

PATTERSON ROAD ACCESS CONTROL PLAN ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Access?

An access, as related to roadways, is a location where vehicles, bicycles, or pedestrians may enter and/or exit a roadway. Access may be public, such as a street, or private, such as a driveway to a business or residence. Every property owner has the right of reasonable access to the general street system.

Why is access management beneficial?

Access management benefits communities by preserving and improving traffic operations along the most critical roadways. Efficiently managing existing roadways so that they are operating to their fullest capacity costs less than investing in new roadways. Applying access management techniques can increase roadway capacity by 20% to 40%. Access management also has tremendous safety benefits. Studies have shown a 30% to 60% reduction in crashes on roadways where access management techniques are implemented.

The reduction in vehicle conflicts has the added benefit of improving traffic flow, reducing travel times, increasing fuel efficiency and contributing less to air pollution. Access management is also good for business, providing safe access to customers and retaining more of a community's original market area.

What is an Access Control Plan?

An Access Control Plan (ACP) provides a unified vision of the future access needs for a particular roadway corridor. The goals are to define safe, effective, and efficient access to support the economic viability of the corridor, utilize existing right of way, allow for smooth passage of through traffic on the roadway, maintain compatibility with local planning efforts and the existing and proposed street network connections and circulations, provide a plan that can be implemented in phases, and support alternative modal choices.

An ACP defines existing and future access locations with consideration for spacing, traffic movements, circulation, and alternative access opportunities. The ACP does not define specific roadway improvements or funding sources. It is a long-range planning document that identifies access conditions that will be implemented as roadway and land-use characteristics change.

Why is adopting an ACP beneficial?

An ACP allows Grand Junction to make decisions about access that are more consistent with the local vision, land use, and the local transportation system as a whole. In addition, the ACP addresses access on a corridor-wide basis rather than an individual, first-come, first-serve basis. An ACP considers how adjacent access points impact each other and provides property owners with security in the planned access for their property. Recommendations of the ACP consider adjacent land use, corridor specific conditions and local plans for future improvements. Closer access spacing and increased level of access may also be recommended where technical analyses can demonstrate adequate traffic safety and operations.

How is the ACP implemented?

The ACP will be implemented in phases as changes and growth occur around the City. Portions of the plan will be implemented based on the following triggers:

1. Redevelopment that increases traffic
2. Planned publicly funded project
3. Safety or operational issue

What area does the ACP include?

The ACP study area covers approximately 7.1 miles of Patterson Road from US 6/US 50 to Lodgepole Street.

How long will it take to complete the Access Plan?

The ACP project began in January 2020 and is expected to be completed in February 2021.