



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

1600 – 13th Avenue South  
Kelso, WA 98626  
TEL (360) 577-3030  
FAX (360) 636-0845  
Washington Relay Service 711 or (888) 833-8633

[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/publicworks/](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/publicworks/)

---

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Susan Eugenis, County Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Amend and Supplement Private Roads Section of Road and Street Design

**DATE:** April 1, 2025

---

In order to align with the new short plat ordinance adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on March 25, 2025, as amending Ch. 18.34 of County Code (CCC) regarding private driveways and private roads, the Cowlitz County Road and Street Design Standards (the adoption of which was approved under County Resolution No. 99-054, and thereafter amended by the County Engineer on October 31, 2018) shall be revised, amended and supplemented as outlined below:

1. The application of the "Private Roads" section of the Cowlitz County Road and Street Design Standards and subsection I-G thereof are amended to read:

### **Private Roads – Types A, B and C**

County road and street standards for Types A, B and C apply to private roads within public rights-of-way and within subdivisions per RCW 58.17.020(1). Private roads maintenance, however, is the responsibility of private parties, including associated ditches and culverts, as long as said maintenance does not expand the driveway or road surface or adversely impact adjacent critical areas. Routine maintenance includes, without limitation, grading out potholes, resurfacing, mowing, re-establishing original ditch line, etc. However, such exemption does not include expanding or modifying any associated drainage system within or linked to a County rights-of-way.

### **I. General standards**

\* \* \* \* \*

- G. **Maximum Dwelling Units.** No individual private road shall serve more than 50 lots or dwelling units. Type A roads shall provide access to 20 or more lots, parcels, or dwelling units. Type B roads shall provide access to at least 10 but less than 20 lots. Type C roads shall provide access to at least 5 but less than 10 lots, parcels or dwelling units.

2. A new section, entitled "Private Driveways and Private Roads – Type D" is added to the Cowlitz County Road and Street Design Standards, as follows:

### **Private Driveways and Private Roads – Type D**

County road and street standards under "Private Roads–Types A, B and C" do not govern private driveways and private roads providing access outside of public rights-of-way and for short subdivisions per RCW 58.17.020(6). Maintenance for private driveways and private roads,

however, is the responsibility of private parties, including associated ditches and culverts, as long as said maintenance does not expand the driveway or road surface or adversely impact adjacent critical areas. Routine maintenance includes, without limitation, grading out potholes, resurfacing, mowing, re-establishing original ditch line, etc. However, such exemption does not include expanding or modifying any associated drainage system within or linked to a County rights-of-way.

**I. General standards**

- A. **Permitting and Review.** A private driveway or a private road that serves more than 2 but less than 5 lots shall be considered a lesser type of access and shall meet the requirements of a Type D access, which shall be defined, regulated and approved by the Department of Building and Planning and the Building Official. The access point of a private driveway or private road to a County roadway shall remain subject to review by the Department of Public Works.

A copy of the revised Cowlitz County Road and Street Design Standards will be available on-line and at the Department of Public Works.

Adoption of these amendments to the Cowlitz County Road and Street Design Standards shall become effective on April 1, 2025.