



COLLIN COUNTY

ROADWAY POLICY

Approved by the Collin County Commissioners Court on February 1, 2021
Court Order Number 2021-109-02-01

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1.01 INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

This Roadway Policy has been adopted by Commissioners Court to put standards in place by which roadways and right of way in unincorporated Collin County are maintained. Commissioners Court reserves the right to amend any portion of this court order as deemed necessary and/or when required by changes in the law of Texas, state statutes or transportation codes.

B. Applicability

This Policy applies to roadways within Collin County that are located outside of the corporate limits of a municipality. Additionally, this policy may exclude areas within Collin County that are located within the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) of a municipality, provided that an ETJ has been established by the municipality and the municipality has entered into a written interlocal agreement with the County that identifies the municipality as the entity authorized to maintain roadways and rights of way within their respective ETJ.

Collin County will not be responsible for any damage caused by County crews to any facility installed that is not in compliance with this Policy.

Any extenuating circumstances not covered under this Policy shall be brought to the attention of Commissioners Court for consideration.

1.02 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Policy, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. Definitions not expressly prescribed herein are to be determined in accordance with customary usage in planning and engineering practice. The word “shall” is mandatory and the word “may” is permissive.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS (AASHTO) - An association of state highway and transportation officials.

BUSINESS DAY – the days of the week when County offices are normally open (excludes official holidays and weekends). Collin County holidays may be found online at:

<https://www.collincountytx.gov/government/Pages/Holidays.aspx>

COLLIN COUNTY ROADWAY SYSTEM – Any roadway maintained by Collin County Public Works.

COMMISSIONERS COURT – The Commissioners Court of Collin County.

COUNTY – Collin County, Texas.

COUNTY CLERK – the County Clerk of Collin County.

COUNTY ROADWAY – a public roadway under the control and maintenance of the

County.

DEDICATION – the appropriation of land, or an easement therein, by an Owner, for the use of the public and accepted for such use by or on the behalf of the public.

DEVELOPER – any person, partnership, firm association, corporation (or combination thereof), or any officer, agent, employee, servant or trustee thereof, who performs or participates in the performing of any act toward the development of a subdivision, within the intent, scope and purview of the Collin County Subdivision Regulations.

DEVELOPMENT – all land modification activity, including grading or construction of buildings, roadways, parking lots and/or other impervious structures or surfaces.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – where used in this Policy, “Director of Public Works” shall mean the Collin County Director of Public Works and his/her authorized and/or appointed representatives.

EASEMENT – an area for restricted use on private property upon which a public or private utility/entity/HOA or Lot Owner responsible for maintenance shall have the right to remove and keep removed all or part of any buildings, fences, trees, shrubs or other improvements or growth which in any way endanger or interfere with the construction, maintenance and/or efficiency of its respective systems on or within any of these easements.

ENGINEER – a person licensed under the provisions of the Texas Engineering Registration Act to practice the profession of engineering in the State of Texas.

EXISTING ROADWAYS – roadways that have been constructed and are in place prior to the passage of this Policy.

EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (ETJ) – the unincorporated land area, not a part of any city, which is contiguous to the corporate limits, as defined in [Local Government Code, Chapter 42](#).

FACILITY - any permanent or temporary non-County owned improvement placed within the right of way. Such facilities may involve underground, surface, or overhead facilities, either singularly or in combination. (Accessories are any attachments, appurtenances, or integral parts of the facility such as fire hydrants, valves, gas regulators, etc.).

FINAL ACCEPTANCE – formal acceptance by order of the Collin County Commissioners Court.

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – an organized, non-profit corporation with mandatory membership when property is purchased.

INCORPORATED AREA – See Extraterritorial Jurisdiction.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT (ILA) – A written contract between local government agencies.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS – Minimum acceptable requirements; such requirements may be modified by the Director of Public Works as may be necessary to protect the public

health, safety, and welfare.

OWNER – the Owner of the parent tract or lot of record.

