# POLICY AND REGULATIONS for ENTRANCES TO PRIMARY ROADS 

## PART I

Iowa Department of Transportation Library
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010

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Iowa Department of Transportation
Library
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010
PART I
POLICY AND REGULATIONS
FOR
ENTRANCES TO PRIMARY ROADS
Iowa State Highway Commission
Ames, Iowa
1962

## ACCESS CONTROL

## STATEMENT OF POLICY

WHEREAS, experience and facts have disclosed that control of access along highways has contributed greatly to the safety and utility of highways, and

WHEREAS, a substantial reduction in the appalling loss of lives which occurs on the highways of Iowa can be accomplished by reasonable and proper controls of access without imposing undue restrictions on property rights, or causing undue hardship to the citizens of Iowa, including abutting property owners, motorists, and business establishments, and

WHEREAS, the utility of the highways and the preservation of their carrying capacity should be protected to assure that the investment of the public therein may not be lost, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 306A, Code of Iowa, 1962, creates a duty upon the Iowa State Highway Commission to establish such reasonable rules and regulations as are necessary to govern access along the Iowa Primary Road System:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following "Statement of Policy" be adopted and followed in connection with the rules and regulations now or hereafter promulgated by the Iowa State Highway Commission regarding access control as follows, to-wit: STATEMENT OF POLICY

Section I. That the Iowa State Highway Commission recognizes that there is no fixed, final, nor positive set of rules or regulations which will ultimately and irrevocably
cover, nor standards so universal as to lead to an inevitable conclusion in every situation which may arise with regard to access to primary roads, and that in connection with each such application said Iowa state Highway Commission must and shall consider the following:

1. Safety to the traveling public.
2. Protection of the rights of property owners, and in particular the rights of abutting property owners.
3. The rights and convenience of the traveling public and of property owners to have access to homes and business facilities.
4. The impact upon the economy of the state.
5. The perpetuation of the carrying capacity of the highway.

Section II. That the Iowa State Highway Commission shall at all times recognize that no property owner shall be deprived of the right to reasonable, free and convenient access to his property without just compensation therefor.

Sectian III. That the Iowa state Highway Commission shall at all times reserve the right to make exceptions to any and all rules and regulations where the exercise of sound and reasonable judgment indicates that the literal enforcement of any such rules or regulations would effect an undue hardship on any interested party, and the Commission shall in the enforcement thereof use extraordinary care to see that no undue hardship or injustice results to any affected party, the community or state.
Class I Class I highways are fully controlled access highways and shall include the Interstate System and other highways where full control of access has been acquired.
Class II Class II highways are planned controlled access highways and shall include existing four-lane primary roads and those roads on which adequate right-of-way for four lanes has been acquired.
Class III Class III highways are planned controlled access highways and shall include those highways on which through traffic is given primary consideration.
Class IV Class IV highways are planned controlled access highways on which through traffic and land service traffic are given equal consideration.
The map after page 30 shows by color the various highway classifications on the primary road system.

Access

Sight Distance

Built-up Area

Fringe Area

Rural Area

Access is a means of ingress and/or egress to a property from a public highway or street and shall be synonymous with entrance or driveway.

Sight distance is the clear vision along the highway in each direction from any point of access where a vehicle must stop before entering the highway. Vertical and horizontal sight distance is measured from a point 3.75 feet above the entrance surface to a point 4.5 feet above the highway surface. On four-lane divided highways the sight distance will be measured from the access in the direction of approaching traffic only when not served by a median crossover.

A built-up area shall mean that area adjacent to a primary road or primary road extension in which the abutting lots are presently developed to such an extent that there is insufficient set-back for a frontage road and the development in depth precludes the establishment of a service road to the rear of the lots or area.

A fringe area shall mean that area adjacent to a primary roadzor primary road extension with intermittent or unrelated lot or parcel development which will permit consideration of a frontage road in front of, or in the rear of the development.

A rural area shall mean that area adjacent to a primary road or primary road extension which does not clearly come within the criteria set forth for "Built-up" or "Fringe" area and shall include agricultural land within incorporated areas.

