

# **Regulations for Walker County Driveway Permits, Design, and Materials**

## ***SECTION 1 - PERMITS***

The construction of all driveways, sidewalks, culverts, or other development or the replacement of existing driveways, sidewalks, or culverts on Walker County easements or rights-of-way along publicly maintained roads without first securing a permit is prohibited.

To obtain a permit to construct a driveway or to revise any existing driveway the landowner or landowner's agent, hereafter referred to as the applicant, shall contact the Walker County Department of Planning and Development. The applicant shall complete and submit to the Walker County Department of Planning and Development a *Permit to Construct Access Driveway Facilities on County Road Right of Way*, which must include a description of the proposed work, the applicant's name, mailing address, telephone number and location of the proposed driveway. Applications for permits shall be made by the property owner or their authorized representative, who shall represent all parties in interest. Applications for permits shall be made only for the bona fide purpose of securing or changing access to the owner's property, but not for the purpose of parking or servicing vehicles on Walker County rights of way.

No construction work on the driveway shall be undertaken on the right of way until a fully executed driveway permit has been received by the applicant and the applicant has given 24-hour notification to Walker County.

A driveway must be constructed in accordance with a fully executed driveway permit and all applicable regulations. The precinct commissioner from the precinct in which the application is made and/or his or her appointed representative will review the driveway construction to determine if it is acceptable or if modifications are needed. A driveway will be considered an authorized permitted driveway installation only after construction has been completed and the construction has been determined to be satisfactory to Walker County. The applicant or landowner shall be responsible for the replacement of any culvert that fails to function.

Consideration also needs to be given by applicant and/or applicant's contractor to driveway geometrics, utility location or relocation, environmental requirements, wetlands considerations (if appropriate) and the need to follow all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations, including contacting a utility location one call system such as Texas 811 prior to excavation, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) where applicable.

## ***SECTION 2 – DRIVEWAY DESIGN***

All parts of entrances and exits on county road right of way, including the radii, shall be confined within the permittee's property frontage. Frontage is that portion of the right of way lying

between two most distant possible lines drawn perpendicularly from the centerline of the county road to the permittee's abutting property line.

When the permittees of two or more adjoining properties agree to combine their property frontage for a shared access driveway, the combination would be encouraged and authorized under the applicable regulations. The frontage will then be the portion of the right of way lying between the two most distant possible lines of the combined frontage drawn perpendicularly from the centerline of the roadway to the permittees' abutting property lines.

At any intersection of a county roadway with another highway, road, or street where the existing right of way is flared or widened to allow for additional sight distance, no access driveway will be permitted within the flared or widened right of way section.

Fixed objects will not be allowed in the county road right of way.

The angle of the driveway from the county road pavement shall be 75 to 90 degrees, except that one-way 45 to 90 degree angle driveways will be permitted for connections to one-way frontage roads or lane divided highways.

The width of a private residential driveway shall be a minimum of twenty(20) feet measured at right angles to the centerline of the driveway, except as increased by permissible radii. The radius connecting the driveway to the county road pavement shall not be less than 15 feet. Inlets shall be spaced every 50 ft. or in the midpoint of any culvert over 50 feet in length but less than 100 feet.

The width and method of construction of a commercial driveway and the radius of curvature connecting the driveway to roadway pavement may vary in size depending on traffic and location and should be selected in accordance with Appendix C of the Texas Department of Transportation Roadway Design Manual.

### ***SECTION 3 – DRAINAGE***

Drainage in roadway side ditches shall not be altered or impeded. When drainage structures are required, the size and other design features shall be approved by Walker County.

Access driveways shall be constructed to match the grade of the roadway pavement edge or the shoulder edge if a shoulder is present. The driveway shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to not impede the flow of water away from the county road.

If the driveway is approved to be constructed at grade through the roadside ditch or natural grade of the roadside, the driveway shall be paved with an all-weather surface material acceptable to Walker County to conform to the cross section shape of the ditch or other natural grade of the roadside to form a stable driveway. An exception to using new all-weather surface material may be approved by Walker County if the roadside or ditch is naturally composed of an all-weather surface material with rock which may be driven on without eroding or rutting in all types of weather.