access Management regulation adopted under Section 5552.02, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense, each day of violation is a separate offense.

Article II

DEFINITIONS

Section 2.01

Interpretation

For the purpose of these regulations, certain terms and words are to be defined as found in this Article. Words and terms not specifically defined carry their customarily understood meanings. The word “shall” is mandatory; the word “may” is permissive.

Section 2.02

Definitions

Access Management	A set of policies and standards that manage the number and Location of access points (driveways) on to the public road System.
Culvert	A drain as a pipe like construction usually made of Corrugated plastic, metal or concrete that passes under a road or through an embankment.
Curb Cuts	Limiting the number of new driveways, especially along major roads (i.e., one driveway per existing lot or parcel) or control driveway spacing.
Drive Pipe	For the purpose of the regulations, drive pipes/culverts are used to allow the free flow of storm water for drainage purposes. Drive pipes shall be made of a minimum 12” diameter of corrugated double wall smooth bore plastic metal or concrete.
Driveway	Any point of access from a parcel of land onto the public street or roadway.

Engineer	Any person registered to practice professional engineering in the State of Ohio.
Grade	The slope of a road, street, or public way, specified on Percentage (%) terms.
ODOT	The Ohio Department of Transportation, 650 Eastern Ave. Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 740/773/2691

Article III

ACCESS

Section 3.01

Responsibility

DRIVEWAY AND APPROACHES

ORC Section 5543.16 “Construction and repair of approaches and driveways; cost” states:

- “The owners of land shall construct and keep in repair all approaches or driveways from County or Township roads, under the direction of the County Engineer.”
- Property owners at their expense shall furnish all material, labor, and equipment necessary for construction and proper maintenance of driveways and approaches.
- If at any time the culvert ceases to function properly, State, County or Township forces may remove it in order to insure proper highway drainage.
- If, during road and ditch maintenance operations, the entity performing the maintenance destroys the approach or driveway of any abutting property owner, it will be reconstructed by that entity.

EXISTING DRIVES AND APPROACHES

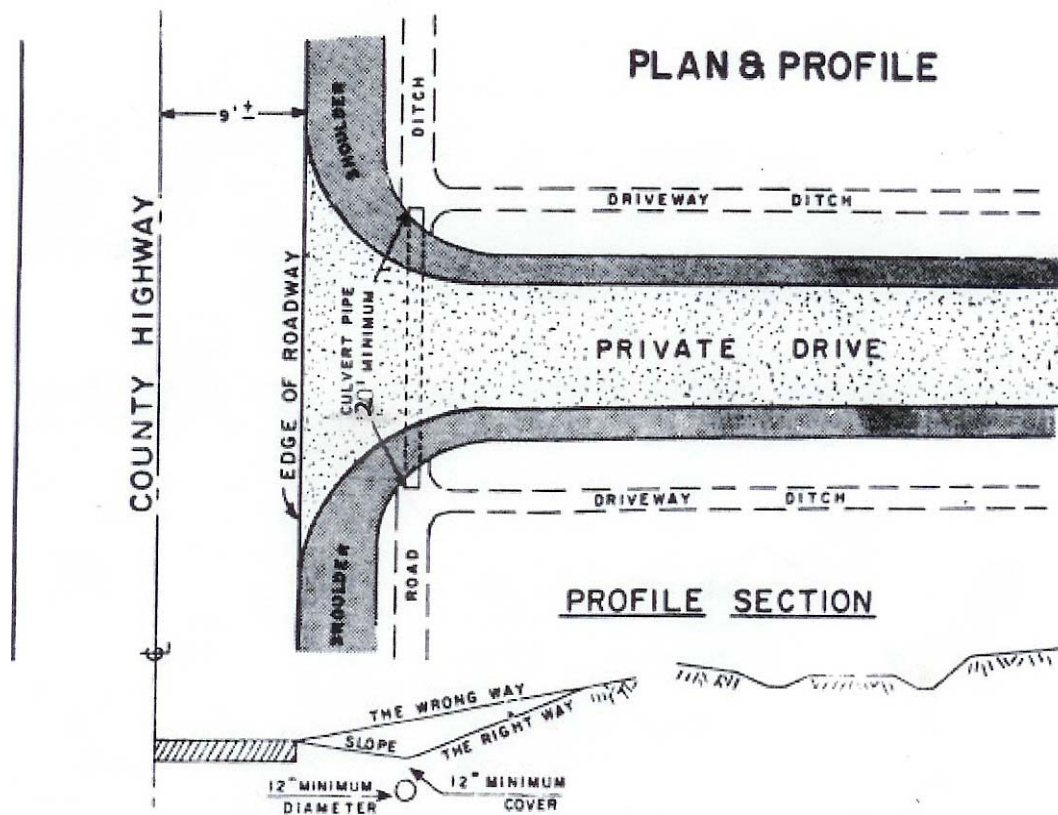
Nonconforming access points – legal access connections in place as of the date of adoption of Access Management guidelines that do not conform with the standards set therein are considered non conforming features and shall be changed:

1. When new access or modified accessed to public rights-of-way and/or access permits are requested;
2. Change in use, enlargements or improvements that will increase trip generation.

