



City of Mobile
Traffic Engineering
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HILLCREST ROAD

ACCESS MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET

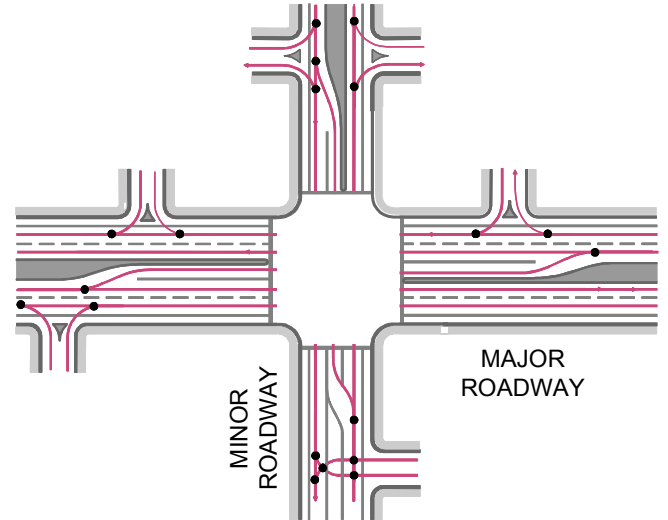
The Hillcrest Road Access Management Study was commissioned by the Traffic Engineering Department and sponsored by District 6 Councilwoman Bess Rich as part of the City's 2016 Capital Improvement Plan. This study seeks to develop a plan for improving safety and capacity along Hillcrest Road without utilizing traditional methods, such as roadway widening.

What are the goals of this study?

The primary goal of this study is to develop an access management plan on Hillcrest Road to improve safety by reducing the number of undesirable conflict points along the corridor. Secondary goals include increasing capacity, improving travel times, and reducing congestion.

Why is this study needed?

Over the last twenty years, additional development along Hillcrest Road, coupled with widening projects to complete a five-lane roadway from Old Shell Road to Three Notch Road, have contributed to traffic congestion along the roadway that need to be resolved. Due to lack of available right-of-way and estimated cost, it is not reasonably feasible to solve this congestion by widening Hillcrest Road to seven lanes. Therefore, other remedial measures, such as access management techniques, are being explored as a solution to these issues.



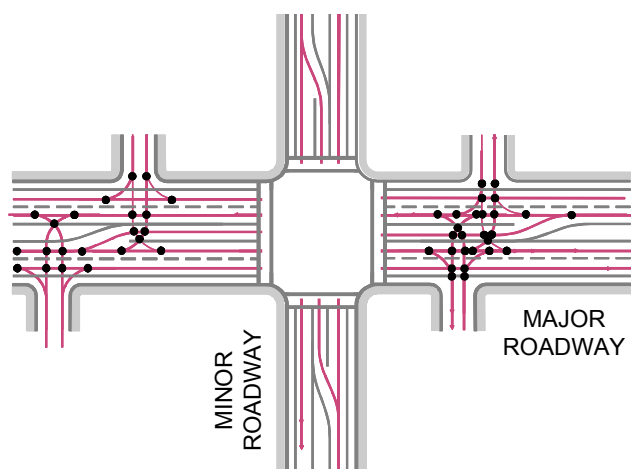
Limited Access Driveways with Raised Medians

What exactly is "access management?"