PUBLIC WORKS – Collin County Public Works.

RESIDENT – a person who lives somewhere permanently or on a long-term basis.

RIGHT OF WAY – a parcel of land that is occupied or intended to be occupied, by a roadway or alley. Where appropriate, “right of way” may include other facilities and/or utilities such as sidewalks; railroad crossings; and/or electrical, telecommunication, oil, gas, water, sanitary sewer and/or storm sewer facilities. The term “right of way” shall also include parkways and medians which are located outside of the actual pavement. The usage of the term “right of way” for land platting purposes shall mean that every public right of way hereafter established and shown on a final plat is to be separate and distinct from the lots or parcels adjoining such right of way and shall not be included within the dimensions or areas of such lots or parcels. The right of way is the distance between property lines measured at right angles to the centerline of the roadway or alley.

ROADWAY – a paved right of way (or easement), whether public or private and however designated, which provides vehicular access to adjacent land and/or connection to other roadways or highways.

SUBDIVISION – the division of a tract of land situated within Collin County and outside the corporate limits of any municipality into two (2) or more lots, parcels or tracts for the purpose of sale or development, or for the purpose of laying out roadways, alleys, squares, parks, public utility easements, public rights of way, private ingress/egress easements, drainage or stormwater improvements, or other parts of the tract intended to be dedicated for public use or for the use of purchasers or owners of lots or parcels fronting on or adjacent to such facilities.

TAA– a Temporary Access Agreement between Collin County and property owner.

TEXAS MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (TMUTCD) - The most recent edition, including any additions or corrections, of the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.

THOROUGHFARE - a principle traffic artery, carrying higher volumes of traffic, more or less continuously, which is intended to connect remote parts of the area adjacent thereto and to act as a principle connecting roadway with state highways.

THOROUGHFARE PLAN – the most recently adopted Collin County Thoroughfare Plan <https://www.collincountytx.gov/mobility/Documents/CCThoroughfarePlan.pdf>

1.03 EXISTING ROADWAYS – MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Only public roadways that have been determined by Commissioners Court to be approved County Roads shall be maintained at County expense by Public Works. The County shall not maintain U.S. Highways, state roadways, private roadways, and other roadways or sections of a roadway within the city limits of an incorporated city.

A. Roadways within an Incorporated Area or within a City

1. Each city within Collin County is responsible for maintaining the bridges and roadways within their city limits.
2. Commissioners Court may consider making or participating in general maintenance items including rocking, grading, asphalt, leveling, seal coating, oiling for dust control, installation of culverts, warning signs, cleaning of drainage ditches, mowing or brush cutting and emergency repairs to bridges.
3. The following requirements must be met before Public Works can perform maintenance within an incorporated area or within city limits:
 - a. An Interlocal Agreement (ILA) must be presented to and approved by Commissioners Court. This currently executed ILA must be on file with the County.
 - b. Commissioners Court has granted approval of maintenance request(s).
 - c. Schedule will be set forth by Public Works and will be dependent upon the work schedule of County crews.
 - d. Emergency requests will be evaluated by Commissioners Court based upon the merits presented by the requesting city. Commissioners Court authorization is required for work performed within incorporated Cities.

B. Roadways adjacent to a City

1. Roads or sections of roadways bordered by a city or cities may be maintained at County expense as follows:
 - a. A portion of a public roadway adjacent to property that has been annexed by a city or cities before 2015, from the centerline of the roadway to the edge of the roadway on the opposite side from the City, may be maintained at County expense. The city's responsibility for maintenance of the roadway shall extend to the centerline of the roadway.
 - b. Any portion of a public roadway adjacent to property that has been annexed by a city or cities after 2015, shall not be maintained at County expense. The city's responsibility for maintenance of the roadway shall extend to the entire roadway.
 - c. Any portion of a public roadway that is bordered by a city or cities on both sides will be considered to lie entirely within an Incorporated Area and shall

not be maintained at County expense.

