

PREFACE

The 2007 General Assembly unanimously approved legislation ([Chapter 863](#))* proposed by the Governor to direct VDOT's commissioner to develop, solicit public input on, and publish access management regulations and standards by December 31, 2007 to become effective July 1, 2008. The legislative goals for access management are to:

- Reduce traffic congestion,
- Enhance public safety by decreasing traffic crash rates,
- Support economic development by promoting the efficient movement of people and goods,
- Reduce the need for new highways and road widening by maximizing the performance of the existing state highways, and
- Preserve the public investment in new highways.

To assure that a wide variety of viewpoints were considered, multiple techniques were used to gain public input on the draft regulations and standards. The commissioner approved and published the regulations and standards in December 2007.

Legislation was enacted during the 2008 General Assembly session ([Chapter 274](#)) to require that the regulations and standards be implemented in phases. The first phase allowed the access management regulations and standards for VDOT highways classified as principal arterials to take effect July 1, 2008.

During the second phase, the regulations and standards developed during 2007 for minor arterials, collectors, and local streets underwent an extensive public review in accordance with the Administrative Process Act. These regulations and standards became effective on October 14, 2009.

This Appendix, therefore, contains the standards for the design of intersections, turning lanes, and entrances and for the spacing of entrances, intersections, traffic signals, median openings and crossovers that apply to all state highways: principal arterials, minor arterials, collectors, and local streets. If a design standard can not be met a design exception or waiver is required. If a spacing standard can not be met, a spacing exception is required. For more information, see "Exceptions to the Spacing Standards" and "Exceptions/Waivers to the Design Standards" in Section 2.

NOTE:

1. Maps of state highways by functional classification and information on the access management program are on the VDOT web site.
2. The standards do not apply to proposed VDOT minor arterials, collectors and local streets if the construction design plans were presented at a VDOT public hearing prior to October 14, 2009 or principal arterials prior to July 1, 2008.