Section 3.02

Design Requirements

- Maintain a minimum grade and develop drive profile to generally conform to shoulder contour. Drive and approach to be so constructed to avoid washout of loose surface material and so that no surface water will be drained onto public highways.
- Culvert for drive shall be laid to line and grade of adjacent roadside ditch or as specified by the County Engineer or Township Trustee.
- Pipe size shall be a minimum of 12-inch diameter by 20 feet long or as specified by the County Engineer or Township Trustee.
- Recommended Pipe: corrugated metal, reinforced concrete, extra strength vitrified clay, or corrugated smooth wall plastic or polyethylene.
- Cover over pipe will vary according to individual conditions, however a minimum of 12" is recommended.
- Approaches shall be level with or below road level for approximately 25 feet. (See Plan & Profile)
- Where slope and contour of the access point will not permit a **Terraced Drive & Level or Below Level Approach Pad**, a **Sheet Flow Runoff Interceptor** or other acceptable means of Sheet Flow Diversion shall be installed.



Section 3.03

Drainage

All driveway permits shall have a pipe size shown on their application form. This size shall be determined by the Ross County Engineer, the Township having jurisdiction or the Ohio Department of Transportation. Engineering for any access point is not the responsibility of a public entity.

Section 3.04

Road Classification

To further promote the safety, capacity and utility of the roads in Ross County, all access locations will be based on sight distance and road classification. Driveway spacing and road frontage requirements on all County and Township roads will continue to be regulated by the Ross County Planning Commission. These criteria can be found in the **2005 Ross County Subdivision Regulations Article IX as amended**. For the purpose of these regulations all county and township roads will be placed in one of the following categories.

Limited Access – These roads have no private or commercial access.

Class I – These roads are all State and U.S. Highways in Ross County and are not regulated by these Access Management Regulations, **however access to these roads** are regulated by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Class IIA & IIB – These collector roads are capable of moderated traffic volumes at moderate speeds.

- **Class IIA** is a major collector road and **Class IIB** is a minor collector road. The access from these roads shall be limited to one direct access per parcel. Additional access may be allowed if the Ross County Engineer or his designee determines it meets access safety, design, and any other applicable Access Management Regulations.

Class III – These roads are capable of low to medium traffic volumes and traffic speeds. More than one direct access per parcel is permitted subject to all safety considerations.

All roads not designated as Limited Access, Class I, Class IIA or Class IIB are designated as Class III roads.

Section 3.05

Sight Distance

Below are sight distances as regulated by Table 5 of the Ross County Subdivision Regulations. Speed limits for roadways are based upon the posted legal rate of speed. On roadways without postage signage Ohio law identifies them as 55 mph zones.

Every effort shall be made to obtain the best sight distance possible at all times. All approaches should be put in a sag vertical curve, on a long tangent grade or at a hill crest if possible. At no time should a driveway be put just over the crest of a hill or inside of a tight horizontal curve

MIMIMUM REQUIRED SIGHT DISTANCES

ALL CLASS I, US & STATE HIGHWAYS, CONTACT DIVISION 9,
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

Table 5 Minimum Dimensional Requirements

ALL CLASS II (A) COUNTY HIGHWAYS - 325 FT. MINIMUM
SIGHT DISTANCE.

ALL CLASS II (B) & CLASS III COUNTY & TOWNSHIP
HIGHWAYS – 225 FT. MINIMUM SIGHT DISTANCE.

ACCESS MANAGEMENT ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS

Limited Access:

Veterans Parkway
S.R. 207 Connector

Class I:

US Rt 23
US Rt 35
US Rt 50 --- Chillicothe Corporation Limits west to Highland County line.
US Rt 50 --- U.S. 35 split east to the Vinton County line.
SR 104
SR 159
SR 41
SR 138
SR 327
SR 28
SR 180
SR 207
SR 772

Class II (A):

Pleasant Valley Rd --- S.R. 104 to County Road 550
Kellenberger Rd
Orr Rd
River Rd
Hospital Rd
Delano Rd --- From Sulphur Spring Rd to Hospital Rd

Class II (B):

