

Corridor Access Management

Access management is a collection of strategies to help vehicles turn in and out of sites safely while moving through-traffic along a road with a minimum of interruptions. It is most often applied to highways with high levels of traffic that may be lined with businesses. Proper access management requires the coordination of land use and transportation planning to balance the movement of traffic, the preservation of community character, and access to property.

Land-Use/Transportation/Access Connection

Land development has traffic impacts on our urban, suburban, and rural communities. As a particular land use, such as a large retailer, generates trips or traffic in and out, there becomes a need for road improvements to serve that traffic. These improvements provide accessibility, that is, the opportunity to move freely to and from a particular property. This accessibility is one feature that gives the land value, which consequently may attract more development and traffic, diminishing accessibility until further road improvements are made. Hence, we have somewhat of a vicious cycle.

Corridor access management -- through the application of land use controls and design standards -- can help improve safety, preserve capacity on the transportation system, and maintain mobility. This can prevent the need to construct new infrastructure, reducing environmental impacts and costs to taxpayers.

Corridor access management is applicable to any roadway that currently or potentially has problems with driveway access and traffic delays. Ideally, it is applied to roads that currently do not have access problems so that future problems can be prevented. Strip commercial development areas with numerous driveways are the most common locations to apply access

management, although options may be limited due to the constraints of existing development. Access management techniques can also successfully be applied to rural roads and residential streets.

Proper use of corridor access management techniques can provide easier and safer access to (and linkages between) parcels of land, allow for visual enhancements of a transportation corridor, and create opportunities for increased use by pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation.

Basic Techniques of Access Management

Generally, effective corridor access management involves the following fundamental techniques:

- Managing and regulating land uses.
- Limiting access points on high volume roads.
- Applying proper site driveway design and location criteria.
- Minimizing vehicle conflict points.
- Using appropriate roadway design and traffic controls (signs, pavement markings, signals) to maintain or improve traffic flow and safety.
- Facilitating use of alternate modes of transportation (walking, bicycle, transit).

Resources

Access Management Toolkit: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE), www.ctre.iastate.edu/Research/access/toolkit.

Access Management. Genesee Transportation Council, www.gtcmpo.org/Resources/Topics/AxsManagement.htm.

Village of Macedon NYS Route 31 Circulation, Accessibility, and Parking Study. Genesee Transportation Council, 2008, www.gtcmpo.org/Docs/PlansStudies/VofMacedonCAPStudy-FinalReport_withMaps.pdf.

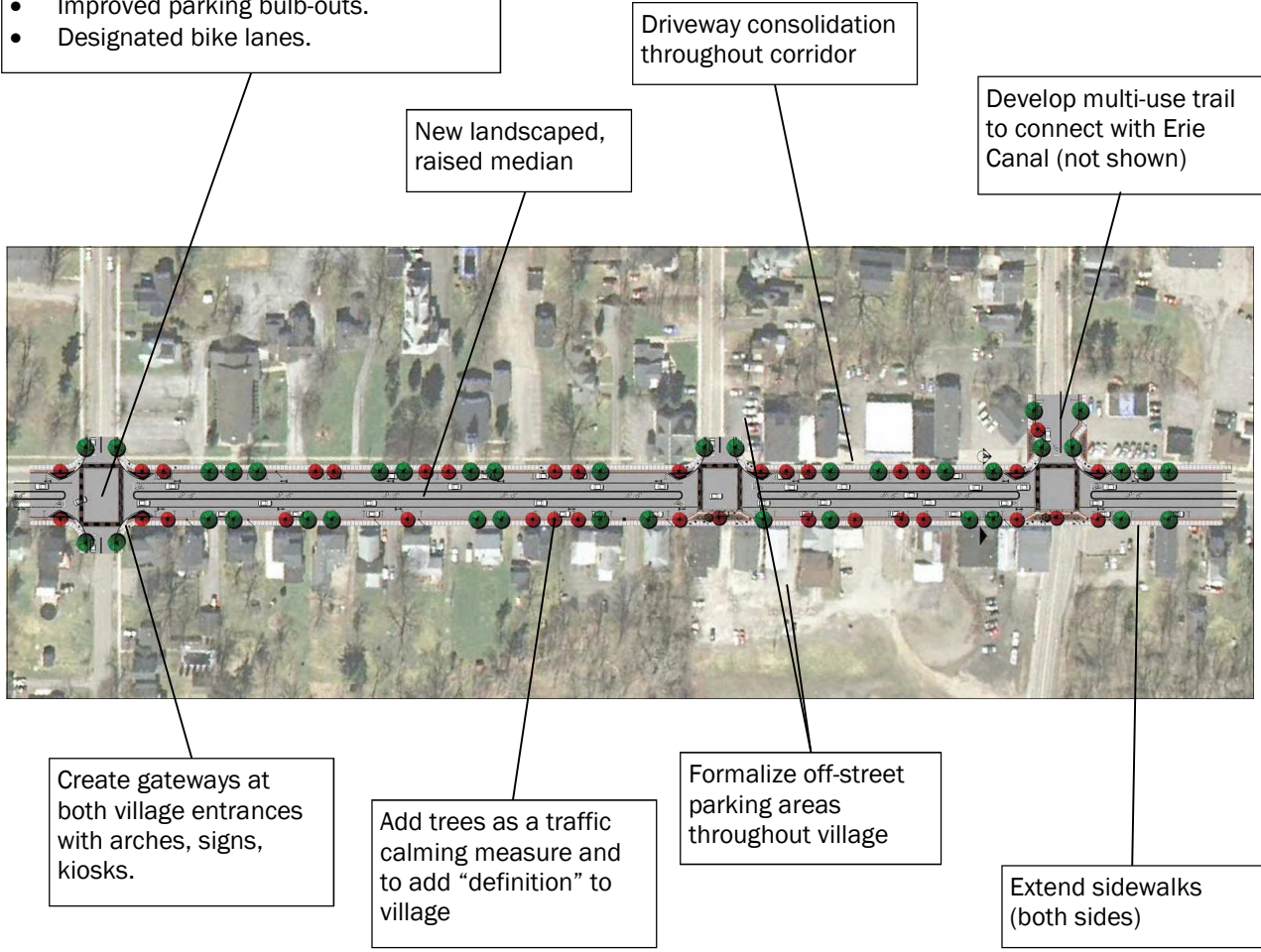
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Case Study

The basic techniques were applied to NYS Route 31 as it passes through the Town of Macedon. Below is a sketch of improvements recommended in a study funded by the Genesee Transportation Council.

- Route 31 Corridorwide Improvements:
- Streetscaping (benches, planters, decorative light fixtures, banners, etc.).
 - Two-way left turn lane.
 - Enhanced crosswalks.
 - Improved parking bulb-outs.
 - Designated bike lanes.



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