



# Richland County's Road Paving Program: A Short FAQ (updated July 18, 2023)

*\*Information from the County's Ordinance on Roads, Highways and Bridges, Section 21-20, Road Paving Program, available on the County's Transportation Penny webpage, under "Projects" and updated July 2023*

**Question: Will the County pave everyone's roads even if people living on the road don't want them paved?**

**Answer:** No. In order to accommodate public input, according to the current ordinance, if at least 51 percent of residents on a road don't want it to be paved, it won't be paved. Property owners who would be affected by a County paving project have 30 days to respond to a notice sent via mail.

**Q: Are all County roads now being paved with funds from the Penny?**

**A:** No. The Penny currently provides the majority of funding, though the County's Department of Public Works will also augment the paving of dirt roads. The Penny and Public Works funding doesn't generate nearly enough funds to pave all the County's roads. Work is done in priority order at a rate that available funding allows. Priority depends on:

- the density of homes on the road for efficient construction (the number of homes per mile)
- number of businesses and churches on the road
- maintenance difficulty
- whether it is a "pass-through" or "through road"

Additionally, only County-maintained roads with easement and right-of-way deeds will be paved using public funding.

**Q: Does the County plan to dramatically increase taxes to fund paving projects?**

**A:** No. Richland County will use existing revenue sources to fund paving projects. These revenue sources are at a set rate.

**Q: How is the cost to pave a road determined?**

**A:** The County's formula is:

District dirt road paving funds = total dirt road paving funds x district dirt road mileage

The cost is determined based on recent bid results. Each road is unique in needs for drainage improvements, but a roadway's design indicates each road's specific needs.

**Q: How does the County address the concern of possible increased traffic flow when a dirt road is paved, especially if that road is a "short cut" between two streets?**

**A:** Per the current ordinance, the road to be paved cannot interconnect existing streets or serve developable vacant land that would result in the potential of over 400 vehicles/daily. The road cannot serve existing businesses or vacant land zoned for business use that would generate traffic exceeding 400 vehicles/daily or truck traffic exceeding 24 vehicles/daily. In general, paving interconnecting roads will better serve the public during emergencies and road closures.

**Q: If road problems, such as drainage issues, arise after the paving of a dirt road, is the County responsible for fixing the problems?**

**A:** Yes. The County's Public Works Department maintains the pavement and associated drainage systems.

**Q: Is the County paving roads so developers can build more housing?**

**A:** No. Richland County's efforts to provide safe, efficient and quality transportation are continuous and are not tied to attracting developers to the County.