

Chapter 16.46

ACCESS LIMITATIONS ON PROJECT DENSITY

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16.46.010 Number of units in residential development.

A major factor in determining the appropriate density of residential development, particularly in higher density areas, is vehicular access. In order to assure that sufficient access is provided for emergency response as well as the convenience of residents, the following special limitations shall be placed on the allowable number of units in a residential development:

A. Single-family residential access, public and private roads:

1. Roads shall be a minimum of 28 feet in width with parking restricted to one side only, or a minimum of 36 feet in width with no parking restriction.
2. The number of units permitted are as follows:
 - One access: 30 units
 - Two accesses: 132 units
 - Three accesses: 207 units

For more than three accesses, use the following formula: # of units permitted = $(60 \times (1 + (.05 \times \# \text{ of access points}))) \times (\# \text{ of access points})$

B. Single ownership developments (condominiums, townhouses, manufactured homes, multi-family developments, etc.).

1. Two lane access roads/drives shall be a minimum width of 20 feet with no parking permitted, or 28 feet with parking restricted to one side only, or 36 feet with no parking restrictions. Three lane access roads/drives shall be a minimum width of 32 feet with no parking permitted, or 40 feet with parking restricted to one side.
2. The number of units permitted are as follows:

<u>Two lane access road/drive</u>		<u>Three lane access road/drive</u>	
One access:	30 units	One access:	30 units
Two accesses:	165 units	Two accesses:	220 units
Three accesses:	258 units	Three accesses:	345 units

For more than three accesses on a two lane access road/drive, use the following formula:

of units permitted = $(75 \times (1 + (.05 \times \# \text{ of access points}))) \times (\# \text{ of access points})$
(round down to the nearest whole number)

For more than three accesses on a three lane access road/drive, use the following formula:

of units permitted = $(100 \times (1 + (.05 \times \# \text{ of access points}))) \times (\# \text{ of access points})$

C. The Planning Commission may allow increases beyond the maximum number of units listed in subsections A and B. Such increases shall be based upon findings that no unwarranted problems for the public street system or emergency service provision will result.

D. All turnaround systems shall meet or exceed the requirements of the parking provisions of Chapter 16.10.

E. All on-site private roads and drives shall be designed and constructed to provide safe intersections and travel surfaces which will not result in hazards for motorists, bicyclists or pedestrians.

F. N. Maple Street, north of NE 23rd Avenue, and S. Elm Street, south of SW 13th Avenue, shall be exempt from the residential unit restrictions for single access roads, provided that legally binding alternative emergency vehicle access is available. Road width requirements for these roads shall remain in effect.

G. Public roads accessing any development shall be a minimum of two travel lanes (twenty-four (24) feet of paved width) to the nearest improved collector or arterial street, provided that any required improvement to provide additional pavement width to access a development meets both of the following conditions:

1. An essential nexus is proven, whereby the required improvement is directly related to the proposed development; and

2. Rough proportionality is proven, whereby the cost of the required improvement is roughly proportional to the impact that the development will have on the infrastructure. Specific findings are required for each of the conditions listed above. If either of the two conditions are not met, the infrastructure is considered to be inadequate, and conditioning approval of a development on the widening of the access to the development is considered to be inappropriate. (Ord. 955 section 22, 1996; Ord. 1019 section 21, 1999; Ord. 1237, 2007)

16.46.020 Ingress and egress.

Ingress and egress to any lot or parcel, the creation of which has been approved by the Planning Commission, shall be taken along that portion fronting on a public street unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission. (Ord. 740 section 10.3.62, 1984)

16.46.030 Access connection.

A. Spacing of accesses on City streets. The number and spacing of accesses on City streets shall be as specified in Table 16.46.030. Proposed developments or land use actions that do not comply with these standards will be required to obtain an access spacing exception and address the joint and cross access requirements of this Chapter. (Ord. 1043 section 3, 2000; Ord. 1076, 2001; Ord. 1237, 2007)

**TABLE 16.46.30
Access Management Guidelines for City Streets***

Street Facility	Maximum spacing** of roadways	Minimum spacing** of roadways	Minimum spacing** of roadway to driveway***	Minimum Spacing** driveway to driveway***
Arterial	1,000 feet	660 feet	330 feet	330 feet or combine
Collector	600 feet	250 feet	100 feet	100 feet or combine
Neighborhood/Local	600 feet	150 feet	50 feet****	10 feet

* Exceptions may be made in the downtown commercial district, if approved by the City Engineering or Public Works Department, where alleys and historic street grids do not conform to access spacing standards.

** Measured centerline on both sides of the street

*** Private access to arterial roadways shall only be granted through a requested variance of access spacing policies when access to a lower classification facility is not feasible (which shall include an access management plan evaluation).

**** Not applicable for single-family residential driveways; refer to section 16.10.070(B)(10) for single-family residential access standards

Note: Spacing shall be measured between access points on both sides of the street. (Ord. 1340, 2011)

16.46.035 Restricted access.

The City may allow an access to a City street that does not meet the spacing requirements of Table 16.46.030 if the proposed access is restricted (prevents certain turning movements). The City may require an applicant to provide an engineered traffic study, access management plan, or other information as needed to demonstrate that the roadway will operate within the acceptable standards with the restricted access in place. (Ord. 1237, 2007). Access to OR 99E shall be regulated by ODOT through OAR 734.51. (Ord. 1340, 2011)

16.46.040 Joint and cross access.

Any developments requiring site plan review that do not meet access spacing requirements are subject to these requirements. In these cases, the following information shall be shown on the site plan.

