

Approach Spacing Near a Public Road Intersection on Regional or District Highways with Posted Speed of 50 mph or Higher

This is one of six safety and operations factors that ODOT may consider when evaluating a highway approach application.

Points of Interest

Updated approach spacing on regional and district highways.

Approach spacing near public road intersections can be a safety concern.

Desirable separation distance is based on stopping sight distance.

Updated approach spacing on regional and district highways.

When ODOT updated the access management rules in 2012, the approach spacing standards for regional and district highways were reduced. These revised standards are good for most situations; however, when the speeds are high and traffic is heavy, there could be a safety issue. A spacing situation is deemed worthy of further investigation only:

- on regional and district highways;
- in the area upstream of a public road intersection; and
- where posted speed is 50 mph or higher.

When an existing connection or proposed approach is in a location that meets all three criteria, ODOT may take a closer look at safety and identify ways to reduce or eliminate safety concerns.

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Approach spacing near public road intersections can be a safety concern.

Ideally, driveways should not be located in the area close to and upstream of a public road intersection, where vehicles slow down to enter the intersection.

When driveways are located in this area, the distance from a driveway to the intersection should be greater than standard requirements. This reduces driver workload and gives drivers enough time to react and avoid crashing.



Down hill intersection

Desirable separation distance is based on stopping sight distance.

If you know the posted speed and the down slope of the highway, you can use the table below to select the desirable separation distance, which is based on stopping sight distance.

Posted Speed	Highway Down Slope			
	0% to <-3%	-3% to <-6%	-6% to <-9%	≥ -9%
50 mph	495 feet	520 feet	553 feet	593 feet
55 mph	570 feet	598 feet	638 feet	686 feet