

515 DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

A. Definitions

The terms used in these Standards are defined below:

Access Approach

The improved access area between the edge of the public right-of-way and the edge of the traveled way.

Access Easement

Provides public and/or private access for pedestrians through private property and/or provides a public utility vehicular access to a public facility located outside of public rights-of-way.

Access Point

The location where the centerline of the access approach intersects with the edge of the traveled way.

ADT

Average Daily Traffic defined as the total volume during a given time period (in whole days), greater than one day and less than a year, divided by the number of days in that time period.

Applicant

Person(s), party(s), firm(s), corporation(s), or other legal entities or designees who make an application with the County. Also see definition for Developer.

As-built

See Record Drawing.

Asphalt Concrete

A high quality, controlled hot mixture of asphalt cement (a brownish-black solid or semi-solid mixture of bitumen) and well-graded aggregate compacted into a uniform dense mass. See Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA).

AWDT (AWT)

Average Weekday Traffic is an average 24-hour traffic volume occurring on weekdays (Monday through Friday) for some period of time less than one year.

Bridge

See Section 513.B.

Channel

A feature that conveys surface water and is open to the air.

Clear Zone

The total roadside border area, starting at the edge of the traveled way, available for use by errant vehicles. This area may consist of a shoulder, a recoverable slope, a non-recoverable slope, and/or a clear run-out area. The clear zone cannot contain a critical slope (slopes steeper than 3H:1V). Design Clear Zone is the minimum target value used in highway design.

Collector Arterial or Collector

A road whose function is to connect local traffic to a Principal or Minor Arterial. See Section 505 Table 1.

Concurrency

See Transportation Concurrency Management.

Controlled Density Fill (CDF)

A mixture of Portland cement, fly ash, aggregates, water, and admixtures proportioned to provide a non-segregating, self-consolidating, free-flowing and excavatable material that will result in a hardened, dense, non-settling fill.

County

Whatcom County, a municipal corporation and a charter county in the State of Washington. This shall also mean the Whatcom County Engineer.

County Engineer

The Whatcom County Engineer having authorities specified in RCW 36.75.050 and RCW 36.80, or the County Engineer's authorized representative.

County Road

A public road or street which is maintained by Whatcom County as part of the County's road system, as designated by the County Council.

Cul-de-sac

A road or street having one end open to traffic and being terminated by a circular vehicle turnaround and having as its primary function the provision of access to adjoining properties.

Design Hourly Volume, DHV

The DHV is generally the 30th highest hourly volume of the future year chosen for design. On the average rural road or arterial, DHV is about 15% of ADT. For urban areas, DHV is usually between 8-12% of the ADT.

Design Speed

The speed to be utilized for road design purposes.

For roads posted less than 30 mph, the design speed shall be the posted speed or proposed speed.

For roads posted greater than or equal to 30 mph, the design speed shall be 5 mph higher than the posted or proposed speed.

The proposed speed for new road facilities should be determined with respect to the topography, anticipated operating speed, the adjacent land use, and the functional classification of the road.

Design Vehicle

The specific vehicle used to determine the turning radius of an intersection. The design vehicle for county access roads is the single-unit truck (SU). For commercial and industrial roads the design vehicle is the semitrailer truck WB-40. For collector and arterial roads the design vehicle is the semitrailer truck WB-62. For County designated truck routes the design vehicle is the semitrailer truck WB-67.

Developer

Any owner, or the owner's authorized agent, of a proposed land, utility, building, or other development activity.

Development

Any activity that requires Federal, State or local approval for the use or modification of land or its resource. These activities include; but are not limited to, subdivision and short subdivisions, binding site plans, planned unit developments, variances, shoreline substantial development, clearing activity, fill and grade work, activity conditionally allowed, building or construction, revocable encroachment permits, and septic approval.

Drainage

The collection, conveyance, containment and/or discharge of surface and stormwater runoff.

Driveway

An access way on private property for residential vehicle conveyance serving 20 ADT or less. This definition revises section 508.D.2.e) when a driveway is considered a road.

