



Approaches



Department of Public Works

Overview

This brochure serves as a guide for when an approach permit is necessary. It is derived from The Spokane County Road Standards 3.22, and 3.24.

When is an Approach Permit Necessary

All approaches that connect to a county road require an approach permit. There are two types of approaches: urban and rural.

Urban approaches are approaches that have a curb. Information regarding Urban Approaches can be found in Public Works brochure E-4.

Rural approaches are approaches with no curb. Information regarding rural approaches can be found in Public Works brochure E-3.

Private Driveways

Private driveways that connect to county roads require an approach permit and can access up to 3 lots or parcels (see Building and Planning brochure BP-17)

Private Roads

See brochure PW- for information on Private Roads.

Unmaintained Roads

Unmaintained County roads require a Public notice #4 before issuance of Approach permit.

Summer Roads

Approaches are not permitted on Spokane County Summer Roads (Spokane County Road Standards 1.14)

When an approach permit is not necessary to obtain from Spokane County:

An approach permit is not necessary to obtain on private roads within a subdivision or plat.

The 2ND AND 3RD parcel on a private driveway do not need an approach permit but there must be a recorded easement.

Approaches accessing a State Highway or any other road that belongs to another jurisdiction do not require a Spokane County Approach permit. Please contact the appropriate jurisdiction for approach permitting.

Flood Plains

Parcels with Flood plains require a Flood Plain permit before an approach permit can be issued. Review-only permits are issued if the proposed approach and structure are 10 feet above the flood elevation and 100 feet away from the flood zone. A site-visit or certificate of elevation may be required prior to issuance of permit.

Wetlands

Parcels with Wetlands require approval from Planning department before issuance of Approach permit.

Other brochures that may be helpful

- E-3 Rural Residential Approaches
- E-4 Urban Residential Approaches
- E-5 Pipe Compaction Designs and Backfill
- BP-17 Fire Apparatus Access Road Standards
- BP-28 Private Driveways
- PW-1 Private Roads



Rural Residential Approaches

Public Works Department

E-3

Amended 2/2023

(Note: In this brochure "approach" is defined as access to a county road.)

Where is the approach located?

It is located between the actual physical existing road, gravel or asphalt, and your property line.

Is there more than one type of approach?

There are two types of approaches; urban which includes curb and rural which has no curb.

Why do I need a permit for a rural approach?

A permit is required for a rural driveway so that the county may inspect your approach for sight distance, grade, and drainage.

How close to my property line may I have the driveway?

No driveway shall be located any closer than seven and one-half feet from any property line.

What is required for sight distance?

Sight distance at the point of ingress (entry) and egress (exit) should be 10 times the posted speed limit of the road. For example, if the posted speed limit is 35 MPH, then you would need 350 feet of sight distance in both directions, 45 MPH would need 450 feet, etc.

What driveway grades are acceptable?

Driveway approach grades within right of way shall not exceed 8% (a rise or descent of 8 feet in 100 feet) in the urban area or 2% (a rise or descent of 2 feet in 100 feet) in rural areas. Driveway grades shall not exceed ten percent within ten feet of a county road right of way.

Will I need a culvert for drainage?

Some rural approaches will need a culvert. Culvert sizes will vary and is determined upon inspection. The right of way inspector will advise the permit technician as to what size will be required and you will be notified by email. We require beveled ends no steeper than 1 1/2 to 1. Larger size culverts may be required by the county engineer where larger flows occur.

Is any type of culvert acceptable?

No, only 16-gauge galvanized steel is acceptable. Plastic and concrete culverts do not meet county standards.

May I install the culvert myself?

If you wish to install the culvert yourself or hire a contractor, you may be required to obtain a Certificate of Liability and Spokane County Road Obstruction Bond.

Do I need to place gravel on the approach?

Crushed rock will be required. 5/8 minus is the largest size allowed in the right of way. A smaller size is also acceptable. On the private portion of your driveway, you may use any size.

Why is the crushed rock on the approach limited to 5/8 minus?