It is the purpose of this publication to set forth clearly and in detail the policy of the Iowa State Highway Commission concerning entrances and exits on the Primary Road system and its extensions and to make available to the public the standards and requirements for the construction of such entrances and exits. The policy is based upon studies of traffic movements and volumes conducted by the Iowa State Highway Commission and from an analysis of entrance and exit control practices of the Highway Departments and cities of other states.

There are two major purposes for the necessity of access control:
(1) Safety to the traveling public.
(2) Perpetuating the carrying capacity of the highway as designed and constructed.

These two purposes are interrelated because when the capacity of a highway is curtailed by side friction adjacent to the highway the safety of the highway is also curtailed. Each movement of a vehicle whether it is turning off of a highway or coming on to a highway develops a small amount of side friction and creates a point of potential conflict with the traffic desiring to procede straight through on the main traveled way. Each left turn into a driveway off of a highway curtails other traffic approaching this driveway from either direction. If a driveway is so located that there is insufficient sight distance in either or both directions to permit approaching traffic to adjust its speed a serious accident potential is created. When movements into or out of such driveways are increased or when similar additional driveways are constructed in the area the potential points of conflict are also increased until the capacity of the highway is seriously curtailed. When sufficient points of conflict exist between two opposing movements of traffic invariably accidents are produced. When this highway obsolescence develops authorities are ultimately forced to relocate the highway on new right-ofway or provide frontage roads to reduce the points of traffic conflict.

The degree of necessary access control depends largely upon the usage of the highway itself. Therefore, it is first essential to determine the type of highway; character of traffic, through or local in nature; type of roadside development; rural, suburban or urban conditions; and other factors that affect the usage of the highway and the development adjacent to it. On a highway which carries a high percentage of through traffic at high speeds tighter controls of access are necessary than on a highway which carries traffic largely made up of local movements. Access control:must, therefore, range from full control to a minimum of control for safety purposes only.

Property-fronting land owners have rights of access consistent with their needs and road users have other rights to freedom of movements, to safety, and the efficient expenditure of their public highway funds. It is the duty of the highway officials, in whose trust these public funds have been placed, to use extreme care and prudence in evaluating entrances to the highway, to the end that the landowner's rights and the rights of the motoring public will be protected, and the general public will obtain full utilization of both past and future expenditures of road funds.

Each Primary Road has been classified according to the composition of the traffic using it and thus the degree of control necessitated to preserve its usefulness is determined. (See road classification map after page 30.)

Tables, maps, sketches and sample forms are included in this policy and its regulations in order that any interested person may fully understand the requirements necessary to establish a new entrance or to alter an existing entrance to the Primary Road System.

Free and convenient access will not be denied without just compensation. Where access rights have been acquired no additional access beyond that reserved will be granted except at Special Public Road connections.

Persons desiring more detailed information can obtain Part II of these rules and regulations at the Central Office in Ames, Iowa, or at any Resident Maintenance Engineer's office. Personnel from these offices will gladly explain the requirements of this policy and will assist any individual in the preparation of applications for changes of access or for the establishment of new accesses.

Application:
Any individual, firm or corporation desiring to construct or alter an entrance connecting with a Primary Road or Extension where access control is under joint agreement between the City or Town Council and the Highway Commission shall make written application before beginning construction to the State Highway Commission Resident Maintenance Engineer of the County in which the construction is to take place. Application forms, instructions and assistance may be obtained from any Resident Maintenance Engineer's office of the Iowa State Highway Commission.

Preparation of Application Form:
The application form must be filled out in its entirety in accordance with the instructions, and a sketch, drawn to a suitable scale, must be included in every case showing the details of the driveway design, and its location relative to the highway and other properties in the immediate area. (See illustrated form and sketch pages 12-14).

Submitting Application:
Upon completion of the application it should be submitted to the Resident Maintenance Engineer of the county in which the construction or alteration will take place. No work shall be undertaken on the Primary Road right-of-way until written approval has been received by the applicant.

The locations of the Resident Maintenance Engineer's offices are as follows, and the engineer in charge will be glad to assist in preparation of your application.

