



Managing Access along Pennsylvania's Highways in the Delaware Valley

*Lower Providence Township Planning Commission
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Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Philadelphia region

- Two states • nine counties • 353 municipalities • 3,800 square miles
- Funded by federal, state, local, and private non-profit sources
- Governed by 18-member board represented by the region's states, counties, and cities
- Major responsibilities:
 - Regional Long Range Plan (*Connections 2035*)
 - Transportation Improvement Plan
 - Regional Demographic Forecasts and Estimates
 - Regional Travel Demand Modeling
 - Regional Congestion Management Process
 - Planning activities in support of the above



DVRPC Mission Statement

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is dedicated to uniting the region's elected officials, planning professionals and the public with a common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment and enhancing the economy.

Access Management

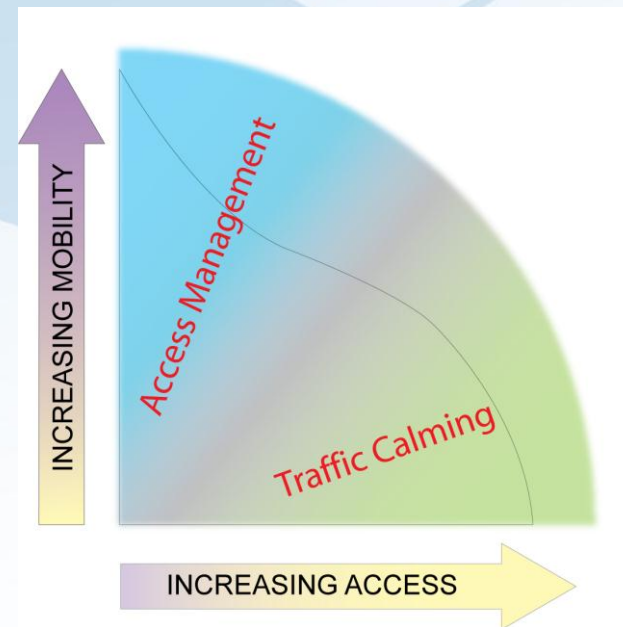
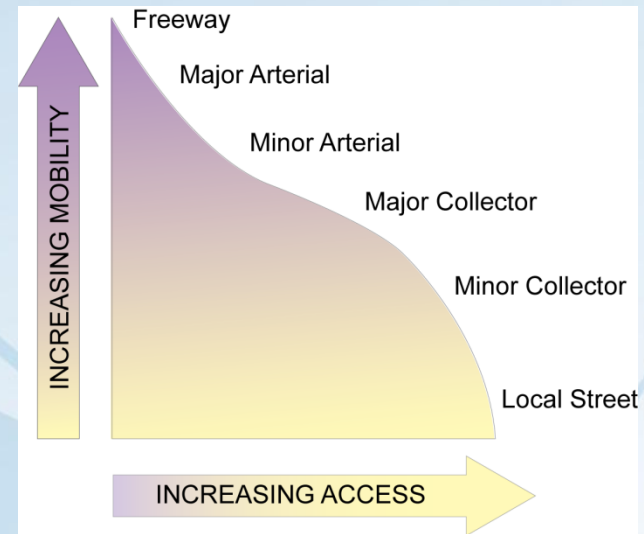
The Federal Highway Administration defines Access Management as:

... the proactive management of vehicular access points to land parcels adjacent to all manner of roadways. Good access management promotes safe and efficient use of the transportation network. AM encompasses a set of techniques that state and local governments can use to control access to highways, major arterials, and other roadways.

Access Management

... seeks to allow roads to function according to their desired purpose.

... is the opposite of Traffic Calming.