C. Roadways within a Subdivision

1. Maintenance of roadways in a Subdivision shall be performed by the Developer or Homeowners Association until roadways have been approved for County maintenance by Commissioners Court. See Collin County Subdivision Regulations for further information.

D. Abandonment of County Roads

1. The Commissioners Court, by unanimous vote, may abandon a County roadway upon following specific procedures as required by Vernon's Civil Statutes and the Texas Transportation Code Section 251.057. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/TN/htm/TN.251.htm#251.057>
2. In order for the public to request the relinquishment of the public's right of way and use of a roadway, the following conditions must be met:
 - a. Petition and Notice signed by eight (8) freeholders of land in the Commissioners' Precinct where the roadway is located is required to abandon a roadway.
 - b. Original signatures are needed on three (3) copies of both the Notice and Petition.
 - c. Signatures should be exactly as name appears on tax roll.
 - d. The roadway and its location should be described on the Notice and Petition prior to signatures being obtained.
 - e. Twenty (20) days public notice posted at the County Courthouse and along the subject roadway is required before Commissioners Court can consider taking action to abandon a roadway. Collin County will post the Notice at these locations upon verification of signatures.
 - f. Unanimous consent of Commissioners Court is required to abandon a roadway.
 - g. In some instances, as required by law, Collin County shall be compensated for the abandonment of right of way.

1.04 EXISTING ROADWAYS – MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

A. Roadway Oiling – Residents with Respiratory Conditions

1. The County will oil a 500-foot portion of a County rock roadway for dust control in front of a resident's house whereas:
 - a. The resident has a chronic respiratory condition.
 - b. The condition is documented by a Medical Doctor (MD).

- c. The County's Application for Dust Control Oiling is signed by a doctor and submitted once each 36 months or 3 years.
 - d. Application for Dust Control Oiling due to chronic respiratory condition is available by calling Public Works (972-548-3700) and requesting an application. This form can be returned by mail to: Public Works, 700 A. West Wilmeth Road, McKinney, Texas, 75069 (or faxed to (972) 548-3754). Residents may also print the form from the Public Works webpage at: https://www.collincountytx.gov/public_works/road_bridge/Documents/HealthLetter.pdf
 - 2. If the house is located at a roadway intersection the roadway will be oiled 500-feet in both directions from the intersection.
 - 3. Road oiling for dust control will be performed one time each year and only between Mid-March and early October.
- B. Roadway Oiling – Cemetery Locations
- 1. The County will oil 500 feet of a rock roadway in front of a cemetery for dust abatement at no cost, with approved advanced notice as indicated below:
 - a. Public Works receives 48 hours advanced notice of a graveside service date or;
 - b. Public Works receives 10-day advanced notice of the date scheduled for a recognized cemetery "clean up day"
- C. Roadway Oiling – Additional Applications
- 1. Routine roadway grading will not warrant additional applications of oil. All additional applications of oil whether health related or otherwise will be at the requestor's expense.
 - 2. When construction causes heavier than normal truck traffic on a rock road the County may, at the discretion of the Director of Public Works, apply oil.
 - 3. All other requests for oiling in unincorporated areas of the County shall be at the requester's expense. Collin County shall be reimbursed for the cost of materials; requestor to call County for cost estimate based on current price. This process will consist of three (3) separate applications per 500 linear feet, typically two applications on a specific day with the remaining application a day or two thereafter. This service will be performed only between the warmer months of Mid-March through Early October. Requests for roadway oiling during the warmer months shall be made no later than September 30 of the year prior.
- D. Temporary Roadway Closures
- Requests for Temporary Road Closures shall be made as far in advance as possible, with minimum submittal dates listed below. Late requests may be denied due to not having enough time to evaluate impacts.