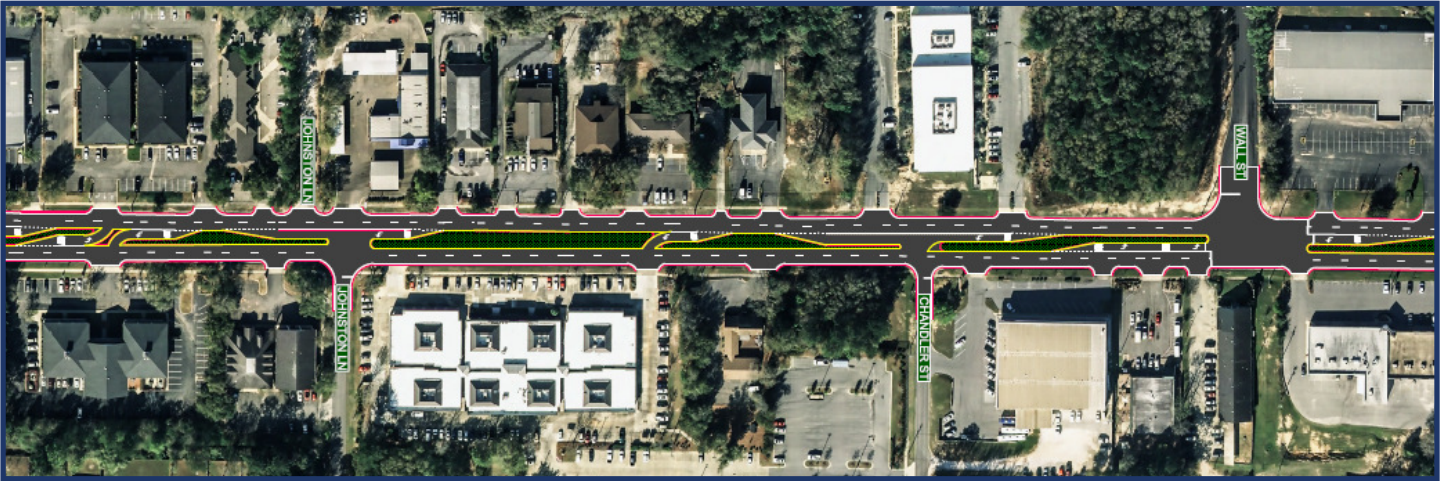
Defined, access management is the "systematic control of the location, spacing, design, and operation of driveways, median openings, and street connections to a roadway."

In more simple terms, it is the implementation of a process to provide safe and efficient traffic mobility while providing *reasonable access* to adjacent property. Reasonable access is generally considered a matter of physical necessity for use of the property, and not a matter of convenience or competitiveness in the marketplace.

It should be noted that reasonable access will be provided and/or retained for all properties as part of the proposed Hillcrest Road plan. Common access management techniques include things such as relocating, consolidating, or eliminating excess driveways; closing or redesigning medians to permit specific movements; and adding auxiliary lanes such as left or right turn lanes. These techniques are intended to reduce the number of or separate conflict points along a roadway.



Full Movement Driveways without Medians



How was this plan developed? What was the thinking that went into it?

Traffic counts were taken at 32 locations throughout the corridor, at locations such as: entrances to large neighborhoods, driveways serving large commercial developments, and major intersections. These counts, along with field observations, served to establish recurring traffic patterns from which the base of the study was developed.

Precedence for keeping median openings was given to locations where large numbers of left turns need to be accommodated in order to provide reasonable access and at locations where U-turns could safely be made. At locations where traffic counts indicated low left turning volumes, medians were closed if a logical U-turn opportunity was provided a reasonable distance away from the current median opening.

At many median openings, left turn lanes do not currently exist; however, every effort was made to include left turn lanes where possible.

This is going to impact my business, isn't it?

Access management often raises concerns by the business community that they will be adversely affected by the changes. Surveys demonstrate that the majority of business owners believe there have been no declines in sales, with some believing there are actually improvements in sales. Studies have also indicated that corridors with access improvements can experience an increase in property values after construction.

Where can I view the proposed plans?

The plans for the study can be viewed on the Traffic Engineering Department's website:

http://www.cityofmobile.org/departments_full.php?view=40

When will these changes happen?

Proposed changes between Hillcrest Crossing and Cottage Hill Road will be implemented as part of a resurfacing project along Hillcrest Road. The resurfacing project, which is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in Fall 2017, is being funded with 2016 Pay As You Go funds as well as matching funds from the City's 2017 Capital Improvement Program.

Proposed changes north of Hillcrest Crossing and south of Cottage Hill Road will be considered with future resurfacing projects at a later date. No specific funding sources have been identified for any additional projects at this time.

When will the comment period end for this project?

Comment period ends Friday March 24th. Please submit comments with the form provided at the meeting or to the Traffic Engineering Department email listed below.

Updated 3/9/17

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Councilperson District 6
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