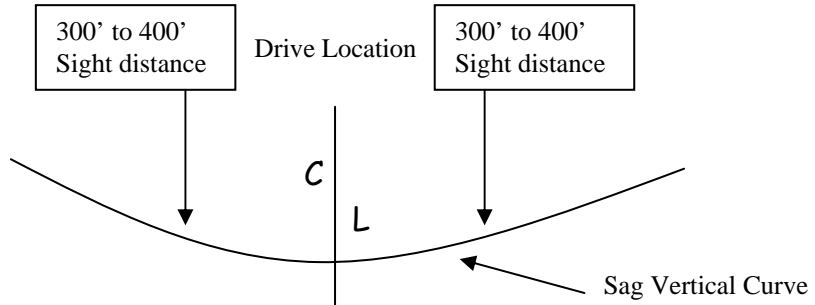
Blain Highway
Charleston Pike --- Chillicothe Corp. limits east to Walnut Creek Road
Clinton & South Clinton Rd
Egypt Pike --- Pleasant Valley Rd west to Westfall Rd
Frankfort--- Clarksburg Pike
Higby Rd
Kingston-Adelphi
Marietta Rd --- US Rt. 23 North to Delano Rd (includes Hopetown Rd.)
Rozelle Creek Rd
Sulphur Spring Rd --- Delano Rd north to SR 180
Three Locks Road
Vigo Road
Westfall Road --- CR 550 North to SR 207
Old US Rt 35 West
Old US Rt 35 East
County Road 550 from Pleasant Valley Rd to S.R. 138

Roads not listed above are Class III roads.

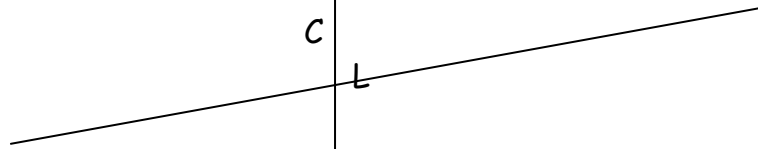
Approach Examples

Acceptable

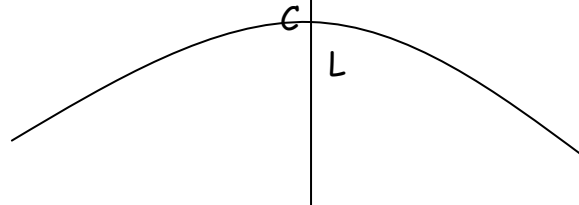
In a sag vertical curve



On a long tangent grade

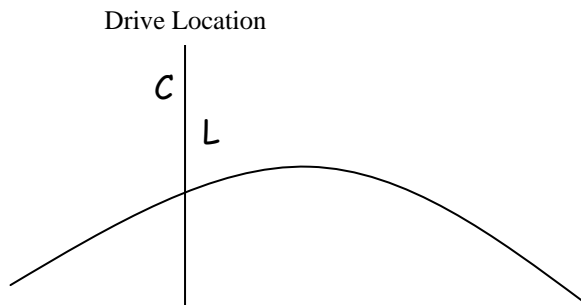


At a hill crest

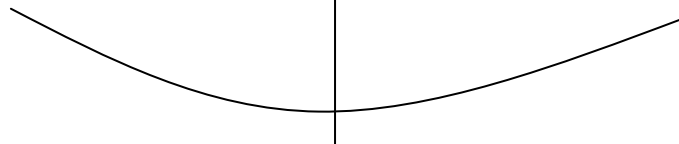


Not Acceptable

Just over a hill crest



Inside of a tight curve



Section 3.06

Inspections

A minimum of two inspections will be required to document compliance with the Access Management Regulations.

1. The first inspection will be conducted after application has been made for the Preliminary Access Permit. This inspection will determine if the requested access point is in compliance with items 3.02,3.03 and 3.05 of these regulations.
2. The second inspection will be conducted after the construction has been completed for an approved access location that is in conformance with these regulations.

Access Feasibility Inspection

In an effort to expedite the permit process a preliminary site visit may be requested to determine if the proposed new access location will be in compliance with these regulations, prior to any survey work being performed.

Section 3.07

Appellate Board

The Ross County Commissioners have designated the Ross County Planning Commission as the Access Management Appellate Board with the authority to hear appeals of decisions of the Planning & Building Department concerning the issuance or denial of access permits and variance request that are not contrary to the public interest from the terms of these regulations where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of these regulations will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the regulations will be observed and substantial justice done.

Application for a Variance

Any owner, or agent thereof, of property for which a variance is sought, shall make an application for a variance by filing it with the Ross County Planning & Building Department no later than 4:00pm the second Tuesday of the month. Upon receipt of the variance request it shall be prepared for transmittal to the Ross County Planning Commission for their public meeting, which is held the third Tuesday of each month. Such application, at a minimum, shall contain the following information; name, address, telephone number of the applicant, legal description of the property, parcel map, description of the existing use, description of the proposed use, location of the proposed access point, description of the variance sought, and reason for the variance request.

