



## Project Number

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## Project Manager

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## Florida Access Management Benchmarking Study

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### Current Situation

In access management, designers consider driver access to the property next to the roadway, like a driveway or business entrance. Neighborhood roads must provide access for each home. But for larger roads, access becomes a tradeoff between easy access and maintaining the efficiency of the roadway because turning drivers cause traffic to slow down. In 2015, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) adopted the Complete Streets Implementation Plan, with the goal of making Florida's roadways and associated infrastructure more accessible and efficient for all users, from pedestrians to delivery trucks. Thus began a system-wide effort to align FDOT practices with these new planning goals.

### Research Objectives

University of South Florida researchers conducted a study to compare Florida's access management programs to those of comparable states and with current best practices for context-sensitive access management.

### Project Activities

The researchers began with a review of current FDOT policies, including relevant portions of the Florida Administrative Code and the FDOT Complete Streets Policy and its context classifications. To understand how these policies were being put into practice, they examined the proceedings of several statewide access management meetings as well as relevant permit applications.

Reaching beyond Florida, the researchers conducted an online survey to gather information from transportation agencies in states where policies and programs had recently been updated and who were identified as active in access management and complete streets. Literature and government documents from these states were also collected and reviewed, including access management studies, conference proceedings, webinars, and state laws and regulations. Key access management personnel from selected states were invited to participate in a series of peer-to-peer exchanges with FDOT personnel, allowing for much more focused discussion about policies and practices that might be useful in Florida.

The overall process was guided by a project advisory team composed of engineers and planners from FDOT, local government, and the private sector. The advisory team met with the researchers early in the project to provide feedback on study design and activities. Later in the project, they met to review the information assembled and refine the findings and recommendations for advancing Florida's approach to access management and support of complete streets, including reducing the complexity of the access classification system, incorporating access for non-auto modes of travel, as well as changes to other policies.

### Project Benefits

The results of this project will advance FDOT's Complete Streets Program. Access management is a vital component of planning roads that are safe, efficient, and accessible for all types of road users.

*For more information, please see [www.fdot.gov/research/](http://www.fdot.gov/research/).*



*Access management at the edge of this busy arterial road must account for all users.*