

Driveway Approaches

1. Type

Driveway approaches serve 20 ADT or less. All others shall be considered a road.

2. Requirements

- a) All driveway approaches within public rights-of-way shall have a Whatcom County Revocable Encroachment Permit (see Appendix B).
- b) Driveway approach construction or maintenance work shall not be allowed before issuance of a Whatcom County Revocable Encroachment Permit.
- c) All driveway approaches abutting a paved public road shall have a paved apron as shown on Drawing 508.D-4.
- d) Minimum easement width for a driveway is 30 feet.
- e) Driveways that serve two (2) dwellings and are longer than 150 feet shall be considered roads.
- f) Driveways shall be setback five (5) feet from the property line and neighboring driveway edges shall be 10 feet or more apart.
- g) Joint-use driveway approaches serving two adjacent parcels shall be encouraged and may be built upon formal written agreement of both property owners and approved by the County Engineer.

3. Specifications

Dimensions, slope and detail shall be as indicated in Drawings 508.D-1, 508.D-2, 508.D-3 and 508.D-4, and as further specified in the following subsections.

Conditions of Approval of New Driveway approaches:

- i) Driveway approaches providing access onto arterial/collector streets shall be denied if a reasonable alternate access is available.
- ii) All abandoned driveway approach areas on the same curb/gutter/sidewalk frontage shall be removed and the shoulders/ditch section shall be properly restored.
- iii) Maintenance of driveway approaches, including stormwater culverts, shall be the responsibility of the owner(s) whose properties they serve.
- iv) Every driveway approach must provide access to an off-street parking area located on private property. Every vehicle entering the driveway must be able to park, stand or load entirely off the street rights-of-way. In addition, use of the sidewalk, pathway or sight distance clear zone shall not be hindered or blocked. An

- adequate turn around area shall be provided for any driveway off an arterial/collector street, allowing vehicles to enter the travelway in a forward motion.
- v) No driveway approach shall be allowed to access into a designated pocket parking area.
 - vi) No vehicle shall be allowed to back out onto any street from an industrial, commercial or multi-family parking area.
 - vii) No driveway approach shall be constructed in such a manner that it causes a hazard to any existing stormwater inlet, culvert, street lighting standard, utility pole, traffic regulating devices or striping, fire hydrant, or other public facility. The cost of relocating any such public facility, when necessary to do so, shall be borne by the property owner/applicant. Said relocation of any public or private facility shall be performed only through the agency holding authority for the particular structure involved.
 - viii) For driveway sight distance see Appendix J, Driveway Intersection Sight Distance Guidelines.
 - ix) All surface stormwater from driveways shall be managed in accordance with the Chapter 2 Stormwater Standards section. No surface stormwater shall be allowed to flow onto the County road surface.
 - x) For single-family residences and joint-residential driveway approaches crossing an open ditch section, culverts shall be a minimum 12 inches in diameter or larger if so required to carry anticipated storm water flows. The culvert size shall be as approved by the County Engineer.
 - xi) All commercial or industrial access approaches shall be designed and constructed to roadway intersection standards. The design will be based on a traffic engineering analysis submitted that considers, among other factors, intersection spacing, sight distance, and traffic volumes.
 - xii) On access road frontage of 75 feet or less, no more than one driveway approach shall be constructed. On frontages over 75 feet, two or more driveway approaches may be permitted, subject to approval by the County Engineer.
 - xiii) Notwithstanding any other provision, driveway approaches will not be allowed where they are prohibited by a separate County Council action or where it is determined by the County Engineer or reviewing agency to create a hazard or impede the operation of traffic on the roadway.

Location and Width of New Driveway Approaches are as shown on Drawing 508.D-3. Driveway approach locations are to be measured from the closest edge of the intersection travelway to the centerline of the driveway approach, as shown in Table 10.