Driveway Approach

See Access Approach.

Easement

An interest in land that entitles the grantee to a specified right of use or general use. This can include, but is not limited to: access, pedestrian paths, bicycle paths, utilities, or drainage.

Engineered

Designed by or under the supervision of a professional engineer, licensed in Washington State.

Erosion

The gradual wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents, including such process as gravitational creep and the detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity.

Excavation

The mechanical removal of earth and rock material.

Franchise Agreement

An agreement entered into by an entity with Whatcom County to maintain and/or repair utilities in Whatcom County rights-of-way.

Frontage

That portion of a parcel adjacent to a public road that includes the vehicular access point(s).

Functional Intersection Area

The traveled way within the legs of the intersection, to include any queue or storage length plus the minimum stopping sight distance.

Grading

Any act which changes the elevation of the ground surface.

Highway

As used herein, a major road owned and maintained by the WSDOT.

Hot Mix Asphalt

Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) class 1/2" previously known as Class B asphalt concrete.

Intersection

The general area where two or more public or private roadways join or cross at grade. Access and driveway approaches can be considered intersections; therefore some of the principles of intersection design can apply.

Landscape Architect

An individual licensed by the State of Washington to practice landscape architecture under RCW 18.96.

Landscape Areas

For the purpose of these guidelines, "landscape areas" means areas within County rights-of-way, easements or stormwater percolation areas intended or utilized for the planting of trees, shrubbery or other plants. Such areas include: median areas, planter strips and islands.

Level of Service (LOS)

A qualitative measure describing operational conditions within a traffic stream, generally described in terms of such factors as volume, speed, travel time, delay, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience, and safety.

Local Access Road/Street

Primary function is to provide direct access to adjoining properties. Provides for traffic circulation within and through a neighborhood and may access to higher classification roads and streets.

Low Impact Development (LID) Best Management Practices

Distributed stormwater management practices, integrated into a project design, that emphasize pre-disturbance hydrologic processes of infiltration, filtration, storage, evaporation and transpiration. LID Best Management Practices facilities include, but are not limited to, bioretention/rain gardens, permeable pavements, roof downspout controls, dispersion, soil quality and depth, minimal excavation foundations, vegetated roofs, and water re-use.

Minor Access Road/Street

Primarily functions to provide direct access to adjoining properties. Provides for low-speed, low-volume traffic, and access to roads and streets of higher classification.

Minor Arterial

A road connecting two or more towns or communities, connecting two highways of equal or greater capacity, serving as the primary access to a large land area or other major traffic generators. Relatively high overall travel speeds, with through traffic encouraged and facilitated by movement preference at intersections. Access is controlled and infrequent to abutting properties.

Neighborhood Collector

Streets connecting two or more neighborhoods and typically connecting to higher classification streets or other collectors. Transit use is low while the neighborhood focus is for bicycle and pedestrian use. Direct driveway access is discouraged but may be provided to abutting properties only in the event that no other feasible alternative exists.

Perimeter Public Road

The road adjacent to the portion of a parcel that has no internal road access point.

Principal Arterial

A road which moves high volumes of traffic quickly across and between cities and/or towns. Access is normally limited to intersections with other arterials or collectors. Direct access to abutting property is prohibited or minimal. The level of fixed route transit service is high; bicycle and pedestrian activities are low.

Private Road

A privately maintained road within a private easement or other privately held legal tract, which generally serves private properties but may serve public ownership properties. A private road is not a driveway, see driveway definition.

Professional Civil Engineer (PE)

An individual licensed by the State of Washington to practice civil engineering under RCW 18.43.

Professional Land Surveyor (PLS)

A person licensed by the State of Washington to practice land surveying under RCW 18.43.

Public Road

A road, which serves the general public, is within public rights-of-way, and is either publicly or privately maintained.

Record Drawings

The final revision of a design drawing updated to include information from field verification showing the true condition or configuration of what has been built. The primary function is to document what was actually built, including dimensions, elevations, location, and calculations. The drawing is designated "Record Drawing" by stamp or lettering on the drawing. Formerly known as "As-built" drawings.

