Franklin County Access Management Regulations

Ohio Planning Conference
“Transport Ohio’s Future”

Presented by
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Traffic Engineer
Franklin County Engineer’s Office

Columbus, Ohio
Wednesday July 27, 2016
Introductions

William “Fritz” Crosier

- B.S. in Civil Engineering from The Ohio State University – 2004
- Licensed Professional Engineer in Ohio – 2008
- Work Experience
- Job Duties
Franklin County

Population
- Total – 1,183,593 (as of 2014)
- Un-incorporated – 92,957 (~8.0%)

Area
- Total – 543.9 Sq. Mi. (as of 2014)
- Un-incorporated – 182.9 Sq. Mi. (33.6%)

Roadways
- Total – 4662.03 mi. (as of 2014)
  - County – 269.57 mi. (5.8%)
  - Township – 363.24 mi. (7.8%)
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

How Access Management Began for Franklin County?

- Always practiced, but never had a formal document to refer to.
- In 2003, after House Bill 366 passed, FCEO attempted to develop regulations.
- In 2009, the Franklin County Subdivision Regulations were updated.
  - Very positive experience with the consultant hired to assist with the development of these subdivision regulations.
  - FCEO was involved with the process and took advantage of momentum by initiating the Access Management Regulations development with the same consultant.
- As an office, we saw a large benefit in setting a clear expectation for land owners and developers.
- Opportunity to provide our office with an additional resource when working with all constituents.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Franklin County Access Management Plan Timeline**
  - Kickoff Meeting – July 2010
  - First Draft – June 2011
  - Second Draft – November 2011
  - Third Draft – February 2012
  - Fourth Draft – February 2012
  - Resolution to Consider Access Management and Establish an Advisory Committee – February 2012
    - County Engineer’s representative
    - A surveyor in private practice
    - Three township trustees selected by Franklin County Twp. Association
    - A representative of the homebuilding industry selected by the Building Industry Association of Central Ohio (BIA)
    - A licensed realtor selected by the Columbus Board of Realtors
    - A representative of the Franklin County Planning Commission
    - An ODOT representative with expertise in Traffic Engineering
    - A representative from MORPC
    - A member of the board of county commissioners
Franklin County Access Management Plan Development

- Kickoff Meeting – July 2010
- First Draft – June 2011
- Second Draft – November 2011
- Third Draft – February 2012
- Fourth Draft – February 2012
- Resolution to Consider Access Management and Establish an Advisory Committee – February 2012
- Resolution to Appoint Members to the Franklin County Access Management Committee – August 2013
- Initial Advisory Committee Meeting – September 2013
- Fifth Draft – October 2013
- Sixth Draft – November 2013
- Final Advisory Committee Meeting – December 2013
- Final Draft – December 2013
- Resolution Adopting Access Management Regulations - December 2013
Tips for Success (During Development of Regulations)

- Don’t reinvent the wheel.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Tips for Success (During Development of Regulations)**
  - Don’t reinvent the wheel.
  - Find other successful access management plans. Refer to them for guidance.
Tips for Success (During Development of Regulations)

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Tips for Success (During Development of Regulations)

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  - Find other successful access management plans. Refer to them for guidance.
- Make sure the issues that have caused you problems are adequately addressed in your plan.
- They’re called an advisory committee for a reason.
  - Utilize their experience in their fields of expertise. It’s a valuable resource.
- Develop regulations that are easily understandable……
  - Not only by the most experienced land developer
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- Develop regulations that are easily understandable…
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  - But by your everyday land owners unfamiliar with the process
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

**Tips for Success (During Development of Regulations)**

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- Develop regulations that are easily understandable……
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So its important to have an understandable and concise overview/mission statement to your regulations that clearly conveys the purpose and benefits of the regulations.
What is Access Management? (per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)

- Access management is the systematic control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, interchanges, and street connections to a roadway to provide adequate access to property while preserving the flow of traffic through the reduction of conflict points.
- It may also involve roadway design applications, such as median treatments and auxiliary lanes, and the appropriate spacing of traffic signals.
Why is Access Management Important? (per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)

