

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



DESIGN AND ENGINEERING

MANUAL

April 2009

31.2.3 Driveways: District Policy

A driveway represents an access constructed within the public right-of-way that connects the public roadway with the adjacent property. Driveway terminals are, in effect, low volume intersections. The numbers of driveways and their location have a definite effect on highway capacity, primary on arterial highways.

Driveway entrances should be constructed perpendicular to the roadway and shall not cause the blocking of any sidewalk, border area, street, or roadway. Sight distance represents a significant design control for driveways and they should be located to provide the best visibility possible within the limitations of the property that each driveway serves.

31.2.3.1 DDOT Requirements: General Driveways

- A new curb cut or driveway shall not be permitted from any property with alley access or with potential access through an alley widened onto private property or with potential access to an expanded alley network on private property unless the applicant provides documentation that demonstrates that alley access is not possible due to topography or that alley access would be in conflict with existing land uses and not supported by guidelines in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Driveway entrances should be constructed perpendicular to the curb line of the street through the entire public space area to the property line.
- All driveways must be flush with the grade of the sidewalk when crossing the entire sidewalk area. The sidewalk area may start a minimum of 3 feet from the roadway curb line. No step-down curbs or ramps are allowed.
- The grade of any driveway within the public space shall not exceed 12%.
- A curb cut and/or respective portion of the driveway, including the flare or radius at the curb cut, shall be located within the public space abutting the same lot with the building or structure it is intended to serve.
- Sight-distance when exiting a driveway or parking garage requires a minimum 15 feet distance from the edge line of the driveway on a 45-degree angle from the property line or garage exit, as applicable, to the back edge line of the sidewalk. Within this area, no over-height fencing and/or shrubbery over 4 feet tall are allowed, excluding city trees.
- No driveway entrance or exit on any roadway shall be closer than 60 ft. to a roadway intersection as measured from the driveway edge line to the intersection of the roadway curb lines extended.