COUNTIES
District 1
Marshall, Polk, story, Warren

Calhoun, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Webster

Boone, Carroll. Dallas, Greene

Jasper, Poweshiek, Tama

ADDRESS

Hwy. Comm. Bldg.
Building 3, Ames
1052 N. 23rd street
Fort Dodge
700 N. Pinet St.
Jefferson
S. West Street BElmont

Grinnell

232-7250
PHONE NO.

2

8-6241

386-2176

6-5560

## COUNTIES

ADDRESS

Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Floyd, Mitchell, Worth

Emmett, Hancock, Kossuth, Winnebago

Bremer, Butler, Franklin
Humboldt, Wright
Allamakee, Fayette
Howard, Winneshiek
District 3
Cherokee, Plymouth
Woodbury
Crawford, Ida
Monona
Buena Vista, Clay, Palo Alto Pocahontas, Sac

Dickinson, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux

District 4
Harrison,
Pottawattamie, Shelby
Fremont, Mills, Montgomery Page, Taylor

Clarke, Decatur, Madison
Ringgold, Union
Adair, Adams, Audubon, Cass, Guthrie

District 5
Henry, Jefferson
Lee, Van Buren
Keokuk, Mahaska,
Marion, Wapello

1420 4th St. SE GArden
Mason City 4-3165
205 $\frac{1}{2}$ N. Clark
Forest City
109 loth St. NE 308
Clarion
107 Railroad St. 382-3659 Decorah

2800 E. Gordon Drive 6-3450
Sioux City
42 S. 7th St. AMherst
Denison 3-3347
620 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lake Avenue REgent
Storm Lake 2-4514
410 s. Boone st.
472-2315
Rock Rapids

3540 s. 4th st.
366-0438
Council Bluffs
105 E. Nishna Road
246-4610
Shennandoah
119 N. Maple St.
782-4310
Creston
Highway 6 East 243-1510
Atlantic

803 W. Adams
472-5357
Fairfield

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
901 \text { 8th Ave. E. } & \text { ORchard } \\
\text { Oskaloosa } & 3-6739
\end{array}
$$

COUNTIES
District 5 (Con't)

Appanoose, Davis Lucas, Monroe, Wayne

Des Moines, Louisa Muscatine, Washington

District 6

Johnson, Jones, Linn

Cedar, Clinton
Jackson, Scott
Clayton, Delaware Dubuque

Benton, Black Hawk Buchanan, Iowa
101 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. Van Buren St. ..... 265
Centerville
618 N. 6th Ave.

OLympia

3-3561

## 430 16th Ave. SW <br> EMpire

Cedar Rapids
5-3558
410 Security Building
323-7943 Davenport

1312 N. Franklin St. WAbash
Manchester
WAbash
$7-7102$

919 W. 5th St.
ADams
Waterloo
Washington

3-3885
(1) The application shall be properly and clearly completed and shall be signed by the owner or owners of record.
(2) The location, design and construction of the entrance shall meet the requirements stated in this policy subject to ordinances or requirements of local authorities. Necessary provisions for drainage, shall comply with the Iowa State Highway Commission standards.
(3) An applicant whose application has been considered and denied by the District Engineer may appeal such denial by resubmitting the application to the Commission, Ames, Iowa.
(4) All approvals or denials shall be made in writing within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application by the Resident Maintenance Engineer and likewise all appeals to the Commission shall be acted upon within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal.
(5) The applicant or his representative may appear before the Commission at the time such appeal is to be considered. Applicant will be notified of date and time that the Commission will consider his appeal.
(6) Nothing herein contained shall deprive the Commission in the exercise of sound and reasonable discretionary judgement to make such exceptions to these rules as may appear reasonable.

SAMPLE
OF
EXHIBIT A


A sketch of the proposed entrances must be submitted with the application for access. Details of the driveway design and its location relative to the highway and other adjacent properties should be included on the sketch.
$\qquad$

## IOWA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Application for Permit to Construct Entrance from Primate Property to Primary Road or Primary Road Extension

Applicant
(Owner or Owners of Record)
Address_1 19 (Date)

Iowa Stat Highway Commission
Ames, Iowa

## Gentlemen:

A permit is hereby requested to construct a $\qquad$ foot in width, from (Residential, etc.) right of way line to primary road traveled way, including necessary drainage structure thereunder.

