

ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTY ROAD

The establishment of a county road is regulated by state law (Chapter 36.81 RCW). The procedure is as follows:

- 1) Ten or more landowners with residences in the vicinity of the road must petition the county Council to accept the road as a public road and to accept the maintenance of the road. Petition must include a description of the general course and terminal points of the road or reference the plat(s) where the road was created.
- 2) The petition must be accompanied with three hundred fifty dollars. This is to cover expenses incurred for publication, examination, and public hearing. Any money remaining after the final hearing will be returned to the petitioner.
- 3) The Public Works Department will inspect the road and make a recommendation to the County Council either to accept the road, deny it, or accept it upon completion of specified improvements.

If the Public Works Department recommends improvements to bring the road up to county standards, it is the responsibility of the landowners to complete the improvements before the road is accepted as a public road.

- 4) Deeds and waivers of damages for the right of way must be acquired from all landowners abutting the road. The County Engineering office will prepare the deeds and contact the landowners for signature. These must be completed prior to acceptance of the road by the County Council.
- 5) A public hearing will be scheduled. Notice of the public hearing will be posted at each end of the proposed road for at least twenty days prior to the hearing. It will also be published in the Bellingham Herald once a week for two successive weeks.
- 6) At the public hearing, the petition and engineer's report will be presented, and public comments will be heard by the County Council. A final decision will then be made by the County Council.

