

# Approach Spacing

**Approach Spacing is one of three approach permit approval standards.**

## Points of Interest

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Why does ODOT have approach spacing standards?

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## What are Approach Spacing Standards?

Approach spacing standards means the minimum distance required between a proposed private approach and the center of the nearest existing public or private connection or another proposed approach on the same side of the highway in both directions.

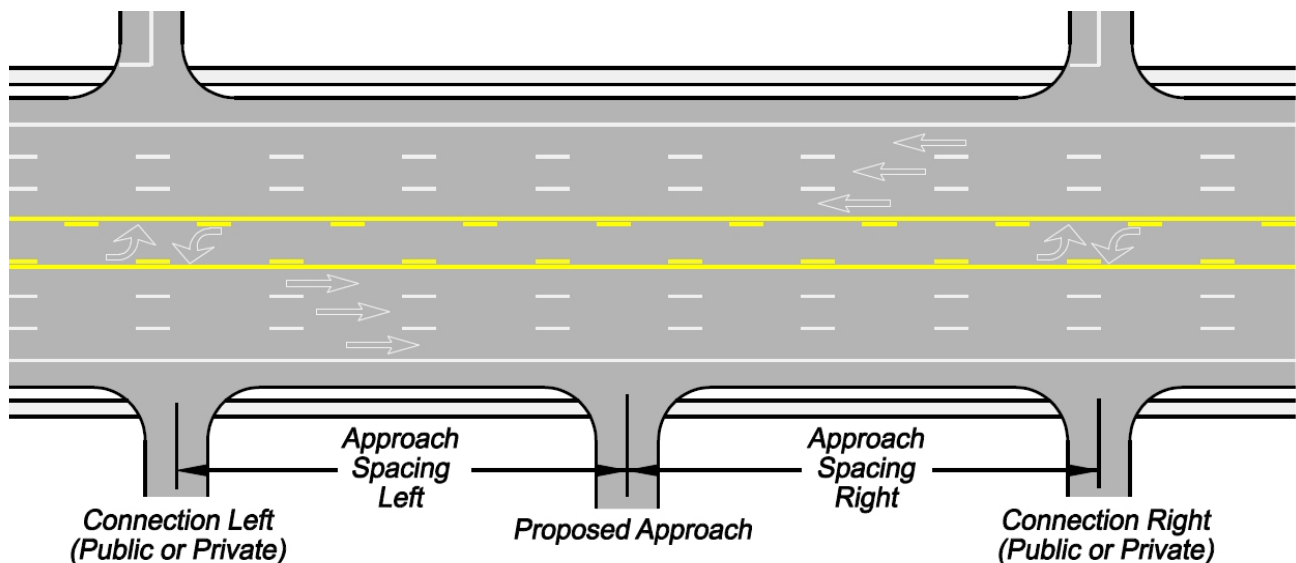
ODOT's approach spacing standards are based on a highway's functional classification, traffic volume, posted speed and whether the proposed approach is in an urban or rural area.

## Why Does ODOT Have Approach Spacing Standards?

ODOT adopted approach spacing standards to address traffic mobility and safety on the highway. Approach spacing standards provide adequate perception and reaction time for a driver see an object in the road, react appropriately to avoid colliding with another vehicle that is entering or exiting the highway at a downstream driveway or road intersection.

## How is Approach Spacing Measured?

Approach Spacing is measured from the center line of the proposed private approach to the center line of the closest public or private connection to the left and right.



### Conflict Points

A conflict point is a place where the travel paths of two or more vehicles intersect and a crash may occur. Each connection or potential approach has conflict points associated with it.

- Approach spacing standards separate conflict points and reduce the potential for crashes related to vehicles turning to enter or exist the highway.
- As the distance between approaches increase, the number of conflict points per mile decreases.



X is a conflict point

### Deviations from Approach Spacing Standards

'Deviation' means an exception from the approach spacing standards. Applicants may request a deviation for a proposed approach that does not meet spacing standards.

- ODOT may require an applicant to provide mitigation measures in order to approve a deviation.
- ODOT may approve a request for a deviation when it is determined the approach adequately addresses highway safety and operations concerns and meets other approval criteria.