

# PIPE POLICY RELATED TO PIPES INSTALLED UNDER DRIVEWAYS ALONG RIGHT-OF-WAY

## HOUSTON COUNTY

**Effective Date:** March 9, 2023

**Policy:** To establish a policy for installation of pipes under driveways along the county owned or maintained rights-of-way.

**Allowable Pipes:** Only new aluminized corrugated metal (14 gauge minimum), new reinforced concrete pipes with sloped ends (45 degrees), or new High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Pipe (must meet AASHTO M 294, Type S or ASTM F2648 (recycled plastic) standard and purchased from an approved supplier) will be allowed to be installed under this policy. Aluminized metal pipes are required to have either the metal end treatments or can be cut to have a sloped paved headwalls. HDPE pipes must have the metal sloped end treatments and can't be cut to slope. Concrete pipe must have sloped paved headwalls and the contractor must sign concrete headwall agreement.

**Procedures:** Prior to installing any pipe on the county's right-of-way and as part of the issuance of a Right of Way Permit, the owner of the property requesting a driveway pipe must contact the Houston County Road & Bridge Department at 792-4149 or 1-800-782-4149. The citizen will be sent a driveway pipe permit to return to the Engineer's Office (this permit is available online). After the office receives the completed permit, an employee in the department will review the completed permit and an employee of the department will determine the size of pipe to be installed. An employee of the department will provide the owner of the property the size of pipe to be installed. Except for parcels solely dedicated to agricultural use, the owner of the property shall be solely responsible for all costs, fees, and expenses arising out of or related to purchasing and installing the pipe. A licensed and bonded contractor shall be required to install the pipe. The department will have available a preapproved list of contractors that are authorized to install such pipes. The owner may nominate another contractor to

install the pipe, who shall be reviewed for approval by the department.

The owner and contractor are separately and severally responsible for contacting the department once the pipe is delivered and scheduled for installation to allow for the department to inspect said pipe prior to the pipe being installed. The installation of the pipe shall be completed and ready for review on or before 120 days from the date the Right of Way Permit is issued for the property. If the installation is not completed within the allotted time, the citizen must make a new petition and obtain a new Right of Way Permit. The owner of the property shall be responsible for any changes required by the department from the inspection of the installation of the pipe. Additionally the contractor shall be responsible for adding rock on top of the driveways and grassing any disturbed areas. Any changes to these requirements shall be approved by Houston County prior to driveway installation. The department is hereby authorized to remove any pipe on the county's right-of-way installed incorrectly or installed without approval of the department.

**Pipe Lengths:**

The owner of the property shall be required to install pipes that are a minimum length of 24 feet of continuous pipe with no breaks (for sloped end pipes this length is required before the sloped section begins). HDPE pipe is not allowed to be cut with a sloped end. HDPE pipe is also not allowed to use couplings if the owner decides to have more than 24 ft of pipe. This pipe requires metal end treatments and then sloped paved headwalls may be formed around the metal end treatments. The length of any and all pipes installed along the county's right-of-way shall not exceed a combined length of 60 feet per parcel of land, unless approved by the County Engineer. There will be a maximum of two (2) driveways per parcel.

**Right of Way  
Encroachments:**

No fixtures, including, but not limited to, non-breakaway mail boxes, brick mail boxes, brick columns, brick head walls, fences, and buildings, shall be located on the county's right-of-way.

**Additional  
Requirement  
For HDPE Pipe:**

If the property owner has a HDPE pipe and it is damaged due to fire, the property owner is responsible for the replacement of the driveway pipe.