1. Non-Emergency Temporary Road Closure Request: Complete and submit the County's Roadway Closure Request Form at least 72 hours of the proposed closure. This form can be found on the County's website at: https://www.collincountytx.gov/public_works/road_bridge/Pages/roadclose.aspx The Director of Public Works will review the request and notify the applicant in writing of their decision within 24 hours of the road closure. If approved, County staff will notify affected parties such as USPS, school districts, law enforcement, emergency responder agencies, and adjacent landowners. Applicant is responsible for deploying and retrieving all necessary equipment including barricades, cones, signs, etc.
 2. Special Event Temporary Road Closure Request: Complete and submit the County's Roadway Closure Request Form at least 90 days prior to the special event. This form can be found on the County's website at: https://www.collincountytx.gov/public_works/road_bridge/Pages/roadclose.aspx The Director of Public Works will review the request and notify the applicant in writing of their decision within 14 days of the road closure. The event sponsor shall be responsible for funding any County personnel and equipment provided for traffic control.
 3. Emergency Temporary Road Closure Request: In the event of an Emergency Temporary Road Closure, call 972-548-3700 to submit verbal request. Requests will be executed expeditiously by on-duty Public Works staff or on-call staff during non-business hours. Public Works will promptly deploy barricades, cones, and/or other appropriate equipment to the roadway(s). Once the situation is stabilized (flood waters subside, public safety restored, etc.) and the Director of Public Works has communicated approval, Public Works staff will collect all equipment and re-open the roadway(s).
- E. Mowing/Brush Cutting
1. Public Works will mow all County right of way property as follows:
 - a. Spring/Summer months – Mow all County Roadways one mower width (8' to 12') once per year.
 - b. Fall/Winter months – Mow all County Roadways total right of way width (including fence lines as instructed by the Director of Public Works) once per year. This may include areas between the pavement and fences where fences are outside of the right of way limits.
 2. Brush cutting is typically performed during dormant fall and winter (non- growth) months:
 - a. Tree and limb removal by use of hydraulic boom mowers will serve to minimize vehicle damage from overhanging limbs/brush and improve vehicle/driver line of sight. Branches over the roadway will be trimmed to provide 18' of vertical

clearance, while branches outside the roadway but within the right of way will be trimmed to a height of 14' vertical clearance.

- b. Hand cutting and pruning is completed as manpower and scheduling permit. Requests for hand cutting are handled and approved on a case by case basis.
3. Brush and vegetation will be cut anywhere necessary to maintain adequate line of sight on roadways.

F. Herbicide Application

1. Public Works will treat all County right of way 2 times per year with contact herbicide at required or allowable rates. This includes facility obstructions (i.e. fire hydrants, water valves, guardrails, pole guy wires, phone pedestals, etc.) to improve visibility of object.
2. All asphalt roadway shoulders are treated with herbicides.
3. Residents and business owners may request that the County not spray the right of way adjacent to their property by calling 972-548-3700. The resident or business owner accepts responsibility for maintaining the right of way according to this Roadway Policy. Non-spray requests may be denied based on the following conditions:
 - a. Where roadway shoulder vegetation encroachment has caused or shows the potential to cause damage to the roadway surface.
 - b. Where herbicide treatment of facility obstructions poses a liability to County maintenance.
 - c. Line of sight and visibility issues.
 - d. Any other condition as deemed by the Director of Public Works.

G. Inspections

1. Inspection of County-maintained asphalt and concrete roadways will be conducted on a schedule to be determined by the Director of Public Works.
2. Inspection of city roadways will be conducted as per parameters set forth in the ILA. If inspection parameters are not defined in the ILA, inspections will be conducted on a schedule determined by the Director of Public Works.
3. Inspection of subdivision roadways will be conducted prior to County takeover of maintenance as per Collin County Subdivision Regulations.
4. Additional inspections will be performed as determined by the Director of Public Works. Inspection results will be used as a guide to determine budget and repair/maintenance requirements.

