

Driveway Permits

Wisconsin law requires a written permit to refill or install a driveway or culvert. Driveway permits are issued by officials of the Eau Claire County Highway Department and are required for all residential and commercial access onto a county highway.

Purpose

The review of driveway permits helps improve the design and placement of driveways, medians, and other access control measures. The overall goal is to eliminate or limit potential traffic conflicts and ultimately increase safety. The proper placement and spacing of driveways can also improve traffic flow by reducing potential conflict points.

Guidelines

In Accordance with Title 18.22.030 of the Eau Claire County Code the Eau Claire County Highway Department uses the following guidelines in reviewing driveway/access onto the County Trunk Highway System. **Figure 4** displays an example of the guidelines. Meeting the Guidelines does not guarantee access will be granted. Consideration will be given to the impact the access will have on the traveling public.

1. **Stopping Sight Distance** – Drivers traveling at posted speed limit or median speed observed by Department staff must be able to see a three (3) foot tall object at a distance according to FDM 11-5 guidelines to provide a safe stopping distance. A driveway permit will be denied if there is a significant problem with the

stopping sight distance when an alternate access is available.

2. **Proximity to Stop Controlled Intersections** – A corner lot will be required to access onto the minor road which is controlled by a Stop Sign. Only one (1) access will be allowed (access will not be granted to each road). Exceptions may be granted for large corner lots. Driveways will not be granted within 350 feet of the right-of-way of the intersecting road. Access will be considered onto the County Trunk Highway System if the terrain (wetlands, etc.) prevents access to the minor road. Mailboxes on the County Trunk Highway will be located as far from the intersection as possible.
3. **Spacing** – Permitted driveways must meet the following conditions:
 - Minimum of 100' separation between driveways on adjacent parcels or equal to the lot frontage located outside the urbanized area as identified on the most current metropolitan planning organization map.
 - Minimum of 75' separation between driveways on adjacent parcels located inside the urbanized area as identified on the most current metropolitan planning organization map.
 - Minimum 300' separation between driveways on single parcels.
 - A new road will require a minimum of 400' separation from right-of-way of new road to right-of-way of adjacent road intersection. If the

posted speed limit is 35 mph or less, the new road will require a minimum of 300' separation.

Driveway requests that do not meet the conditions above will typically be denied by Department staff.

Number of Access Points – Only one access point will be allowed per 300 feet of frontage. There is no guarantee that access will be granted to lots that have been subdivided from a larger parcel that has a single access prior to subdividing the parcel. If additional land is located behind a row of lots which are located along the frontage, a new road may be required to give rear access to all lots that are available for development. U turn designed driveways are not acceptable

4. **Traffic** – Current traffic volume and anticipated increases in traffic and development will be considered in granting access. Every effort will be made to avoid the potential of having to buy back access as development increases.

5. **Maximum Surfaced Width of Access** – The following are the maximum surface width of access points.

Residential	- 20 feet	Commercial	- 35 feet
Agricultural	- 24 feet	Industrial	- 35 feet

6. **Permit Fee Schedule** –

Residential –	\$100.00
Commercial / Industrial –	\$150.00
New Street or Road –	\$350.00

7. **Culvert Replacement as part of Pavement Replacement and Ditch Re-grading projects** – The Eau Claire County Highway Department will complete culvert replacements as part of Pavement Replacement and Ditch Re-grading projects.

Maintenance

The maintenance and replacement of a driveway, and culvert, is the responsibility of the property owner or occupant. The maintenance and replacement of intersecting side roads are the responsibility of the municipality. Any expense incurred by the Eau Claire County Highway Department due to lack of proper maintenance will be at the owner’s expense (i.e., thawing of culvert pipe not cleaned, not structurally sound, obstructed by excessive snow pushed into ditch, etc.).

The typical maintenance limits where County roads intersect private driveways and Municipal side roads are illustrated in Figure 5.

Driveway Surfacing

Any driveway disturbed during construction activities will be restored in-kind (such as blacktop, gravel, etc.), but only to the extent removed by the Highway Department personnel. Blacktop surfacing shall be permitted to the roadway surface, but typically shall conform to the normal elevation of adjacent highway shoulders, sloping down, and away from the roadway surface. At no time does the Eau Claire County Highway Department allow a concrete driveway surface within ten (10) feet from the edge of the roadway pavement (see **Figure 4**).