Access Management

Common Techniques

- Access/signal spacing
- Auxiliary lanes
- Non-traversable medians
- Shared/cross access
- Local network connections
- Channelization

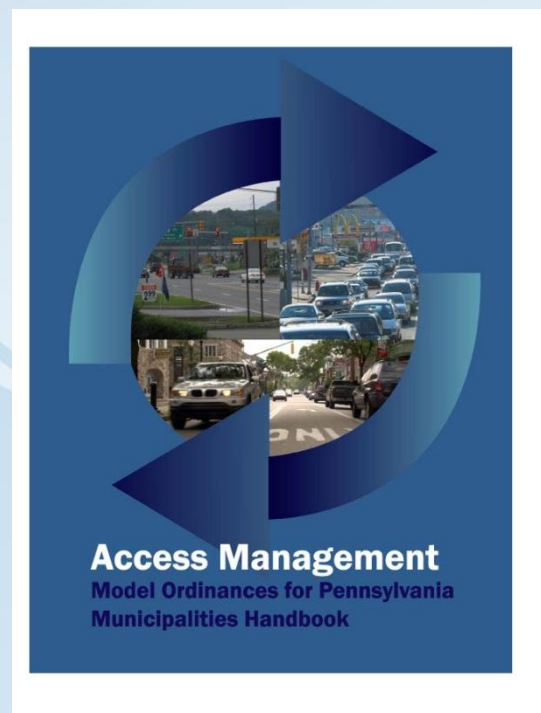
Benefits

- Improved/maintained mobility
- More predictable driving environment (improved safety)

Access Management

Why does DVRPC conduct access management case studies?

- In support of PennDOT's municipal access management outreach
- It is a low cost means to reduce congestion
- Assist the planning efforts of local governments







CENTER
LANE
ONLY



Access Management

What we do:

- Analyze traffic volumes and travel patterns
- Assess traffic safety
- Identify access-related opportunities
- Prepare conceptual access plans
- Assess support of access management in the Comprehensive Plan
- Analyze municipal zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances, and make appropriate recommendations
- Other tasks as needed

DVRPC Access Management Study Process

The Township's Role:

- Commit at least one representative to attend meetings, and review/relay work as necessary
- Permit the township's engineer to furnish signal and/or development plans as needed
- Provide the study team with information regarding planned and proposed developments in the area

Access Management

The Study Process:

- **Kickoff meeting (June/July for this study)**
 - PennDOT, County, Township, Study Team
 - Location convenient for the township
- **Study team collects and analyzes data, and prepares a document of preliminary findings**
- **Mid-point meeting (~October/November) to review and comment on work to date**
- **Study team incorporates comments into the draft report**
- **Draft report meeting (~January) for final comments**
- **Final report published (~February)**

Lower Providence Township Population & Employment

Lower Providence Township	2010	2035	Change	% Change
Population: Census and Forecast	25,436	28,298	2,862	11.3%
Employment: Estimate and Forecast	11,432	13,123	1,691	14.8%

Montgomery County	2010	2035	Change	% Change
Population: Census and Forecast	799,874	887,366	87,492	10.9%
Employment: Estimate and Forecast	521,200	585,430	64,230	12.3%