A. Adjacent commercial or office properties classified as major traffic generators (e.g. shopping plazas, office parks), shall provide a cross access drive and pedestrian access to allow circulation between sites.

B. A system of joint use driveways and cross access easements shall be established wherever feasible and shall incorporate the following:

1. A continuous service drive or cross access corridor extending the entire length of each block served to provide for driveway separation consistent with the access management classification system and standards;

2. A design speed of 10 mph and a minimum width of 20 feet to accommodate two-way travel aisles designated to accommodate automobiles, service vehicles, and loading vehicles;

3. Stub-outs and other design features to make it visually obvious that the abutting properties may be tied in to provide cross-access via a service drive;

4. A unified access and circulation system plan for coordinated or shared parking areas is encouraged.

C. Shared parking areas may be permitted a reduction in required parking spaces if peak demands do not occur at the same time periods.

D. Pursuant to this section, property owners shall:

1. Record an easement with the deed allowing cross access to and from other properties served by the joint use driveways and cross access or service drive;

2. Record an easement with the deed that remaining access rights along the roadway will be dedicated to the city and pre-existing driveways will be closed and eliminated after construction of the joint-use driveway;

3. Record a joint maintenance agreement with the deed defining maintenance responsibilities of property owners.

E. The City may reduce required separation distance of access points where they prove impractical, provided all of the following requirements are met:

1. Joint access driveways and cross access easements are provided in accordance with this section.

2. The site plan incorporates a unified access and circulation system in accordance with this section.

3. The property owner enters into a written agreement with the city, recorded with the deed, that pre-existing connections on the site will be closed and eliminated after construction of each side of the joint use driveway.

F. The Planning Department may modify or waive the requirements of this section where the characteristics or layout of abutting properties would make a development of a unified or shared access and circulation system impractical. (Ord. 1043 section 3, 2000)

16.46.050 Nonconforming access features.

Legal access connections in place as of April 19, 2000 that do not conform with the standards herein are considered nonconforming features and shall be brought into compliance with applicable standards under the following conditions:

A. When new access connection permits are requested; or

B. Change in use or enlargements or improvements that will significantly increase trip generation. (Ord. 1043 section 3, 2000)

16.46.060 Amount of access points.

In the interest of promoting unified access and circulation systems, the number of access points permitted shall be the minimum number necessary to provide reasonable access to these properties, not the maximum available for that frontage. All necessary easements, agreements, and stipulations shall be met. This shall also apply to phased development plans. The owner and all lessees within the affected area are responsible for compliance with the requirements of this ordinance and both shall be cited for any violation. (Ord 1043 section 3, 2000)

16.46.070 Exception standards.

A. An exception may be allowed from the access spacing standards if the applicant can provide proof of unique or special conditions that make strict application of the provisions impractical. Applicants shall include proof that:

1. Indirect or restricted access cannot be obtained;
2. No engineering or construction solutions can be reasonably applied to mitigate the condition; and
3. No alternative access is available from a street with a lower functional classification than the primary roadway.

B. Access Management Plan Required. An applicant requesting an access exception may be required to submit an access management plan. The access management plan shall explain the need for the modification and demonstrate that the modification maintains the classified function and integrity of the facility. An access management plan shall be prepared and certified by a traffic or civil engineer registered in the State of Oregon. An access management plan shall at minimum contain the following:

1. The minimum study area shall include the length of the site's frontage plus the distance of the applicable access spacing standard, measured from each property line or access point(s), whichever is greater. For example, a property with 500 feet of frontage on an arterial (required 660 foot access spacing standard) shall have a minimum study area which is 1,820 feet in length.
2. The potential safety and operational problems associated with the proposed access point. The access management plan shall review both existing and future access for all properties within the study area as defined above.
3. A comparison of all alternatives examined. At a minimum, the access management plan shall evaluate the proposed modification to the access spacing standard and the impacts of a plan utilizing the City standard for access spacing. Specifically, the access management plan shall identify any impacts on the operations and/or safety of the various alternatives.
4. A list of improvements and recommendations necessary to implement the proposed access modification, specifically addressing all safety and operational concerns identified.
5. References to standards or publications used to prepare the access management plan.

C. The granting of the exception shall be in harmony with the purpose and intent of these regulations and shall not be considered until every feasible option for meeting access standards is explored.

D. No exception shall be granted where such hardship is self-created.

E. Reasons for denying access spacing exception applications include, but are not limited to, traffic safety concerns, expected or planned traffic increases due to development or road construction, and emergency service provision issues. (Ord. 1043 section 3, 2000; Ord 1237, 2007; Ord. 1340, 2011)

16.46.080 State highway standards.

A. Refer to the Motor Vehicle Chapter of the Transportation System Plan. ODOT regulates access to OR 99E. ODOT shall review and process applications for approaches to OR 99E consistent with *Oregon Highway Plan* standards and OAR 734.51 procedures. An ODOT permit to operate and maintain a State Highway Approach must be approved prior to site occupancy.

16.46.090 Shared access onto state highway.

A. Subdivisions with frontage on the state highway system shall be designed into shared access points to and from the highway. Normally, a maximum of two accesses shall be allowed regardless of the number of lots or businesses served. If access off of a secondary street is possible, then access should not be allowed onto the state

highway. If access off of a secondary street becomes available, then conversion to that access is encouraged, along with closing the state highway access.

B. New direct accesses to individual one and two family dwellings shall be prohibited on all state highways, unless doing so would deny reasonable access to an existing legal lot of record. (Ord 1043 section 3, 2000)