

## TRAFFIC AND SAFETY INFORMATIONAL SERIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION #4

### Can I have additional driveways to my property?

Many people who own commercial property want more driveways to make it convenient for motorists to access their businesses. They may not have considered the negative safety-related impacts of having extra driveways.

#### **More driveways sometimes result in more crashes**

Studies have shown that as the number of driveways along a street increases, so does the number of crashes. Vehicles entering and exiting a driveway cause the rest of traffic—the through traffic—to slow down and sometimes stop. On a street with many driveways, traffic has to slow and stop often to accommodate vehicles pulling in and out of the driveways. This kind of traffic movement can result in more crashes. Reducing the number of driveways and/or creating shared driveways are ways to make traffic flow more smoothly and to reduce the number of crashes.

#### **The location of driveways is important too**

In addition to the number of driveways, the placement of driveways is important. They should be located a safe distance from intersections and where drivers who are entering or exiting the driveway can see clearly for an adequate distance in both directions.

#### **Limiting driveways doesn't equal bad business**

In recent Iowa case studies, businesses along streets with a limited number of well designed driveways had similar or better retail sales than businesses on streets with more driveways. Motorists generally try to avoid streets where they have to regularly slow down or stop for vehicles that are pulling in and out of driveways. These case study projects are located in Ames, Spencer, Fairfield, Clive, and Ankeny. The retail sales evaluation results for these locations are discussed in the *Iowa Access Management Awareness Phase II Report* (available from the Center for Transportation Research and Education at Iowa State University).

#### **For more information**

For more information, please contact \_\_\_\_\_.