Rights-of-way

A legal right of passage primarily established for road use.

Road

An open access way for the passage of vehicles, pedestrians, and other non-motorized travel. Includes the combination of roadway and rights-of-way or easements and all improvements within those boundaries. The term "road" generally implies rural characteristics when used with a route classification (see "Street").

Roadway

The general term used to describe the strip of land, structure, and surface treatment over which vehicles travel. Roadway, as used herein, includes the area between the outside edges of shoulders, or between curb faces, and excludes ditches, curbs and sidewalks.

Rural

The general land use classification that identifies those areas outside the Urban Growth Area and having residential lot sizes greater than one (1) net acre as defined in Title 20, Definitions, Minimum Lot Size.

Sediment

Fragmented earthen material that originates from the weathering and erosion of rocks or unincorporated deposits and is transported by, suspended in, or deposited by water action.

Sedimentation

The depositing of sediment.

Sidewalk

A paved, typically Portland Cement concrete, pedestrian facility adjacent to, or in near proximity to, a public or private street.

Street

Except where applied to a specific route classification, "Road" and "Street" shall be considered interchangeable terms for the purposes of these Standards. When used with a route classification, connotes urban characteristics.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

See Chapter 12.08.035, Whatcom County Code.

Transportation Concurrency Management

The requirement as defined under the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) that adequate transportation facilities are available or provided concurrent with development. Concurrency Level of Service (LOS) is based on the volume to capacity ratio (v/c) for arterial or collector roadway segments. A segment is defined as a length of roadway located between major intersections, this can be also known as a link.

Traveled way

The portion of the roadway intended for movement of vehicles, exclusive of shoulders and lanes for parking, bicycles, turning and storage for turning.

Trip

A one-direction movement, which begins at an origin and ends at a destination.

Trip Generation

The number of trips created by a particular development, land use, or activity.

Truck Traffic

All buses, single-unit trucks and truck combinations, except light delivery trucks. A light delivery truck is a single-unit truck, such as a van or pickup, with size and operating characteristics similar to those of a passenger car and commonly used for short-haul, light delivery service. Vehicles in the commercial truck class are normally those having 26,001 lb or greater gross vehicle weight (GVW) rating of the manufacturer (RCW 46.25.010).

Urban

General land use classification which identifies 1) those areas inside an Urban Growth Area as defined by the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan, or 2) having urban residential lot size characteristics equal to one (1) net acre or less (as defined in Title 20, Definitions, Minimum Lot Size).

Utilities

Any water, gas, sanitary sewer, stormwater conveyance system, electrical, telephone, wire or television communication service, and all persons, companies or governmental agencies furnishing the same.

Walkway

A pedestrian facility, typically in rural areas, which may or may not be adjacent to a road. Walkways differ from sidewalks in standards, alignment, shape, location, construction material, and overall installation. A walkway may also function as a bicycle path/facility in which case the bikeway standards will prevail.

Wetlands

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

B. Acronyms

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AC	Asphalt Concrete
ADA	Americans with Disability Act
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
APWA	American Public Works Association
ASTM	American Standard for Testing Materials
ATB	Asphalt Treated Base

AWDT	Average Weekday Traffic
BST	Bituminous Surface Treatment
DHV	Design Hourly Volume
HMA	Hot Mix Asphalt
LOS	Level of Service
MUTCD	Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
NAD	North American Datum
NAVD	North American Vertical Datum
NOAA	National Oceanic and Aerospace Administration
PCC	Portland Cement Concrete
RCW	Revised Code of Washington: Legislated requirements of the State of Washington
SCS	U.S. Soil Conservation Service
UBC	Uniform Building Code (1979 or current)
USCS	Unified Soil Classification System
WAC	Washington Administrative Code: Requirements developed by State of Washington agencies
WB-40, 62, 67	Wheel Base-40ft., 62ft., 67ft. (AASHTO)
WCC	Whatcom County Code
WSDOT	Washington State Department of Transportation

