

Jefferson County Road and Bridge Department FAQ's

1. Is my road maintained by the County Road Department or a Rural Maintenance District (RMD)?

A: Contact the Road Department Office at (406) 225-4158 for information.

2. I was told the County does not maintain my road. My road is in Jefferson County, so why doesn't the Road Department maintain it?

A: There are many roads in Jefferson County, but not all of them are maintained by the County. The Board of County Commissioners determine which roads will be maintained with County resources. The Road department primarily maintains roads classified as collectors or arterials, these roads carry more vehicle trips than local, low use roads. Local subdivision roads may be maintained by RMDs, homeowner associations, or by private property owners living along the road.

3. Do I need a permit for a new driveway or approach onto a public road?

A: Yes, a permit is required and there is a \$75.00 fee for the permit. Each proposed approach is inspected for safety and drainage. You can get the permit by contacting the Road Department at (406) 225-4158 or by visiting the "Roads" page on the Jefferson County website.

4. How often is my road graded?

A: Several factors determine how often a gravel road is graded. The volume of traffic, speed of traffic and weather conditions heavily affect the condition of a road. Washboards and potholes typically occur on curves and near stop signs. Reduction of speeds and slower acceleration can help reduce the washboards in those areas. The County Road Supervisor, who is responsible for grading will periodically check the condition of your roadway and will schedule the appropriate maintenance.

5. How can I get my road graded?

A: Call the County Road Department at (406) 225-4158, we will respond as quickly as we can. However at times road grading must be postponed due to weather and other scheduled projects. If the road is too dry, too wet, or frozen, grading has little effect on the road, other than to rearrange the dust or mud.

6. Why do you pull the ditches when you grade gravel roads?

A: This cleans the in-slope and the ditch of vegetation, which aides in drainage

7. Why doesn't the Road Department blade the roads when it is hot and dry?

A: If it is too hot and dry, blading the road only temporarily removes the potholes. The potholes and washboards, along with even more dust, will occur shortly after blading. We make every effort possible to blade the roads when the temperature and moisture are within an appropriate range. If it is too hot, using a water truck along with the blade does not ensure that we will be able to keep enough moisture on the road.

8. Why doesn't the Road Department grade roads in the winter?

A: Freezing temps, even if only at night, prohibit proper watering and compaction of road materials. Grading in these conditions will only cause more damage and erosion to the road surface.

9. How do I get a lower speed limit sign?

A: Speed limits are set by Montana Law or by conducting a speed study. The speed limit allowed by Montana law for rural areas is 35 MPH. A speed study must be done to establish a speed limit other than 35 MPH.

10. Can you put speed bumps on my road to slow down the traffic?

A: No. The control of speeding in residential neighborhoods is a widespread concern and requires persistent law enforcement efforts. Speed bumps may become a real problem when we try to remove snow.

11. Can I get Dust Control Oil put on my road?

A: Yes. Jefferson County offers a cost share program for residents that live along County maintained corridor roads. Jefferson County does not pay for dust oil applications on non-maintained or subdivision roads.

12. Does the County Road Department remove dead animals from the road?

A: Yes, if it is a large animal and it is in the roadway we will move it off.

13. A snowplow knocked down my mailbox. When are you going to replace it?

A: The Road Department's policy is to replace mailboxes that have actually been hit by the snowplow; however, if the mailbox or post was broken off from the force of the snow coming off the plow blade, we do not replace or repair it.

14. Can I shovel or plow snow on to the County Road?

A: No, you should not push any snow on or across a County Road because it can present a serious traffic hazard to motorists. It can also cause additional wear and damage to roadway surfaces.

15. Why do you remove trees along the roadway?

A: To improve site distance, roadway safety, and also to allow as much direct sunlight as possible on the roadway to keep it dry after a weather event such as a snow or rainstorm.

16. How close to the road can I put landscaping, fences and other fixtures.

A: Normally the distance is 30 feet from the center of the road. Depending on which road you live on, there may be exceptions to this. Please call the County Road Department at (406) 225-4158 to see if the distance is 30 feet or something different for your road.

17. Who do I call for pothole repair?

A: Please call the Road Department at (406) 225-4158. We will only repair potholes on County-maintained roads.

18. Who is responsible for the culvert under my driveway?

A: The landowner is responsible for the maintenance and replacement of a culvert under their driveway.