



Transportation Department

2525 13th Street, Suite 203 • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • Tel: 303.441.3900 • Fax: 303.441.4594

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org

Memorandum

TO: Transportation Department Development Review Team

FROM: Mike Thomas, County Engineer

DATE: August 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Revision to Bridge Rail Requirements for Residential Vehicular Bridges

Be advised that the County Engineer has reviewed the design requirements for vehicular bridges as presented in Section 5.10.1.1 of the Multimodal Transportation Standards (Standards), and has found that the bridge rail requirements in Table 5.10.1.1 are specifically not applicable to private residential access bridges. Therefore, only the bridge rail requirements for vehicular private residential access bridges have been revised to meet a 10 mph crash test level. All other parts of these requirements remain intact. The Standards will reflect the revision at the next update but the Development Review team is directed to begin implementing the revised requirement immediately.

Approved:

A large, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Thomas". The signature is written over a horizontal line that separates the signature area from the printed name and title.

Michael A. Thomas, P.E.
County Engineer

A handwritten date in blue ink, "8/25/15", written over a horizontal line that separates the date area from the printed label.

Date



Transportation Department

2525 13th Street, Suite 203 • Boulder, Colorado 80304 • Tel: 303.441.3900 • Fax: 303.441.4594
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306 • www.bouldercounty.org

Memorandum

Date: October 1, 2015
From: Mike Thomas, County Engineer 
Subject: Prescriptive Right-of-Way in Canyon Roads

As a result of the 2013 floods, Boulder County is in the process of preparing roadway construction plans for reconstruction of many of our canyon roads. An integral element of the project implementation process in many cases involves obtaining fee simple, temporary construction and/or permanent easements from adjacent property owners. Determining the necessary ROW easement or fee simple acquisition requires first locating our prescriptive Right-of-Way (ROW) in areas where there is currently no defined width of the ROW.

Based on discussions with the County Attorney, Land Officer and a field meeting with several consultants and County Staff, we have determined that the following parameters apply to our County prescriptive ROW:

Prescriptive Right-of-Way Limits:

- Area of the roadway corridor that has been used for road purposes for 20 or more years, plus any additional width needed for support, drainage, maintenance and repair of the road, described as:
 - For the lower or stream side of the road, the narrower of-
 - ◀The toe of slope at the creek interface (the low water surface elevation) or,
 - ◀Edge of embankment that is used to support the roadway.
 - For the upper side of the road-
 - ◀To the top of previously cut rock face or,
 - ◀To the top of previously graded hillside or,
 - ◀To the back side of the roadside ditch
 - Vehicle pull out areas
 - In areas where existing bridges or driveways extend into the ROW, the prescriptive ROW is defined as a straight line connecting the prescriptive ROW on either side of the bridge or driveway.
 - For flood damaged road sections, the prescriptive ROW is the pre-flood location as described above.
- For ROW that requires a metes and bounds legal description, and the ROW is a meandering line, the ROW line shall be a “best fit” line connecting at approximately 20’ intervals, or a distance as is reasonably needed to best describe the prescriptive use.