

# DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION: 2016 PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS 7.5C CONNECTIVITY

## REQUEST SUMMARY

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Under the adopted 2016 Public Works Standards (PWS), Chapter 7.5C, what is considered a “secondary access point”?

## INTERPRETATION

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The City considers a “secondary access point” to be an additional ingress/egress route which provides complete and full public access for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, and general vehicle access.

*Audrie Stansy*

Public Works Director

11/15/2024

Date

## CONTEXT, FACTS, AND FINDINGS

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Sammamish Public Works Standards, Section 7.5.C, requires that “when a connecting road serves 100 residential units or more, a secondary access point shall be required.”

Sammamish Municipal Code (SMC) 21.01.030.B mandates the City to protect the general public health, safety, and welfare.

Taken together, these provisions direct the City to ensure that when a residential development exceeds 100 units and is only accessed via one road, that a second access route is developed to provide full and complete vehicular and pedestrian access as well as adequate emergency ingress and egress. Full and complete vehicular and pedestrian access includes, but is not limited to, supporting well-designed neighborhood streets to allow for minimal congestion, safe vehicle travel lanes, sufficient parking, and pedestrian and cycling routes. Adequate emergency ingress and egress means the ability of emergency personnel to access the neighborhood as well as residents to evacuate the neighborhood.

The requirement for adequate access for emergencies is especially important because if there is an emergency within the neighborhood, such as a wildfire, there needs to be adequate access for residents to exit the neighborhood and emergency response personnel to enter the neighborhood. Having two access points reduces the potential congestion conflicts to residents evacuating the area and emergency vehicles accessing the area.

Thus, a “secondary access point” means an additional ingress/egress route

### Related Code References

SMC 21.01.030.B

[Public Works Standards](#)

### Resources

[King County iMap](#)

[Sammamish Property Tool](#)

### Questions?

[Submit Project Guidance](#)

City of Sammamish  
801 228th Ave SE  
Sammamish, WA 98075  
[www.sammamish.us](http://www.sammamish.us)

## **2016 PWS 7.5C SECONDARY ACCESS**

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and which provides full public access for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, and general vehicle access. Pedestrian only access, emergency vehicle only access, trail access, etc. do not provide adequate access for purposes of meeting the Sammamish code requirements.

Interpreting a “secondary access point” to mean a route that provides full public access for pedestrians, emergency vehicles, and general vehicle access is consistent with other jurisdictions such as King County (2016 Road Standards Chapter 2.19), City of Redmond (Appendix 2 Chapter A.3.h), City of Maple Valley (Municipal Code 12.10.280), and City of Newcastle (2000 Public Works Standards Chapter 4.12).

The City of Sammamish will include an update to the PWS Chapter 7.5.C to better clarify the requirement in the next update of the Public Works Standards.





# PWS 7.5C Code Interpretation 2024-11-1

Final Audit Report

2024-11-15

Created:	2024-11-13
By:	Sheila Brooks (sbrooks@sammamish.us)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAPRD1bnBiG23ZI56FNqZAKaHqSFKp8Z2q

## "PWS 7.5C Code Interpretation 2024-11-1" History

-  Document created by Sheila Brooks (sbrooks@sammamish.us)  
2024-11-13 - 9:12:13 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Audrie Starsy (astarsy@sammamish.us) for signature  
2024-11-13 - 9:12:51 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Audrie Starsy (astarsy@sammamish.us)  
Signature Date: 2024-11-15 - 10:30:22 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2024-11-15 - 10:30:22 PM GMT