Expansion of RIV Curb Cut Standards to Single-Unit Attached Residential Uses

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

9 February 2021
Overview

• How did we get here?
• RIV Curb Cut Standards
Planning Commission Recommendation, 30 June 2020:

• That City Council approve the proposed Amendment.

• That City staff and Council undertake fact-finding around the City-wide elimination of or limitation on the placement of curb cuts and draft legislation based on those findings.
Proposal: Expand RIV Curb Cut Standards

- Curb cut standards currently apply to single-unit attached residential uses in the RIV.
Section 914.09.J.1 – Single-Unit Attached Residential Uses curb cut standards

(a) Garages and parking spaces must be accessed from the rear yard if rear yard access is available. Corner lots, with or without rear access, may alternatively access garages and parking spaces from the exterior side yard.

(b) In cases where front-loaded garage design is the remaining option, shared driveways with one (1) curb cut are encouraged.
Proposal: 914.09, Parking Area Location & Design

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Section 914.09.J.1 – Single-Unit Attached Residential Uses curb cut standards

2. In cases where front-loaded garage design is the remaining option, shared driveways with one (1) curb cut are encouraged.
Benefits

- Reduces the number of curb cuts that interrupt sidewalks:
  - Limits conflict points between automobiles and pedestrians
  - Improves pedestrian safety

39% of deaths from accidental car back-overs happen in a driveway at home, an apartment parking lot, or a townhouse complex.
- Safe Kids Worldwide

https://makesafehappen.com/articles/driveway-safety
Benefits

- Reduces the number of curb cuts that interrupt sidewalks:
  - Preserves curb space for public, on-street parking.
Benefits

• Reduces the number of curb cuts that interrupt sidewalks:

• Respects the character of neighborhoods built before widespread automobile use.
Benefits

• Reduces the number of curb cuts that interrupt sidewalks:
  • Ensures space in the sidewalk to plant street trees and improve the City's tree canopy.