

MEMORANDUM FROM STAFF

From: Marcellus Johnson, Planning Administrator

To: Lapel Advisory Plan Commission

Date: 5/2/2025

RE: Access Management in Lapel

Exhibits: Comparison Tables, List of Definitions, Tables and Figures from Model Ordinances

Item 4. Access Management in Lapel

The announcement of INDOT plans for intersection improvements along SR 32 prompted me to investigate Lapel's existing access management ordinances and determine what, if anything, should be done before these projects commence to ensure that roads and drives are designed in ways that protect and promote public health and safety and the general welfare of the Town of Lapel.

Attached are tables comparing Lapel's existing ordinances to those contained in two model ordinances available through INDOT. Standards are grouped into tables according to the overall domain or intent of the standards. The text of each ordinance with regard to each standard is shown, and where the specific ordinance makes no mention of that standard, the box is grayed out. Code citations are provided for Lapel's UDO.

While there are some places where Lapel could adopt standards to fill in holes, in general Lapel's current access management ordinances are robust and ensure that new access connections are safe and minimize disruptions to traffic flow. Some areas for improvement include:

- Language clarifying the distinctions and regulations on drives/driveways, private roads, service drives, and other forms of shared or joint access
- Consolidation of all access management ordinance in one chapter or volume of the UDO that can be cross-referenced by other chapters/volumes where relevant

Commission's Role

It is Plan Commission's role to make recommendations to Town Council on amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinances, which includes access management. If there is any interest in amending the Town's UDO to make any changes to the code, the Plan Commission will need to vote to initiate a petition. That will begin the process of staff preparing the petition, including the ordinance language to be adopted, which can be voted on by the Plan Commission at a later date.