Culverts

All culverts must be 15” minimum diameter or larger depending on site conditions. The overall culvert size, length, and material must be approved by the Eau Claire County Highway Department.

Figure 4. Highway Access / Driveway Policy

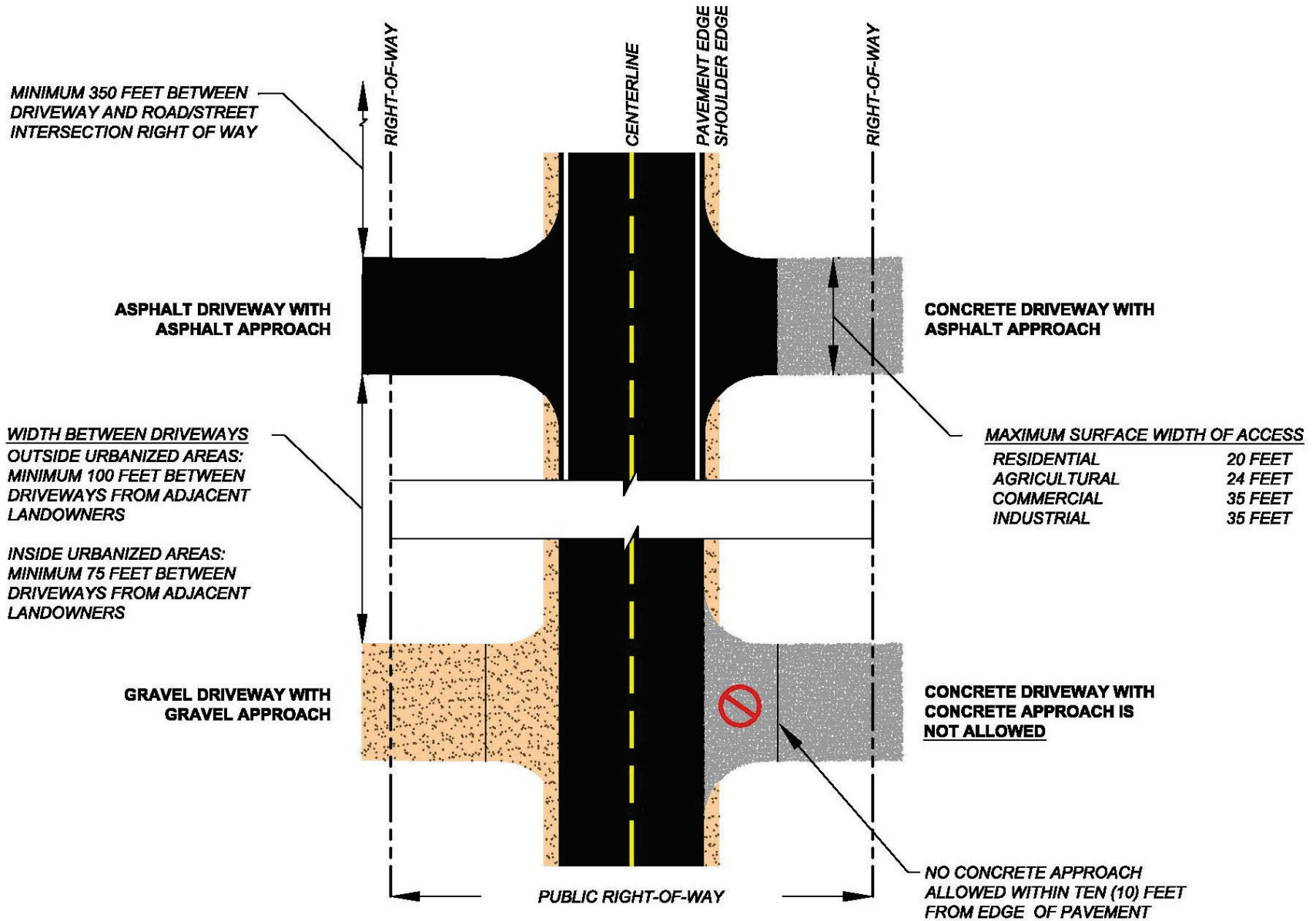


Figure 5. Typical Maintenance Limits for County Highway Intersections with Side Road and Driveways