Eventually some of the rock will work its way out into the county road and be picked up in tires, any larger size would crack windshields.

How does the inspector know where my driveway will be?

When you apply for an approach permit you will receive some flagging and be asked to stake and flag your future approach where it meets the county road. This will confirm to the inspector that they have the correct approach described on the permit. If you neglect to flag the approach, you will be contacted to flag your approach and it will be reinspected later. **No approach work to begin prior to initial inspection and receipt of inspection letter with requirements.**

How wide should the approach be?

The fire district requests a minimum 20-foot-wide approach to accommodate an emergency vehicle.

Do I need an approach permit to modify an existing approach?

A permit is required if you plan to asphalt pave or widen an existing approach or to change the driveway to a new location on your property.

I have trees and shrubs on both sides of my future approach. Will this be a problem?

Trimming or removing trees and shrubs will be a requirement if they are creating a sight distance problem.

What do I need to bring with me to obtain an approach permit?

A legal description, parcel number/address and map. These things will be needed in submission of your approach permit application.

How much cover do I need on the culvert?

Culverts require 1 foot of cover. See handout E-5, Pipe Compaction and Backfill for more information.

My neighbor claims that a portion of my future driveway will be on his property. Can the inspector verify this?

No, this is a civil matter and does not come under the County's jurisdiction.

Am I allowed to take out a permit for a friend or relative?

Yes, but be advised that the person signing the permit is the one responsible for completing the requirements.

Can I put concrete to the edge of the road?

No, concrete creates a hazard to maintenance equipment and personnel. Keep the concrete back five (5) feet and tie your approach into the county road with asphalt or gravel.

For information or an appointment contact:

Spokane County Public Works Department

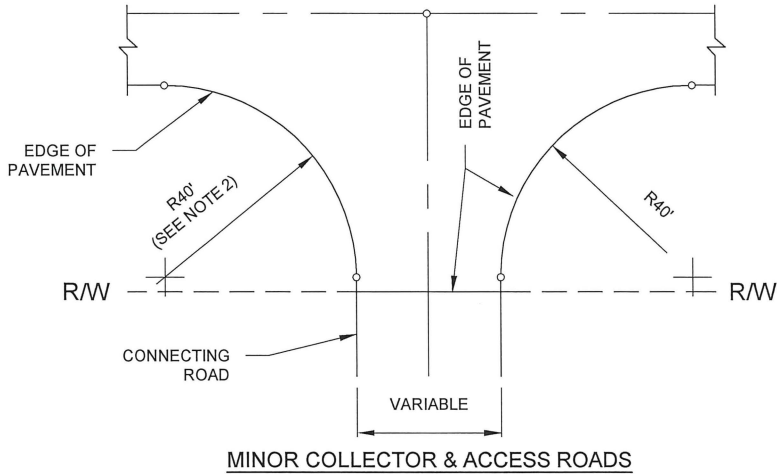
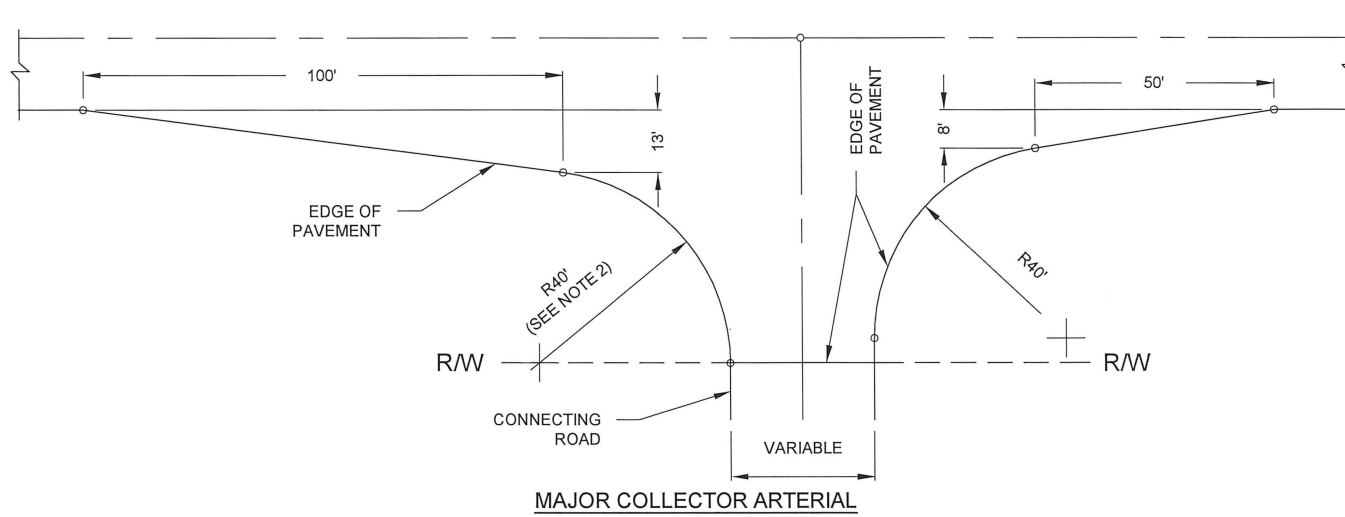
1026 W. Broadway Avenue