Section 3.08

Mailbox Requirements

In order to receive prompt mail delivery and utility service and enable fire, squad, sheriff, and other agencies to locate your residence, please post your number on both sides of your mailbox. We also suggest your name be posted along with your number. If your mailbox is not located adjacent to or across from your driveway, it is required that you attach the number to a post beside your driveway as well as on your mailbox. We strongly recommend that numbers also be posted on the house itself.

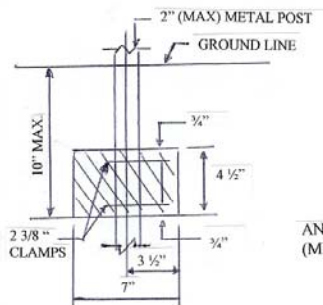
It is recommended that the numbers be 3 inches in height and be reflective for night visibility.

Listed below are recommended methods for erecting your mailboxes. Please follow these suggestions to minimize the chances of injury should a vehicle hit your mailbox.

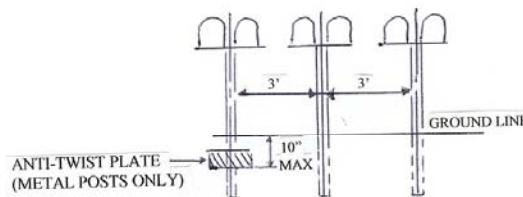
Mailboxes shall be of the breakaway type construction and shall meet the following criteria:

- A. Maximum 4" X 4" or 4 1/2" round timber post.
- B. Maximum 2" I.D. normal pipe size steel post.
- C. Boxes shall be no larger or heavier than the U.S. Postal standards.

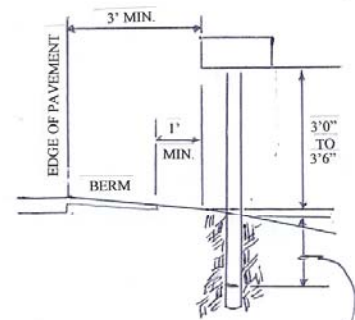
Mailbox post shall not be set in concrete!!



ANTI TWIST PLATE



GROUPED MAILBOX INSTALLATION



18" MIN. (METAL OR TIMBER)
24" MAX. FOR METAL POST

Section 3.09

Effective Date

The effective date of these regulations shall be March 1, 2005.

Permit # _____

County of Ross
Access Permit
Application

The issuance of this permit **does not guarantee** that the sight distance for this driveway is adequate for motorist to safely enter or exit. The issuance of this permit is only a governmental permit and the applicant should not rely upon such permit in determining safe ingress and egress.

(1) This form must be completed by the property owner or their agent.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Twp: _____

(2) Type of permit requested: Commercial Residential Field Utility Drainage

(3) Briefly describe work to be performed. (Attach plans and see Instructions)

(4) Location where work is to be performed. Give sufficient detail to locate the site accurately, such as the distance in miles or feet from nearest address.

(5) Does the property owner own or have any interests in any adjacent property? Yes No

(6) Prior to any excavation in the highway right-of-way, the Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) must be contacted in accordance with ORC Section 3781.25 to 3781.32. OUPS can be reached at 1-800-362-2764.

(7) Open cutting of pavement shall not be permitted unless no reasonable alternate method is available. Written approval of the Ross County Engineer or Township Trustees must be obtained.

(8) I have been given the opportunity to review the policies and regulations pertaining to the permit for which I have applied. If a permit is subsequently issued to me by the Ross County Planning & Building Department, I understand that the permit will state the terms and conditions for its use, and I agree to comply with all conditions and regulations stipulated on or attached to the permit. I also understand and agree that failure to comply fully with all conditions and regulations of the permit or any change in the use of the permit inconsistent with its terms and conditions will be considered a violation and cause for

suspension, revocation, or annulment of the permit thereby rendering the permit illegal and subject to appropriate Department action, up to and including removal of the installation at the permittee's expense.

**SIGN
HERE**



Signature of Property Owner or
Agent for Owner
Date _____
Daytime phone# _____

Preliminary Access Approval: Approved Disapproved

Final Access Approval: Approved Disapproved

Contact the Planning & Building Department for final inspection when access is installed.

Pipe Size: _____

Comments: _____

Address given: _____

Office Use Only
Cash Ck Receipt _____
Date Rec'd _____
By _____
Permit Fee: \$35.00
Regulations: \$3.00

A COPY OF THESE REGULATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ROSS COUNTY
PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR A FEE OF \$3.00.