

Commercial Entrance Spacing

Access management increases the spacing between entrances, thus reducing the number and variety of events to which drivers along the corridor must respond. Close spacing between unsignalized entrances forces the driver to watch for ingress and egress traffic at several locations simultaneously. Increased spacing translates into fewer accidents, savings in travel time, and preservation of corridor capacity.

Entrances shall be located to limit interference with the free movement of roadway traffic, and to provide the most favorable sight distance and entrance grade. No direct access entrance shall be located in the operational area of a signalized intersection. Commercial entrance separation is required by the Access Management Regulations 24VAC30-73-120 using the spacing standards in Table 2-2.

Corner Clearance on a Minor Side Street

It is important to think of the operational impacts of entrance placement on side streets where the side streets intersect with major roadways. The major roadway will have the higher functional classification or if the same classification will have the higher traffic volume. Corner clearance does not apply to the intersection of two functionally classified local streets. The operational character of the traffic turning from the main roadway onto the minor side street as well as the expected queues on the side street, help determine how far to place the closest side street entrance from the intersection.

Moving the basic entrance conflict area away from the vicinity of an intersection can be accomplished by regulating the distance between a crossroad intersection and the nearest entrance location. The intent is to prevent queued vehicles from backing up into the highway or blocking entrances near the intersection. The major effect is that vehicles will be delayed less by standing queues at signalized intersections.

Corner clearance is defined as the distance, measured perpendicular to the major roadway, from the nearest edge of an entrance on the minor side street to the nearest edge pavement of the major roadway intersection.

In most instances, the minimum corner clearance will be governed by the intersection sight distance. Minimum entrance setbacks should be considered at individual intersections, and should be based on typical queue lengths that still allow sufficient movement to and from an entrance.

It is important to note that the Table 2-2 entrance and intersection spacing standards are measured from the centerlines of the intersection and the entrance rather than edge of pavement. As a result, the Table 2-2 spacing measurement may result in a distance that is less than the corner clearance. The corner clearance distance will apply where it is greater than the Table 2-2 spacing standard to protect intersection operation.

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