Spokane, WA 99260-0170

Reception (509) 477-3600

Permit Center 509-477-7151

publicworkspermits@spokanecounty.org



GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL APPROACHES ARE SYMMETRICAL ABOUT CENTERLINE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
2. WHERE LARGER TRUCK TURNING MOVEMENTS ARE ENCOUNTERED LARGER RETURN RADII AND RIGHT TURN TAPERS MAY BE REQUIRED. RADIUS AND TAPERS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY ENGINEER.
3. DECELERATION/ACCELERATION LANES MAY BE REQUIRED IF DETERMINED BY ENGINEERING ANALYSIS OR REQUIRED BY THE SPOKANE COUNTY ENGINEER.

SPOKANE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 SPOKANE, WA. 99260 477-3600

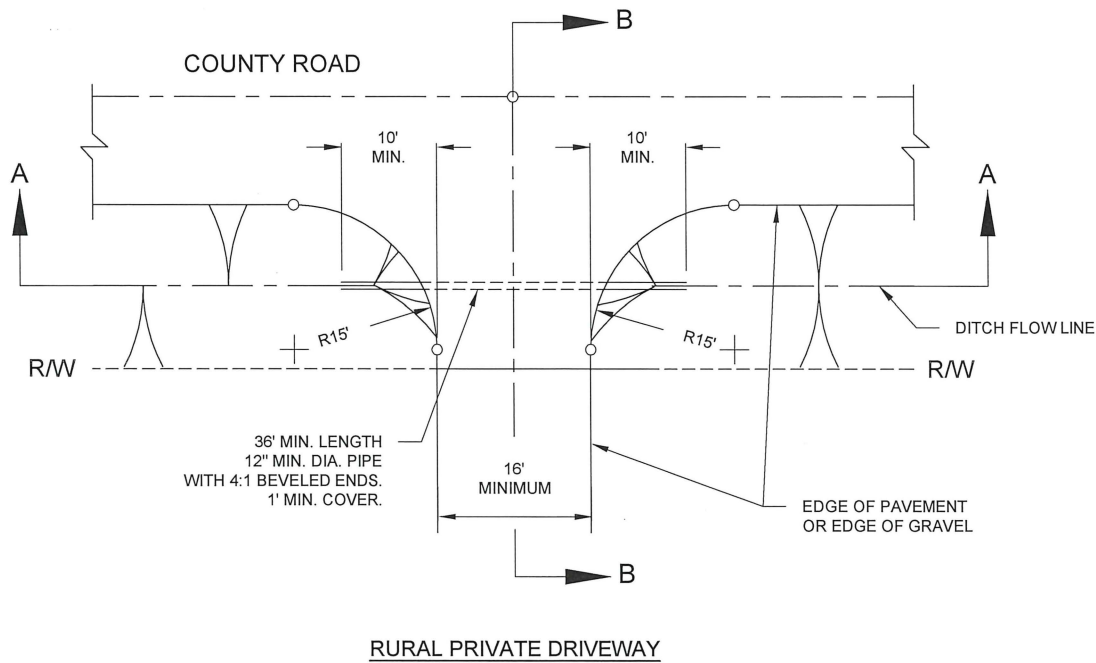
APPROVED
 COUNTY ENGINEER
 DATE: 7/11/17