- Access management protects the public’s investment in its road/transportation system and extends the life of roads and streets.
- It addresses access issues, reduces traffic conflicts, congestion and delay, and improves public safety.
- It lessens friction in the traffic stream thereby reducing driver tension and overcoming the potential adverse economic impact to an area caused by congestion.
Beneficiaries of Access Management (per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)

- Motorists
  - Fewer decision points and traffic conflicts
  - Less congestion; fewer traffic delays; reduced travel time
  - Reduced accidents; improved safety
  - Reduced driver tension
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Beneficiaries of Access Management** *(per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)*
  - Pedestrians
    - Fewer access points with vehicle/pedestrian conflicts
    - Clearly defined walking areas and safety islands
Beneficiaries of Access Management (per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)

- Cyclists
  - Fewer decision points and traffic conflicts
  - More predictable motorist travel patterns
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Beneficiaries of Access Management** *(per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)*
  - **Transit Riders**
    - Reduced delay and reduced travel times
    - Safer, more comfortable walking environment at stops
    - *Transit stops more convenient and connected*
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Beneficiaries of Access Management** *(per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)*
  - Businesses
    - Served by more efficient roadway system
    - More stable property values due to managed corridor
    - More predictable and consistent development environment
    - Market area increased; greater attraction to customers
Beneficiaries of Access Management (per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)

- Communities
  - Safer transportation system
  - Less potential for road widening and displacement of owners
  - More attractive roadway corridors
  - Investment in transportation facilities preserved
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Beneficiaries of Access Management** *(per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)*
  - **Government Agencies**
    - Transportation investment protected
    - Lower cost of delivering safe and efficient system
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Beneficiaries of Access Management** *(per the Franklin County Access Management Regulations)*
  - Developer
    - Set an expectation for future access by the developer.
Tips for Success (After Adoption of Regulations)

- Encourage your local Development Department to promote your Regulations.
  - In many instances, they are the first agency contacted about a proposed development. They can champion your cause.
- Make your Regulations readily available.
  - Publish them on your website, so they are easily accessible to prospective developers.
- Make your Thoroughfare Plan readily available.
  - The Access Management Regulations are applied to roadways identified on the T-Plan.
- Flexibility is paramount.
  - Every situation is unique.
    - Variances can be granted. For example, existing conditions in urban areas can make it a challenge to meet all standards set forth in the Regulations.
  - The Regulations are a tool to formalize/standardize practice, but engineering judgement can and should always be applied.
Practically speaking, for Franklin County, access management comes in to play in two scenarios:

- Lot Splits
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- Lot Splits
- Commercial Development of Lots
Anything being platted falls under the subdivision regulations which have access management guidelines.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- Anything being platted falls under the subdivision regulations which have access management guidelines.
  - However, a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code is that access management is to work in conjunction with the subdivision regulations.
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- The Process
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
  - Permit Application
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - **Preliminary Meeting**
    - Recommended for permits for large, high volume residential, industrial, and/or commercial and retail development (sites potentially generating 100 or more trip ends in the peak hour).
    - Provides the Engineer’s Office personnel an early opportunity to examine the feasibility of the access proposal with the applicant and to consider whether it is permissible under Franklin County’s access management standards through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
    - Expedites later review and evaluation of the permit application.
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- The Process
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- The Process
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
    - Significantly-Sized Project
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- The Process
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
    - Significantly-Sized Project
    - Modifications to Roadways – Thoroughfare Plan
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
    - Significantly-Sized Project
    - Modifications to Roadways – Thoroughfare Plan
    - Nearby Congestion
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
    - Significantly-Sized Project
    - Modifications to Roadways – Thoroughfare Plan
    - Nearby Congestion
    - High Traffic Impact Area
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
    - Significantly-Sized Project
    - Modifications to Roadways – Thoroughfare Plan
    - Nearby Congestion
    - High Traffic Impact Area
    - Multiple Drives
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

■ The Process
  • Preliminary Meeting
  • Traffic Impact Study Requirements
  • Traffic Access Study Requirements
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
  - Traffic Access Study Requirements
    - Requests for a Driveway
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

