

GIS- County Roads

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Is this a County maintained road?

The County maintains about 600 miles of roadway (595.33 miles to be exact). In Operations Engineering one of our most frequently asked questions is “Is this a County maintained Road? and if its not, what is it, who’s in charge of it, who maintains it, etc”. In this article we will answer these questions.

In the beginning..... An original landowner chooses to create a road, typically to provide access to that owner’s land for development (most often a housing subdivision). A piece of land called the “Road Right of Way” is created for the road to exist on, usually a strip of land centering on the road. The owner has two choices, the road can be declared a private or a public right of way. **Spoiler Alert** – a County maintained road is a public right of way, but a public right of way may not be a County maintained road.



Private Right of Way: In the case of true Private Roads, the original landowner granted access rights to the road only to certain property owners, such roads can prohibit use or access (i.e. they can put up a gate).

Public Right of Way: In this case, the road is created as a Public Right of Way by the landowner, the road is dedicated for public use, meaning any member of the public has the right to go there.

County Maintained Road: The County Board of Supervisors must pass a resolution to accept a road into the County maintained system. Acceptance will typically occur after the road is constructed and recommended for acceptance by Public Works. Typically, the roads the County accepts were originally offered as Public Right of Way on a map or other document, though in some cases private roads were made public rights of way and taken into the County system. For any roads the County accepts, maintenance of that road becomes the responsibility of the County.

The easiest way to see if a road is County maintained is go to GISWEB and turn on the “County Maintained Roads” layer under the “Transportation” layer group, all roads the County maintains will highlight in green on the map. <http://gisapps/gisweb/>

Non-County Maintained Public Right of

Way: This is what happens when a road was created as Public Right of Way, but was not taken by the County for maintenance. The road remains publicly accessible as the original owner created it, but ‘who is supposed to maintain it’ may not be defined (though in practice, maintenance on such roads is typically organized by the property owners fronting the road). Public Works does not maintain or arbitrate over the use of the roads that are not accepted into the County-maintained road system.