STANDARD
 RURAL ROAD APPROACHES

NO.	DATE	BY	CHKD.	APPR.

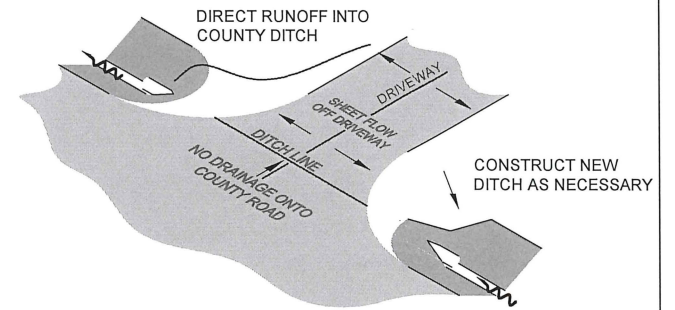
REVISION



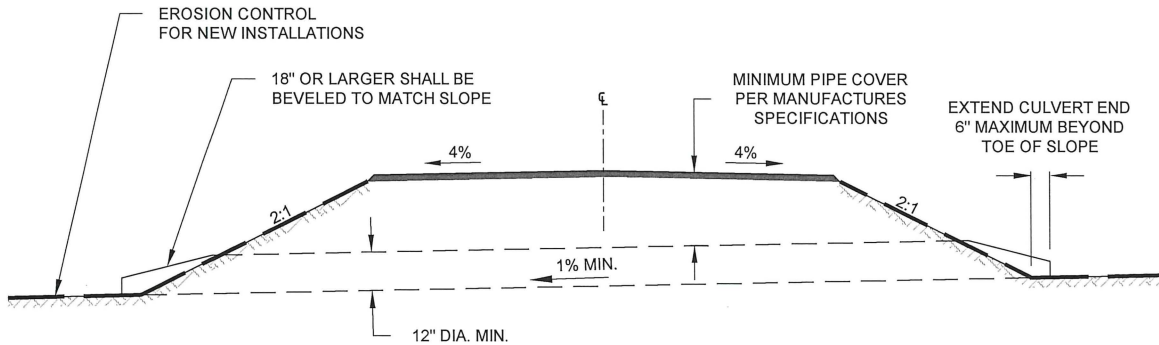
RURAL PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

GENERAL NOTES

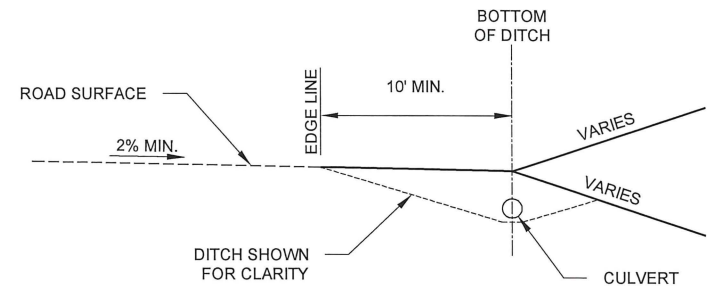
1. THE DRAINAGE PIPE SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM DIAMETER OF 12". LARGER PIPES MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE COUNTY ENGINEER WHERE LARGER FLOWS OCCUR.
2. REFER TO APPROACH SECTION REGARDING LARGER CULVERTS.