Lower Providence Access Along Ridge Pike



Photos:
Google Street
View

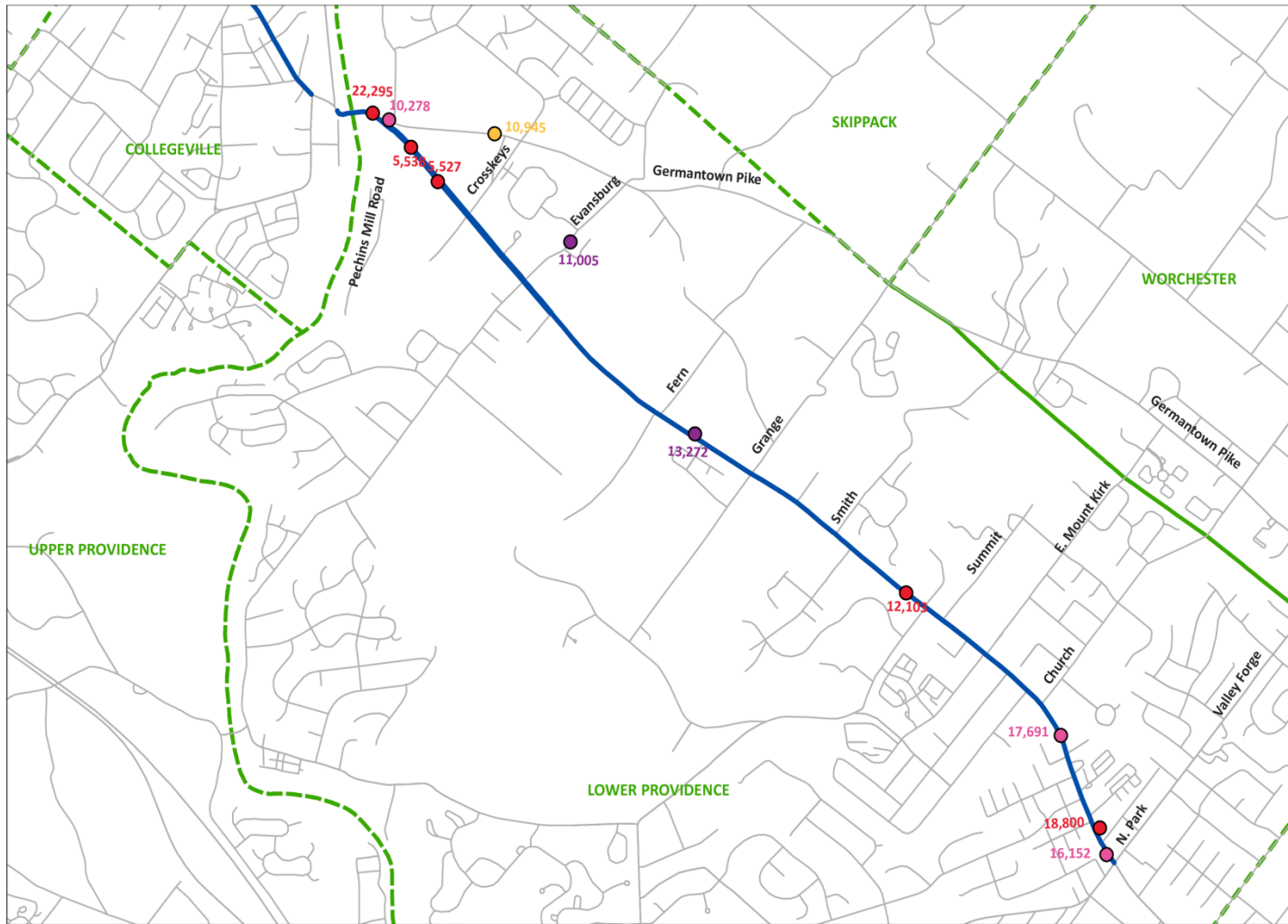


0 1,200 2,400
Feet



- Ridge Pike
- Local Roads
- - - Municipal Boundaries

CORRIDOR MAP
Ridge Pike Access Management Study



0 1,200 2,400
Feet



Ridge Pike

Local Roads

Municipal Boundaries

2008 Traffic Counts

2009 Traffic Counts

2010 Traffic Counts

2011 Traffic Counts

TAFFIC COUNTS MAP **Ridge Pike Access Management Study**



0 1,200 2,400
Feet



- Ridge Pike
- Local Roads
- Municipal Boundaries

CRASH CLUSTERS

Ridge Pike Access Management Study

Access Management

FAQs:

- **What does this cost the township?**
 - The township is responsible for providing a representative, and supplying requested documents (Comp. Plan, development plans, etc.). Meetings typically have been conducted in municipal buildings as well.
- **What about the Highway Occupancy Permit process?**
 - PennDOT provides a minimum level of access management in the HOP process. The township can have regulations above and beyond the state-wide minimums.
 - Implementing municipal level access management may cover all roads within your borders.
- **Other Questions?**

Thank You

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