PLAT OF ENTRANCE AS PROPOSED TO BE CONSTRUCTED IS ATTACHED
TO AND IS A PART OF THIS APPLICATION. (Marked Exhibit "A")
Proposed entrance is located on Primary Road No._Sec._To Ron. Tor
County, Miles $\frac{\text { (Direction) }}{\text { (Place, Town, or object) }}$ more specifically described as follows

The applicant agrees that if granted a permit to construct the above described entrance the following stipulations shall govern.

1. Written approval of the Highway Commission shall be obtained before any change is made in the entrance ar its location
2. That the entrance, including drainage structure, grading and surfacing, shall be constructed by the applicant at the applicant's expense, in accordance with the plat attached hereto, and in conformity with the standard specifications of the Iowa State Highway Commission, and shall thereafter be kept in repair and maintained by the applicant at his own expense. Nothing in this stipulation, however, shall preclude the Iowa State Highway Commission from entering upon said entrance on highway right of way and performing necessary maintenance for the protection of the highway.
3. That the construction, of the entrance shall be completed by the $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ $\rightarrow 19$
(The permit is null and void if drive is not completed by the above date unless extension of time is granted in writing by the Iowa State Highway Commission.)
4. That the construction, future repair or maintenance of said entrance shall be carried on in such a way as not to interfere with, or interrupt traffic on said highway, and the applicant shall take all reasonable precautions to protect and safeguard the lives and property of any person or persons, and shall save the State and State Highway Commission harmless of any damage or losses that may be sustained by any person or persons, on account of such construction, repair or maintenance operations.
5. That no filling will be permitted in the right of way of primary road No.
other than that necessary to construct the entrance at Station $\qquad$ - Project
$\qquad$
6. That the culvert pipe under the entrance shall be zinc coated corrugated metal or 1500 D concrete pipe. It shall be inches in diameter and feet in length as shown on attached sketch, and of quality complying with See. 4141 and Sec. 4145 of the Iowa State Highway Commission Standard Specifiogtions, Series of 1960. The pipe shall be installed at the elevation specified by the engineer.

The finished surface elevation of the driveway over the pipe or place where the pipe would normally be, shall be inches lower than shoulder elevation at Station $\qquad$ to prevent water draining onto the pavement or
travel way.
7. That the applicant agrees to give the State Highway Commission forty-eight hours notice of his intention to start construction on the highway right of way. Said notice shall be made in writing to the person whose name is shown below.
8. That all provisions herein relating to future repair or maintenance shall be binding on all successors or assigns is the applioant.
9. $\qquad$

PPLICANTS ATTENTION is direoted to the fact that property may not be used so as to obstruct or encumber the public highway right if way.

## Signed

$\qquad$
$\frac{\text { By }}{\frac{\text { (IItle) }}{\text { (Address) }}}$

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ITATE OF IOWA County $\{$ ss.
On this $\qquad$ day of A.D. 19 $\qquad$
$\qquad$ , a Notary Public in and for sald County, ate of Personally appeared and to be known to be the person(s), samed in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that $\qquad$ executed the same as coluntary act and deed.


## NOTATION OF RECORD

'iled for Record on the $\qquad$ day of $\qquad$ . A.D. 19 , at_o'clock_M., and Flecorded
in Book $\qquad$ of $\longrightarrow$ on Page $\qquad$ -

Access requirements for new or altered entrances to Primary Highways where access has not been acquired is summarized on the following pages. Table 1 includes the requirements for access to highways in rural or fringe areas. Minimum standards for access to Primary Road Extensions in built-up areas is included in Table 2. Table 3 shows the miscellaneous requirements for commercial or non-commercial entrances. These tables and charts are not intended to state the requirements for special commercial, industrial and miscellaneous developments such as drive-in theaters, race tracks, ball parks amusement centers, shopping centers, industrial parks and other developments generating large volumes of traffic. These developments will require special study to be co-ordinated with Highway Commission planning and design sections to determine the exact entrance requirements.