DRAINAGE PLAN



SECTION A - A
(CULVERT SECTION)



SECTION B - B
(APPROACH SECTION)

NO.	DATE	BY	CKD.	APPR.	REVISION

SPOKANE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SPOKANE, WA. 99260 477-3600

APPROVED: [Signature]
COUNTY ENGINEER
DATE: 12/11/17



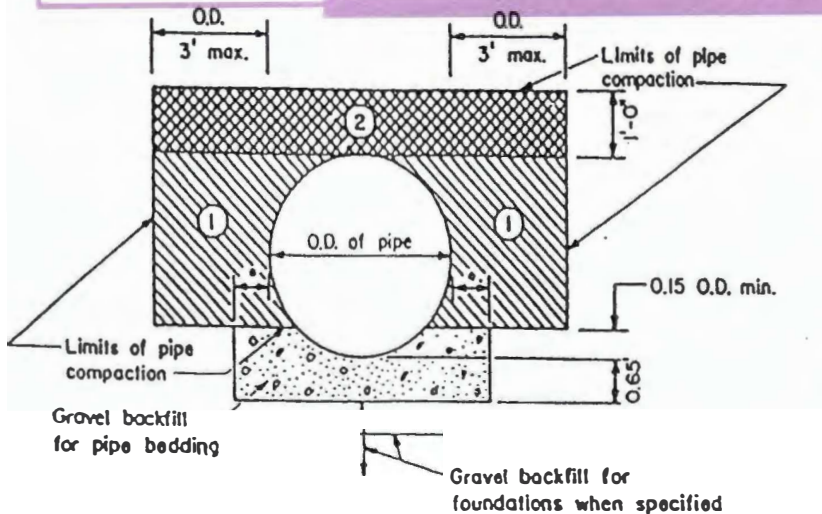
STANDARD
RURAL DRIVEWAY APPROACHES

SHEET
A - 8A

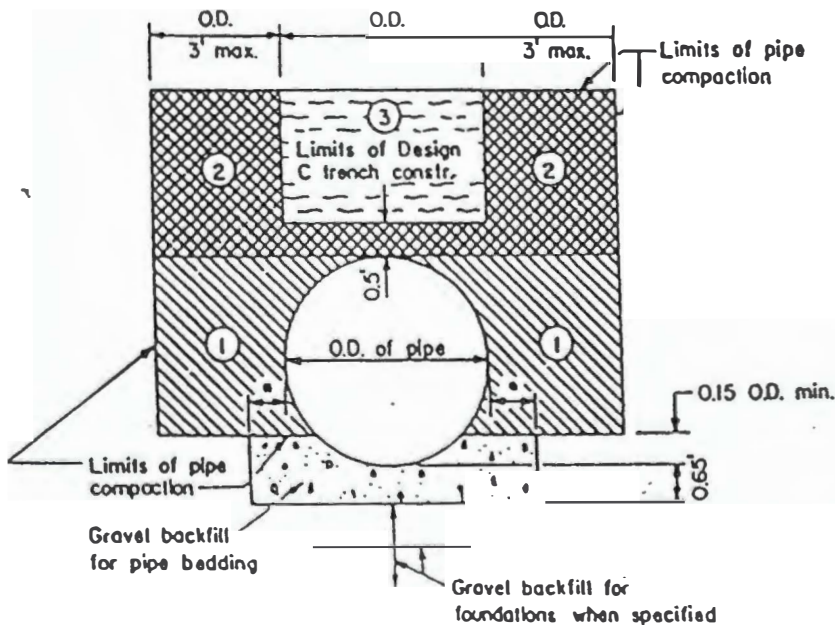
Technical Information Pipe Compaction Designs and Backfill

E-5

Public Works Department – Division of Engineering and roads



DESIGN A
(for Metal and Concrete Pipe)






