



City Council Meeting

Item Number: 33
Meeting Date: April 27, 2021
To: City Council / City Manager
From: Michael Pacelli, City Traffic Engineer
Subject: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ACCESS MANAGEMENT POLICY AND AMENDING TITLE IX, "PUBLIC WAYS AND PROPERTY", CHAPTER 4, "SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS AND CURBING", OF THE CITY CODE OF MIDLAND, TEXAS, SO AS TO REVISE THE SPECIFICATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN AND TO INCORPORATE THE ACCESS MANAGEMENT POLICY; CONTAINING A CUMULATIVE CLAUSE; CONTAINING A SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JUNE 1, 2021; AND ORDERING PUBLICATION (ENGINEERING SERVICES)

Purpose:

To adopt an Access Management Policy intended to manage vehicular access to the public roadway network from developed land in the City of Midland in a manner that provides reasonable access for residents and business owners, while also preserving the mobility, safety and capacity of the roadway network.

Recommended City Council Action:

Approve

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact to the City.

Discussion:

The proposed Access Management Policy specifically replaces a portion of the existing City Code (Section 9-4) regarding driveway access and related engineering design standards. The Policy incorporates and updates existing driveway standards, establishes new requirements for some items not covered in the current Code, formalizes requirements for access to state highways, documents the existing access approval process (no changes), establishes conditions for deviations below minimum standards, and defines an appeals process.

The Policy is intended to manage access to public roadways in a way that provides reasonable access for residents and business owners, while also preserving the mobility, safety and capacity of the roadway network. This requires a balance of needs between business and property owners that desire easy customer access, and the travelling public that desires safe and efficient roadways for moving traffic throughout the City. The primary goal of adopting this Policy is to resolve potential safety and operational issues early, while new development is still in the planning and design stages.

It must be emphasized that this Policy only addresses requests made by developers or property owners for new or modified access to public roadways. The addition of any raised medians, turn restrictions, or similar access changes that may be considered by the City independent of such an access request must always be coordinated with the owners of any developed properties that would be impacted, either individually or through a broader public input process. This Policy does not provide authorization for any access management changes to be implemented without such advance coordination.

City Council was briefed on this Policy on June 23, 2020.

Staff recommends approval.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Patel".

City Manager's Office