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Staff Report to the Board of Trustees

Driveway Width Text Amendment

Prepared: 11/17/2025

Prepared by: Hailey Gorman, Associate Planner

Project: 2025-0875 – Land Development Code Amendment: Driveway Width Requirements

Requested Approvals: Increase the maximum driveway width requirement for single-family residences with 1-car garages, clarify all driveway width requirements, and add driveways to the list of detached accessory structures.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT SUMMARY

The Land Development Code was most recently amended in December 2023 via Ordinance No. 5856, changing the dimension requirements for driveways and driveway aprons. This amendment was intended to clarify the appropriate dimensions and make the requirements consistent between the Village Code (VC) and Land Development Code (LDC). Whereas the VC required the maximum driveway widths to be 10' for a 1-car garage, 20' for a 2-car garage, and 30' for a 3-car garage, the LDC allowed for wider driveways at 20' for a 1-car garage, 26' for a 2-car garage, and 36' for a 3-car garage¹. As the VC requirements were more restrictive, they superseded the LDC requirements, so the decision at that time was to adopt the more restrictive requirement, amending the LDC to reinstate the width requirements that were listed in the VC.

Now that time has passed and staff has been able to evaluate the impacts of this code amendment, staff proposes new amendments to clarify the driveway width requirements and expand the maximum driveway width for properties with 1-car garages. While the maximum driveway/driveway apron widths are based on the size of the garage for a single-family home, this creates issues for single-family properties with non-conforming garages. Many properties in the R-3 & R-3A Districts have non-conforming 1-car garages, with no room to expand to a 2-car garage. This makes it difficult and often impossible for these properties to meet the 2-car, off-street parking requirements (Table 6-306(B)), as the LDC does not consider tandem parking in determining code compliance. It is recommended to increase the maximum driveway width allowed for 1-car garages from 10' to 18' because the minimum width for a standard off-street parking space is 9', per Section 6-306.C.1 of the LDC. Therefore, this would allow 2 cars to park side-by-side while still being more restrictive than the driveway width requirements for properties with 2-car garages.

Amendments are proposed for Section 6-302, Accessory Structures, to add driveways to the table of detached accessory structures and referencing Section 6-406. An amendment is also being

¹ Section 3-4-2-6 of the VC specified maximum driveway apron widths measured at the sidewalk, flaring up to 3' to either side at the curb, allowing maximum driveway widths to be 10' (16' apron width at the curb) for a 1-car garage, 20' (26' apron width at the curb) for a 2-car garage, and 30' (36' apron width at the curb) for a 3-car garage. The LDC grouped driveways and driveway aprons together, with one maximum width for 1-, 2-, and 3-car garages.

proposed to Section 6-406 of the LDC, which includes clarifying driveway width and length requirements for all single-family residential properties in the Village.

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Staff completed an aerial survey using GIS mapping software of a neighborhood in the R-3A District to determine the existing conditions of driveways for 1-car garages under the current code requirements. The area was chosen as it has the most 1-car garages in the Village. The aerial survey consisted of measuring the approximate width of each driveway, determining the garage size using a combination of Google Street View and permit research, and inputting the data into an excel spreadsheet to keep track of each property's code compliance status.

SURVEY RESULTS – SUMMARY

	1-Car Garage	2-Car Garage	No Garage	Total
Number of Properties Surveyed	159	13	18	190
Non-Compliant Driveways	147	3	18	168 (88%)
Compliant Driveways	12	10	0	22 (12%)

If the proposed amendment were adopted to increase the maximum driveway width from 10' to 18', the number of non-compliant driveways would reduce in the surveyed area from 168 to 72. This would be an approximate 50% reduction in non-compliant driveways in the sample area (88% to 38%). Additionally, this could allow for 78 properties within the surveyed area to expand their driveways, as they are not able to expand under the current code requirements.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TEXT

See "Residential Driveways" exhibit, dated 10/31/2025.

PLAN COMMISSION SUMMARY

Present at the Plan Commission were 7 Commissioners, Village staff, and members of the public. Following the staff presentation, the commissioners were generally supportive of the amendment.

The commissioners were in general agreement that making the Land Development Code easier to understand is a straightforward and necessary change. There was a brief discussion about the Village's code enforcement practices as some commissioners questioned what the process was to enforce the code for non-compliant driveways. Staff assured the commissioners that there are trained code enforcement officers on staff with the Police Department that typically work on a complaint basis but also patrol the Village daily in an effort to enforce the Village and Land Development Codes. There was additional discussion about possible future amendments to driveway regulations, but otherwise all commissioners came to a consensus in support of the proposed amendment.

Overall, the amendment was recommended approval unanimously by the Plan Commission 7-0 with the Staff Recommended Action.

PLAN COMMISSION RECOMMENDED MOTION

Regarding Case Number 2025-0875 – Land Development Code Amendment: Driveway Width Requirements, I move to approve the Staff Recommended Action as presented in the Staff Report to the Plan Commission for this case.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to approve the Plan Commission Recommended Action regarding Case Number 2025-0875 - Land Development Code Amendment: Driveway Width Requirements;

And

I move to adopt an Ordinance entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF ORLAND PARK, AS AMENDED