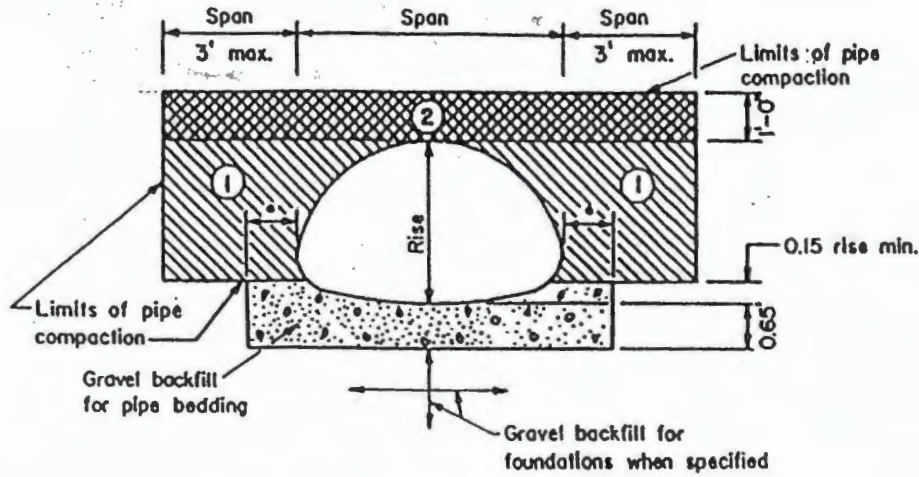
DESIGN C
(For Concrete Pipe with Circular Reinforcement Only)

NOTES:

1. Pipe compaction limits shown on this plan are for pipe construction in an embankment. For pipe construction in a trench, the horizontal limits of the pipe compaction zone shall be the walls of the trench.
 2. All steel and aluminum pipe and pipe-arches shall be installed in accordance with Design A.
 3. Concrete pipe with elliptical reinforcement shall be installed in accordance with Design A.
 4. Concrete pipe, plain or with circular reinforcement, shall be installed with Design A or a combination of Designs A and C, as determined by the Engineer.
 5. For Design C, it is essential that the walls for Zone 3 be constructed as near vertical as possible.
 6. O.D. is equal to the outside diameter of a pipe or the outside span of pipe-arch. The dimensions shown as O.D. with 3' or 4' maximum shall be O.D. until O.D. equals 3' and 4' at which point 3' and 4' shall be used.
- * 1'-0" for diameters 12" through 42" and for spans through 50".
2'-0" diameters greater than 42" and for spans greater than 50".

**LEGEND
PIPE COMPACTION ZONE**

-  1. Backfill material placed in 0.5' loose layers and compacted to 95% maximum density.
-  2. Method B or C compaction
-  3. Baled straw or hay with wires or strings cut (dry, commercial quality).



TYPICAL PIPE-ARCH INSTALLATION

PIPE	SIZE	MIN. DIST. BETWEEN BARRELS
CIRCULAR PIPE CONCRETE & METAL DESIGN A (DIAMETER)	12" to 24"	12"
	30" to 96"	DIAM ÷ 2
	102" to 180"	48"
CIRCULAR PIPE CONCRETE ONLY DESIGN C (DIAMETER)	12" to 36"	2D
	42" to 96"	72"
	102" to 180"	72"
PIPE - ARCH METAL ONLY (SPAN)	18" to 36"	12"
	43" to 142"	SPAN ÷ 3
	148" to 199"	48"

**PIPE COMPACTION DESIGNS
AND BACKFILL**

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON
W.A. BULLET, SECRETARY



A. D. Smith
REGISTERED ENGINEER






C. B. Smith
REGISTERED ENGINEER

APPROVED January 23, 1980

STANDARD PLAN B-II

**LEGEND
PIPE COMPACTION ZONE**

-  1. Backfill material placed in 0.5' loose layers and compacted to 95% maximum density.
-  2. Method B or C compaction
-  3. Baled straw or hay with wires or strings cut (dry, commercial quality).

For more information or an appointment contact:
Spokane County Public Works Dept.
Division of Engineering and Roads
West 1026 Broadway Avenue
Spokane, Washington 99260-0170
(509) 477-3600