

Circulation Topic Paper

Vehicular Traffic

General Questions

1. **Top Priorities.** What are the top 5 priorities related to the issue of vehicular traffic? Consider big picture issues like the appropriateness of one-way streets, removal of vehicles from certain areas (pedestrian only areas), street and wayfare signage, roundabouts,
2. **Inventory.** Identify existing conditions and features within Freeland. This can be done through the use of a map, a list, or some other medium. Before going into the field it is suggested that you consider the existing reports and studies that have already been prepared.
3. **Improving Existing Connections.** Identify at least 5 existing areas, features or issues that you identified in the inventory where improvement could occur in the future. Consider specific locations such as intersections, blind spots, flow, speed limits, etc. Locate those features on a map and identify the kinds of improvement that would be helpful.

Specific Questions

4. **Creating New Connections.** Utilizing the future land use map and your local knowledge identify locations where new streets may be needed in the future. Locate them on a map. You do not need to worry about property boundaries or their exact location. Be general when placing it on the map, but describe why you might feel this way, e.g. connecting two existing streets.
6. Please provide some opinions to the following questions. Some of these questions likely require a legal opinion as well. The answers to these questions will help define some of the philosophy behind codes and policies.
 - a. Consider road width within future new communities. While main thoroughfares may be fairly wide, what is the appropriate standard for roads that are internal to a development or that are not through roads. A number of jurisdictions have reduced their road width standards in order to reduce impervious surface and to make the pedestrian crossing safer (the principle is that a shorter distance to cross the street makes the pedestrian more comfortable).
 - b. Is it appropriate to identify primary vehicular entry points where we want to encourage or force traffic? Where are they and why? (Keep in mind that this will then impact design standards and landscaping – we will want to have landscaping and design standards that accentuate these entry points. In other words, they should be attractive and have informative signage).

- c. Think of vehicular circulation while you are thinking about parking. If there are locations where we want to have parking lots, how do you inform people how they should get there, and what route they should take?
- d. Think about the future. Circulation and traffic volumes today are less than they will be in the future. Future projects in the commercial zones and higher density residential zones will generate traffic. How should traffic flow through these areas. Main Street runs east/west with only a couple of north/south intersections that feed onto or through Main Street. As traffic volumes increase is it good to have more vehicular traffic crossing Main Street or is it better to have north/south traffic guided around the downtown area instead of through it? More traffic can be good for business. Less traffic can be good for pedestrian oriented goals. How can these be balanced? Look at the future land use map and assume that all parcels are developed at their highest intensity. Cars will be entering Freeland from the south and the north, with a much smaller percentage entering from across the highway. How should these cars be guided through. Some will be arriving to frequent the services available in the downtown core. Some will be arriving home after work and wanting to get “through” Freeland to get to their home that is located in one of the higher density areas. How can these two different vehicles be guided to their destination without getting in each others way?