

From: [Nordholm_Gail_IDOTI](#)
To: [Nordholm_Gail_IDOTI](#)
Subject: Interchange Access Guidance
Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 10:00:00 AM

TO: County Engineers, City Representatives, and Consultants

CC: District Local Systems Engineers, Service Bureau,
and Office of Local Systems

FROM: Office of Local Systems

SUBJECT: Interchange Access Guidance

DATE: November 24, 2010

If you or your agency has been or may be involved in projects involving changes to an interchange access to the Interstate or a Primary Highway, please make note of these guidance documents. Both documents are designed to provide assistance in successfully navigating the process when preparing Interchange Justification Reports. Each is further described below.

User Guide 2.0, Process for New or Revised Interchange Access

The Iowa DOT User Guide was developed for new or modified interchange access to either the Interstate or Primary Highways in Iowa and is available on-line at:

http://www.iowadot.gov/systems_planning/pr_guide/Interchange%20Justification/Process%20for%20new%20or%20revised%20interstate%20access.pdf

The Iowa DOT User Guide does an excellent job in capturing the important aspects of the new FHWA guide described below. These documents should be used to complement each other.

FHWA Interstate System Access Informational Guide

This Guide along with FHWA's Interstate Access policy is available on-line at:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/interstate.cfm>.

The purpose of the Guide is to identify successful practices and provide support for an informed and consistent decision-making process that considers the impacts of proposed changes in access to the Interstate System. The Guide therefore, supports the justification and documentation of the information necessary to substantiate FHWA's consideration and potential approval of any proposed change in access to the Interstate System. The organization and information contained in the Guide facilitates the consideration of the appropriate issues, conduct of the required analysis, and decision-making in a manner that considers and is consistent with the provisions of FHWA's Policy on Access to the Interstate System (74 FR 43743 (August 27, 2009)).

Notable changes incorporated into the Guide include the following:

- The Highway Capacity Manual is no longer required as the only method to perform the capacity and operational analysis if another traffic analysis method was selected, as being more appropriate, to fully identify and evaluate performance and impacts of the proposed access change. This guidance replaces the requirements in FHWA's memo dated August 21, 2001.
- Guidance clarifying FHWA's expectations regarding partial interchanges.
- Guidance clarifying transportation system management (TSM) alternatives and the analysis required.
- Identification of the requirement to document and verify the analysis conducted in support of proposed change in access was consistent with regional models and the preferred alternative included in the TIP, STIP, and LRTP.
- Identified a range of alternatives that may need to be considered to justify additional Interstate access and what would constitute a no-build alternative and
- Clarified the requirement that all changes in access must connect to a public road.

Additional technical resources and tools are also available on FHWA's web site at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/fraccess.cfm>.

If you have any questions about either of these guides, please do not reply to this note. Instead, you may contact Phil Mescher in the Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning at 515-239-1629 or Phil.Mescher@dot.iowa.gov.

Thank you,

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Some of the documents referenced above are in Adobe Acrobat's Portable Document Format (PDF). If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software, you can download it free of charge at:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

Mailings are available at the Local Systems Weekly Mailing web address

http://www.iowadot.gov/local_systems/mailing/main_mailing.htm