

CITY OF FITCHBURG – RURAL DRIVEWAY STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS

Any driveway located outside of the City’s urban service area shall be classified herein as a “rural driveway” and shall be subject to the following standards and requirements, (1) – (12), in accordance with Section 27-399 of the Fitchburg Municipal Code (See Figure I. herein for a visual depiction of specific standards and requirements.):

- (1) Adequate visibility of oncoming traffic at the point where the rural driveway (hereafter “driveway”) adjoins the public street or highway (hereafter “road”), with an object three and one-half (3.5) feet in height visible when viewed from the same height at said point, for speeds and distances identified in the following table:

Posted Speed (Miles per hour)	Minimum Sight Distance (Feet)
25	280
30	335
35	390
40	445
45	500
50	555
55	610

- (2) Planned, constructed, and maintained in a manner that prevents diversion of surface water onto the adjoining road and/or other property, with ditches along the driveway, adjoining road crowning, and culverts included to provide for appropriate drainage, and a driveway surface that is level or lower than the adjoining road, with said surface containing a slight dip across the entire width of the driveway and placed just before the culvert, where the driveway adjoins the road;
- (3) A minimum finished surface width and horizontal clearance of twenty (20) feet and vertical clearance of fourteen (14) feet for any driveway greater than 100 (one hundred) feet in length, and a minimum finished surface width of twenty four (24) feet at the point where the driveway adjoins the road, for all driveways;
- (4) A minimum of four (4) foot side slope on each side of the driveway, and a maximum slope of one (1) foot of vertical rise for each four (4) feet of horizontal distance, calculated as twenty five percent (25%) slope;
- (5) Side banks constructed using earthen materials and graded to a slope of no more the one (1) foot of vertical rise for each three (3) feet of horizontal distance, calculated as thirty three percent (33%) slope, not to include any driveways for which retaining walls and/or other erosion control measures are installed as specified in an approved driveway plan as identified in (12) herein;
- (6) Containing a culvert of at least fifteen (15) inches in diameter at the ditch line where the driveway adjoins the road, with a minimum culvert length of twenty (20) feet and culvert endwalls required in addition to said minimum culvert length;
- (7) The driveway edge or culvert located no closer than five (5) feet from any lot line;

- (8) An inside radius of no less than thirty six (36) feet on all driveway curves;
- (9) All-weather access or hard pavement with at least six (6) inches of two (2) inch rock on the driveway bed, covered with two (2) inches of three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) inch gravel, with any portion of the driveway within the road right-of-way required to be asphalt (This provision may be modified if the applicant can show that a suitable roadbed base exists.);
- (10) For driveways greater than three hundred (300) feet in length, a turnaround within fifty (50) feet of all building sites, with said turnaround having a minimum fifty (50) foot radius, or an “in-back-out” of at least ninety (90) degrees and fifty (50) feet in length;
- (11) For driveways greater than three hundred (300) feet in length but less than six hundred (600) feet, a turnout near the driveway’s midpoint, and in those instances where a driveway exceeds six hundred (600) feet, turnouts shall be provided no more than three hundred (300) feet apart;
- (12) A driveway plan prepared by a licensed engineer, and meeting the aforementioned criteria (1) – (11), shall be required if any of the following, (A) – (C), apply:
 - (A) Any segment of the driveway will disturb land with a slope of twelve percent (12%) or greater;
 - (B) The driveway requires a retaining wall or other special erosion control measure as determined by the City Engineer;
 - (C) The City Engineer requests a plan;

Any of the aforementioned rural driveway standards and requirements, (1) – (12) may be waived or modified by the City Engineer, if the standards and requirements are deemed by said individual as imposing an unnecessary hardship on the applicant. Any request by an applicant for a waiver or modification of rural driveway standards and requirements must accompany the initial driveway permit application and must state the reason for the request.

Figure I.

