

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Circulation"

Policy Letter 301: Access to Arterial Streets

BACKGROUND:

The City of Fargo has a substantial investment in an arterial street system intended to move through traffic to and from major facilities. The term "arterial street" shall also include routes which carry traffic between communities or which provide an entrance or an exit from neighborhoods.

Access, or the entering or the exiting of the arterial street system throughout Fargo, diminishes the traffic capacity and capabilities of the arterial when access is too frequent or unregulated. Curb cuts on arterials that allow traffic flow from neighborhoods without going through collector streets, or curb cuts on arterials that disrupt the functional area of turn lanes at an intersection, will lead to traffic conflict and congestion.

Actions should be taken to preserve the investment in the City's arterial street system and ensure future arterial street development includes appropriate traffic management techniques for access control. By better utilization of collector streets and controlled access, the issues of diminishing traffic capacity and capabilities on arterials can be properly addressed.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should establish development guidelines to ensure that all local streets have access to arterial streets through a system of collector streets and controlled access.

CONCLUSION:

Certain areas of the City have very poor or unregulated access that has led to traffic conflict or congestion. Citizen requests for additional stop signs or stoplights are not always the appropriate technique to manage access control. It is better to control access to arterial streets through collector streets and proper placement of controlled access points.