

Sight Distance

Properly located and designed driveways allow drivers to see oncoming traffic clearly from the point where the driveway meets the roadway. A turnaround within the driveway is useful in providing vehicles an opportunity to avoid backing onto the roadway. Vegetation such as tree limbs and bushes along both the roadway and the driveway should be trimmed to maintain adequate visibility. The table below provides guidance on recommended sight distances.

Suggested Sight Distances for Passenger Cars Entering Two Lane Roadways from Stop with Various Speed Limits

Operating Speed on Roadway (Mph)	Safe Sight Distance Looking Left from Driveway (ft.)	Safe Sight Distance Looking Right from Driveway (ft.)
20	225	195
30	335	290
40	445	385
50	555	480
60	665	575

Source: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets 2011* (AASHTO: Washington, DC, 2011).

Driveway Density

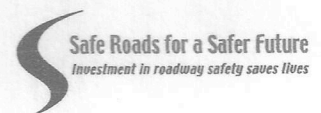
A high density of driveway entrances, as measured by driveways per mile, should be avoided to minimize traffic conflicts and construction costs. As discussed in the *Highway Safety Manual*, areas where effective access management has been implemented have experienced a 5-23 percent reduction in all crashes along two-lane rural highways.⁴ Consolidating multiple, closely-spaced driveways should be considered when possible. A single, well-designed and properly-controlled driveway with good traffic circulation within the site will function more safely and efficiently than several driveways to a parcel, and conflict points are reduced both on and off the public roadway.

Other Considerations⁵

Other factors to consider include lighting and marking the driveway entrance. Lighting the driveway entrance may be helpful in some cases to illuminate vehicles entering the roadway as well as making the driveway more visible to traffic on the roadway. Additionally, the installation of delineators marking the driveway entrance could be appropriate to improve the visibility of driveway edge lines.



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