The information in these tables is illustrated by this series of sketches:

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ACCESS REQUIREMENTS IN RURAL AND FRINGE AREAS FOR NEW AND AITERED ENTRANCES TO RURAL PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AID PRIMARY HIGHWAY EXTENTIONS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED.


ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW OR ALTERED ENTRANCES TO PRIMARY HIGHWAY EXTENSIONS IN BUILT-UP AREAS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED


* The minimum chord distance from the midpoint of the street return to a Class II, III or IV Highway curb drop is equal to the radius $(R)$ of the street return. For city streets, the minimum chord distance is one-half of the radius ( $\frac{1}{2} R$ ) length.


## I. TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED



SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$\rightarrow$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\rightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED <br> SPEED LIMIT | MINIMUM |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SIGHT DISTANCE |  |  |
| 70 MPH | 950 |  |
| 60 FT. |  |  |
| 50 MPH | 750 |  |
| MPH |  |  |
| 40 MPH | 550 |  |
| FT. |  |  |

## I.TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQÚIRED




SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$\rightarrow$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\rightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

## I. TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED

## 2A-CLASS III AND III HIGHWAY INTERSECTION



SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$\rightarrow$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\rightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

## I.TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED

2C-CLASS III HIGHWAY AND LOCAL ROAD INTERSECTION


2D-CLASS IV AND IV HIGHWAY INTERSECTION


SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$\rightarrow$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\rightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

## I. TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED

## 2E-CLASS IV HIGHWAY AND LOCAL ROAD INTERSECTION



3A-CLASS II HIGHWAY MID-MILE LOCATION


SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$\rightarrow$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\leftrightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED <br> SPEED LIMIT | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SIGH DISTANCE |  |$|$| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | $450{ }^{\circ} \mathrm{FT}$. |

## I. TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES <br> IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED



3C-CLASS IV HIGHWAY MID-MILE LOCATION



SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS
$O$ ONE DIRECTION ONLY
$\leftrightarrow$ BOTH DIRECTIONS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

## I. TYPICAL SERVICE STATION ENTRANCES IN BUILT UP AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED



2-CLASS II, III AND IV HIGHWAYS WITHOUT MEDIAN


NOTE: THE MINIMUM CHORD DISTANCE FROM THE MIDPOINT OF THE STREET RETURN TO A PRIMARY HIGHWAY CURB DROP IS EQUAL TO THE RADIUS (R) OF THE STREET RETURN.

## II. TYPICAL COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL ENTRANCES <br> TO CLASS II HIGHWAYS <br> IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED


I. MINIMUM SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT. DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

II. TYPICAL COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL ENTRANCES TO CLASS III HIGHWAYS IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS

WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED

I. MINIMUM SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

| POSTED | MINIMUM |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | SIGHT DISTANCE |
| 70 MPH | 950 FT. |
| 60 MPH | 750 FT. |
| 50 MPH | 550 FT. |
| 40 MPH | 450 FT. |

II. OTHER DESIGN REQUIREMENTS - -SEE TABLE 3 PAGE 28
II. TYPICAL COMMERCIAL OR RESIDENTIAL ENTRANCES TO CLASS II HIGHWAYS IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED

I. MINIMUM SIGHT DISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

| POSTED |
| :---: | :---: |
| SPEED LIMIT | | MINIMUM |
| :---: |
| 70 MPH |
| 60 MPH |
| 50 MPH |
| 40 MPH |

TABLE 3
OTHER MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ENTRANCES TO
CLASS 표, III, \& II, HIGHWAYS IN RURAL OR FRINGE AREAS
WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED



## II. TYPICAL ENTRANCES TO CLASS II, III, AND II HIGHWAYS IN BUILT - UP AREAS <br> WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED


note: ${ }^{*}$ the minimum chord distance between the midpoint of the street return and the curb drop on a primary highway extension, is equal to the radius (r) of the street return; on a city street, the minimum chord distance is one half of the radius ( $1 / 2^{R}$ ).

# CROSS SECTION STANDARDS FOR ENTRANCES TO HIGHWAYS IN RURAL AND FRINGE AREAS WHERE ACCESS HAS NOT BEEN ACQUIRED 



MINIMUM
4 INCH
PAVEMENT
SHOULDER
DROP



