

DISCUSSION ON TXDOT'S CONTROL OF ACCESS PRACTICES AND POLICIES

DESCRIPTION:

Current department policy, as defined by MO 108544 on the control of access to the state's highway system, requires the complete denial of access to new-location relief routes constructed as part of the state highway system. Applying this policy when constructing new-location roadways and relief-route projects, coupled with TxDOT's policy on limiting the construction of frontage roads on such roadways, results in the complete denial of access to these new location relief routes for the affected communities and property owners.

ISSUES:

After implementation of this policy in 2001, numerous situations occurred where communities and property owners felt they had been denied reasonable access to the state's transportation system. The problem was particularly troublesome for the smaller semi-rural communities where the bypass projects involved relatively short segments of new-location highway. These concerns resulted in several proposed legislative changes that would impact and change this policy.

REFERENCES:

M.O. 108544
43 TAC §15.54
Transportation Code §§203.031 and 203.034

DESIRED RESULTS:

Staff seeks guidance from the commission on the direction to take on revising our current control of access policies and practices to permit greater access to new-location relief routes while maintaining sufficient control for safety and mobility reasons.

FURTHER ACTIONS

Staff will prepare and present revised policies as directed by the commission for their further consideration at a future commission meeting.

OTHER:

None