

Street and Road Standards

Low-Impact Development Code Update

Thurston County
Community Stakeholder Group

November 24, 2015



Background

- Roads are a significant source of impervious area
- Road designs are based on standards that allow for safe travel by different users and emergency access
- In Thurston County, city standards are generally applied to roads in the UGAs
- Fire trucks used in Thurston County can be 10-feet wide from mirror to mirror and have a wide turning radius
- Fire trucks respond to many types of emergencies – not just fires



Focus on Streets and Roads

- Are travel lanes wider than required by the fire department or emergency responders?
- Can street widths for local access roads be reduced?
- Are narrower widths allowed on roads where there are no buildings, or where on-street parking is not needed?
- Can permeable pavement be used for road shoulders, parking lanes, and emergency parking areas
- Does the code require or encourage use of permeable pavement for future road resurfacing projects?

Focus on Streets and Roads

	Arterial	Collector	Local Access	Private Road	Cul-de-sac
Thurston County	12 feet	11 feet	10 feet	8 feet	20 feet travel lane
Olympia	10 feet	10 feet	12 feet (one lane only)	-	47 feet radius
Lacey	11 feet	11 feet	10 feet	11 feet	45 feet radius
Tumwater	12 feet	10-11 feet	10-11 feet	10-11 feet	32 feet radius

Comparison of Required Lane Widths (most streets have 2 lanes)

Recommendations

- No proposal to narrow most street widths at this time
- No proposal to use pervious surfaces for public roadways at this time
- Allow some designs that require variances currently to become a standard option
 - Two-track driveways
 - Standard surface 8-foot driveway with alternative surfaces in shoulders
 - Roads serving 6 or fewer homes can be 12-feet wide, with pullouts
 - Curb cuts to enable flow of stormwater into bioretention
- Allow for placement of bioretention facilities in the right-of-way



Discussion

- What do you think of the recommended road standard changes?
- Are there additional issues related to roads that the County should consider in its review?

