

**Wahkiakum County
Building Section
Private Drives and Road
Standards**

Pursuant to Wahkiakum County Ordinance #134-01, Section 4, the following requirements shall be met in developing a private drive or road. The regulations are for the purpose of allowing for fire apparatus and emergency vehicle safe access to new structures and developments in the unincorporated areas of Wahkiakum County.

Facilities Exempt from the requirements of section 4 of this ordinance is:

1. Any structure with a portion of the exterior wall of the first story within 150 feet or less from an improved county road or state highway
2. Any road that has been maintained prior

Road Standards:

Road widths:

- a. Road serving 1 to 6 lots / parcels shall have an unobstructed width of no less than 20 feet. The minimum road surface area shall be 12 feet
- b. Road serving 7 to 20 lots / parcels shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 24 feet. The minimum road surface width shall be 18 feet.
- c. Road serving 21 or more lots / parcels shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 30 feet. The minimum surfaced width shall be 24 feet.

Note: If parking is intended or permitted along a fire apparatus access road the overall widths and surface widths, as stated above, shall be increased by six feet.

The overall easement widths shall be 40 feet overall. The width shall be increased by 6 feet, if parking is intended or permitted.

Vertical Clearance Requirements:

- a. **Unobstructed vertical clearance of 13' 6". There shall be no trees, power lines, entry gates, etc. within this clearance.**

Road Surface:

- a. **Road surfaces shall have an all weather driving capabilities.**
- b. **Access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the "impose loads of fire apparatus".**

Turn-a rounds:

- a. **Access roads in excess of 150 feet in length, which dead-end, shall have a minimum 50 foot radius cul-de-sac and / or**
- b. **A "hammerhead" not less than the required road width is an acceptable option if approved by the County Public Works Department. (see attached drawing)**

Road Grade:

- a. **Access roads shall not exceed 12% grade, provided, however, the Public Works Director may allow grades up to 14% for fire apparatus access roads surfaced with a BST or ACP road surface meeting county road standards of construction.**

Drainage:

- a. **A corrugated culvert pipe shall be installed as need to assure adequate drainage. Culvert location, sizes and lengths must be approved by the County Public Works Department prior to installation.**
- b. **Access roads shall be constructed to allow water to drain away from roadway.**

Entrance Permits:

- a. Any person constructing a fire apparatus access road which intersects with a county road shall obtain an entrance permit from the County Public Works Department. There shall be a clear, unobstructed view on each side on the fire apparatus access road. In reviewing entrance permit applications for approval, the County Public Works Department will take into consideration the stopping sight distance calculations contained in Table III-1 of the AASHTO Handbook, 1984 edition, with Table III-1 is hereby incorporated by reference.

Signage:

- a. Access roads shall be designated by names or numbers on legible signs clearly visible from the intersecting county road or state highway

Bridges:

- a. Bridges that are part of fire apparatus access roads shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus used by the fire district with jurisdiction.
- b. When restructuring or building of a bridge becomes necessary, a Washington State civil engineer's certification is required. All Bridges shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the current edition of the Washington State Department of Transportation "Standard Specifications for Road, Bridge and Municipal Construction."
- c. Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges.

Curves:

- a. No curve radius shall be less than 100 feet measured from the road centerline unless approved by the fire district having jurisdiction and the County Public Works Department.

Turn-Outs:

- a. Access roads in excess of 400 feet in length shall have one turn-out approximately every 400 feet constructed such that there will be a minimum all-weather surface 20 feet in total width for a length of 50 feet.

Variance:

The Public Works Department may grant a variance to the gradient requirements of this Ordinance if all to the following criteria are met:

- a. The road was constructed and maintained as an access road prior to the effective date of this Ordinance; and**
- b. The grade does not exceed 16%; and**
- c. The portion of the road with a gradient in excess of 14% is free of curves and switchbacks and is surfaced with a ABS of asphalt road surface; and**
- d. The fire protection district with jurisdiction has inspected the road and has submitted its written approval of the variance to the Public Works Department; and**
- e. The variance is necessary to avoid an unreasonable financial hardship to the landowner.**

