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**Development of CARTS Access Management Standards using the  
TRB Access Management Manual**

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## **Development of CARTS Access Management Standards using the TRB Access Management Manual**

While the concept of access management (AM) has been important to the long range planning process within the Central Arkansas Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) area since the early 1980s, it was not until the adoption of the first long-range plan (METRO 2020) after passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 that access management began to take on added significance. As part of the plan's emphasis on safety, encouraging development of other modes and maximizing the existing roadway system first before adding additional capacity, METRO 2020 included a prohibition of two way left turn lanes (TWLTLs) as part of the region's roadway design standards combined with an emphasis on the development and implementation of specific AM plans on a case by case basis.

Subsequent to the development of METRO 2030, in 1995, the region expanded its emphasis of access management through development and adoption of the CARTS AM standards in conjunction with an update of the region's roadway design standards. This paper discusses how the Transportation Research Board Access Management Manual along with other resources was used to develop the CARTS AM standards.

Metroplan recommends that each member jurisdiction adopt these standards and incorporate them into their local master street plans and subdivision regulations. At a minimum, to cover the routes defined on the CARTS Regional Arterial Network.

The use of the TRB Access Management Manual's basic concepts, definitions/language, statistics, and referenced studies was integral to the development of the CARTS AM standards. Major sections of the CARTS AM standards that reflect the Manual's recommendations or examples include: connection spacing standards, median treatment, implementation guidelines, management and regulatory tools for local jurisdictions, corridor specific plan development, and multi-party agreements.

The TRB AM Manual was specifically used to develop the CARTS Access Management Standards in the following ways.

Definitions - provided general definitions of common AM terminology (e.g. access management) or language for describing general AM concepts and techniques.

Statistics/studies - provided invaluable statistics based on latest available related research that's presented in a straightforward and concise way.

Techniques – provided list of the different techniques (AM Tools) that could be considered to implement/encourage AM. Some examples include:

- Access Spacing
  - Driveway Consolidation
  - Joint Access Agreements
  - Driveway Design

Access Roads or Drives  
Medians  
Traversable Medians  
Nontraversable Medians (provided minimum volume thresholds  
that would recommend nontraversable medians)  
Signal Spacing and Coordination

Regulatory tools – provided list of other ways local jurisdictions could implement access management plans, such as through their comprehensive plans, zoning and subdivision regulations, and development review (such as traffic impact assessment).

Corridor Specific AM Plans and Multi-party AM Agreements – although Metroplan already had established corridor specific AM plans and multi-party AM Agreements based on previous work, the Manual did provide additional insight. Including, sample documents and the identification of potential stakeholders that need to part of such agreements and/or processes.

Technical Assistance - provided good references, materials for meetings, displays, websites, and additional training, etc.