1.05 EXISTING ROADWAYS - IMPROVEMENTS

A. Improvements to Roadways Within City Limits

1. Commissioners Court may consider performing or participating in improvements to roads and bridges within the corporate limits of a city. These improvements include but are not limited to general maintenance items including rocking, grading, asphalt, leveling, seal coating, oiling for dust control, installation of culverts, warning signs, cleaning of drainage ditches, mowing or brush cutting and emergency repairs to bridges. The following requirements must be met before Public Works can perform improvements within city limits:
 - a. An Interlocal Agreement (ILA) must be presented to and approved by Commissioners Court. This currently executed ILA must be on file with the County.
 - b. Schedule will be set forth by Public Works and will be dependent upon the work schedule of County crews.
 - c. Emergency requests will be evaluated by Commissioners Court based upon the merits presented by the requesting city. Commissioners Court authorization is required for work performed within incorporated Cities.
- B. Major Improvements to Roadways Within City Limits
 1. Major improvements such as the construction or reconstruction of roadways will be considered on a case by case basis.
 2. All major improvement requests must be submitted in letter format to the Director of Public Works by April 1st of the year prior to the year improvements are anticipated.
- C. Reimbursement for Work Performed by Public Works
 1. Prior to beginning any improvements, the city shall make reimbursement arrangements. If the city is unable to reimburse for the full amount, the city may petition Commissioners Court for a payment schedule including interest. A cost matrix for roadway and bridge repair costs shall be approved by Commissioners Court. The fee schedule shall be reviewed annually or as directed by the Director of Public Works.
 2. Reimbursement costs for roadway and bridge repairs or improvements will be as per the Collin County Cost Matrix. The Collin County Cost Matrix for Cities can be found here: https://www.collincountytx.gov/public_works/road_bridge/Pages/cost_matrix.aspx and is subject to change. Any deviation from this cost matrix must be approved by Commissioners Court.

1.06 COUNTY ROADWAY FEATURES AND ADJACENT AREAS

A. Right of Way

1. Right of way shall be donated by transfer of title, easement, or purchased through negotiations and/or eminent domain proceedings. Property owners have the option to donate the same by transfer of title. Public Works does not purchase right of way or utilize condemnation for any roadway improvement. The requested right of way must be acquired prior to the commencement of the project.
 2. The minimum right of way width for road projects performed by Public Works shall be 40 ft. The County may require right of way wider than the minimum where it is determined that the existing width and drainage are not adequate for roadway improvements.
 3. The required right of way width for subdivision roadways shall be as shown in the Collin County Subdivision Regulations.
 4. County right of way shall be kept clear of trees and brush. Collin County has the right to exercise a right of way easement to prevent the planting of trees and shrubs in the right of way and to remove or cause to be removed trees or shrubs growing there by Court Order 2010-722-09-13.
 5. An easement will establish the right of the County to enter onto a property in order to perform necessary work but shall not establish the responsibility to do so.
 6. No work may occur in County right of way or easement without obtaining a permit from the County prior to beginning work. See Collin County Right of Way Use Policy for more information.
- B. Temporary Access Agreement
1. The County may propose to enter into a Temporary Access Agreement (TAA) with the Owner in the event that private property will be needed for roadway improvements. A TAA could grant the County the ability to use private property for the following:
 - a. Parking of County vehicles or equipment
 - b. Stockpile, burn, or chip debris or dirt
 - c. Any other access as approved by the Director of Public Works
 2. TAA's that are required in order to place permanent improvements on private property require Commissioners Court approval.
 3. The County shall, at its expense, restore private property to substantially the same appearance as previously existed following the expiration of the TAA.
 4. A TAA may be used in lieu of a permanent easement to perform minimally intrusive work as part of a right of way issue.
- C. Reimbursement by Property Owners

1. Upon Commissioners Court approval of roadway maintenance or improvements requiring reimbursement from the adjacent property owner, the required amount of money shall be placed in a non-interest bearing escrow account at a bank located within Collin County.
2. Reimbursement amount may include the cost involved for surveying, preparation of Deed or Easement, re-location of fences, facilities (if in a dedicated easement), culverts or other existing improvements. When property owners are required to incur total cost for the upgrade of a roadway, the above cost shall not be borne by Collin County.