The Process

- Preliminary Meeting
- Traffic Impact Study Requirements
- Traffic Access Study Requirements
  - Requests for a Driveway
  - Existing Sight Distance Limitations or High Accident Experience Adjacent to Site
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **The Process**
  - Preliminary Meeting
  - Traffic Impact Study Requirements
  - Traffic Access Study Requirements
    - Requests for a Driveway
    - Existing Sight Distance Limitations or High Accident Experience Adjacent to Site
    - Modification to the internal circulation system that could affect traffic operations on the external roadway system.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

The Process

- Preliminary Meeting
- Traffic Impact Study Requirements
- Traffic Access Study Requirements
- Permit Application
  - Submittal for Review to Appropriate Agency
  - Transmittal to FCEO to Determine if Access Management Review and Permit Necessary
  - FCEO Action (Approval/Denied or Requires Change)
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

Challenges Experienced So Far

- Franklin County’s urban/rural nature.
  - Developing regulations that are appropriate and applicable in:
    - Urban areas
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- Challenges Experienced So Far
  - Franklin County’s urban/rural nature.
    - Developing regulations that are appropriate and applicable in:
      - Urban areas
      - Rural areas
Challenges Experienced So Far

- Applicability – Applying these regulations to new developments that are near properties in which the regulations are not applicable.

Specifically:

- Streets, highways, or other roadways located in a municipal corporation.
Challenges Experienced So Far

- Applicability – Applying these regulations to new developments that are adjacent to properties that the regulations are not applicable to. Specifically:
  - Streets, highways, or other roadways located in a municipal corporation.
  - Any access point that existed, or on which construction had begun prior to the effective date of the regulations.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Benefits Experienced So Far**
  - Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
  - Requirement of an MOU
  - Criteria for Traffic Impact Study
  - Criteria for Traffic Access Study
  - Detailed Breakdown of the Contents of a Study
Benefits Experienced So Far

- Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
- Permit Application Review Process
  - Submittal for Review to Appropriate Agency
  - Transmittal to FCEO to Determine if Access Management Review and Permit Necessary
  - FCEO Action (Approval/Denied or Requires Change)
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- **Benefits Experienced So Far**
  - Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
  - Permit Application Review Process

Figure 1 - Access Management Regulation Review Process
Benefits Experienced So Far
- Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
- Permit Application Review Process
- Access Management Standards at Intersections and on Public Streets
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

Benefits Experienced So Far

- Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
- Permit Application Review Process
- Access Management Standards at Intersections and on Public Streets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Roadway</th>
<th>Public Driveway</th>
<th>Permitted?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major Arterial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVD</td>
<td>Yes (c)</td>
<td>½ mile (d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MVD</td>
<td>Yes (c)</td>
<td>SSD/ISD &amp; Table (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVD</td>
<td>Yes (c)(g)</td>
<td>SSD/ISD &amp; Table (f)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Control</td>
<td></td>
<td>Signal if Warranted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movements</td>
<td></td>
<td>All (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor Arterial</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVD</td>
<td>Yes (c)</td>
<td>¼ mile (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Yes (c)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Movements</td>
<td></td>
<td>All (e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collector</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HVD</td>
<td>Yes (c)</td>
<td>¼ mile (h)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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</table>

Local Street – Full access is permitted per parcel or lot.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

- Benefits Experienced So Far
  - Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
  - Permit Application Review Process
  - Access Management Standards at Intersections and on Public Streets
  - Private Driveway Location and Spacing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Speed Road 1</th>
<th>Low Speed Road 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posted Speed</td>
<td>Minimum Distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 mph</td>
<td>645 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 mph</td>
<td>570 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 mph</td>
<td>495 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 mph</td>
<td>425 ft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 mph</td>
<td>360 ft.</td>
</tr>
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Benefits Experienced So Far

- Traffic Impact Study Guidelines and Requirements
- Permit Application Review Process
- Access Management Standards at Intersections and on Public Streets
- Private Driveway Location and Spacing
- In summary………………

THESE REGULATIONS PROVIDE THE ENGINEER’S OFFICE WITH A SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS, AND RECOGNIZED BY OHIO LAW, WHEN ACCESS-RELATED DECISIONS ARE MADE.
Franklin County Access Management Regulations

THANK YOU

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