D. Fencing/Gates

1. Fences installed inside the right of way will be removed at Owner's expense.
2. Right of way obtained as required for roadway improvements may require an existing fence to be removed. The existing fence will be removed and replaced with a fence of the same size and material at County expense. The new fence will be placed at the property line adjacent to the roadway frontage. Existing gates will be reused and re-hung.
3. Reimbursement for any changes to an existing fence is subject to approval by Director of Public Works and authorization by Commissioners Court.
4. All negotiations regarding fence replacement must be completed prior to right of way easement return to Public Works for recording at the Collin County Clerk's Office.
5. Temporary electric fencing, if warranted, will be provided, installed, maintained, and removed by Collin County as related to any roadway improvement project.

E. Mail Boxes

1. Mailboxes and their installation in County right of way shall meet specifications found in both the Texas Department of Transportation Regulations and United States Postal Service Regulations. Further information can be found here:
<https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/maintenance/mailboxes.html>
<https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>
2. Installation of brick/masonry/ornamental metal or other mailboxes that do not conform to these regulations are prohibited inside the right of way.
3. In the event that an existing mailbox is damaged by Public Works crews, the County will replace the damaged mailbox with a standard United States Postal Service approved mailbox on a light weight bendable or break-away pole, regardless of the original construction design.
4. Roadway maintenance or improvements may require the relocation of existing mailboxes within the County right of way.

- F. Roadway Drainage and Driveway Culverts
Refer to Collin County Drainage Design Manual.

1.07 MISCELLANEOUS

A. Signs

1. For installation of regulatory, warning signs and other traffic control devices, Public Works utilizes the most recently adopted versions of the FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the TxDOT Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD).
2. Commissioners Court Order Number 2002-247-04-08 Section B was amended regarding signage (both Regulatory and warning) placed adjacent to County roadways November 9th, 2004 to read as follows:
 - a. All roadway signs shall meet the specifications of Public Works. Private roadway signs are the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner shall pay for fabrication and installation, and any necessary future maintenance of the sign. All signs must meet Collin County standards.
 - b. Collin County does not authorize the use or installation any private signs on County Road right of way. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - i. Business Advertisements
 - ii. Real estate signs (house for sale, open house, etc.)
 - iii. Personal signs (garage sale, puppies for sale, etc.)
 - iv. Political signs

In addition it has been proven in courts of law throughout the country that the below signs provide a false sense of security to those the signs are intended to benefit. As such, these signs become a liability. Additional signs not allowed on County roadways or their respective right of way include but are not limited to the following:

 - v. Children At Play
 - vi. Watch For Children
 - vii. Cattle Crossing
 - viii. Deaf Child

B. Striping

1. The Director of Public Works will determine if a roadway requires striping.
2. Roadway striping shall be installed as per the most recently adopted versions of the FHWA Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and the TxDOT Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD).

C. Guard Rail

1. Requests for guardrail installation to be performed by the County are considered on a case-by-case basis. Determining factors for installation depend upon traffic studies, evaluation of the area requested, and availability of applicable warning signs in lieu of guardrail.
- D. Speed Bumps
1. Speed bumps are not allowed on any County roadway.
- E. Parking
1. Parking is not allowed within County right of way unless the roadway is designed to include a parking lane.
- F. Historical Markers
1. Historic persons must be deceased for at least 10 years in order to qualify, unless they are of statewide or national significance. Historic events that changed the course of state or local history must have occurred at least 30 years ago. Most other topics, including institutions, organizations and businesses must date back to at least 50 years in order to qualify. For the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, buildings and structures need to be at least 50 years of age. The topic must also have demonstrated historical significance and, in the case of buildings and structures, possess architectural significance as well.
 2. Collin County must receive a written request detailing the historical site and marker specifications and logistics. A request must be made and placed on Commissioners Court. Upon receipt of a signed Court Order, the Marker can be made or received and placed at the site.
- G. Inclement Weather
1. County forces will apply sand at the discretion of the Director of Public Works.