

**GERALD L. ROBERTS, P.E.**  
COUNTY ENGINEER

**MICHAEL C. SHANNON, P.E.**  
ASSISTANT COUNTY ENGINEER



(979) 864-1265 ANGLETON  
(979) 388-1265 CLUTE  
(281) 756-1265 HOUSTON  
(979) 864-1270 FAX

**BRAZORIA COUNTY**  
451 N VELASCO, SUITE 230  
ANGLETON, TEXAS 77515

RE: Possible road assessment

The following is the information concerning the possibility of an assessment in order for one or more roads to be accepted into the County Road System. Listed below are some of the considerations involved:

1. The Commissioners Court of Brazoria County has passed a court order establishing the criteria that roads may only be accepted into the County Road System if such roads meet the specifications contained in the Brazoria County Subdivision Regulations; or if the *property owners* of a subdivision vote to be assessed to upgrade the roads to meet specifications contained in the Subdivision Regulations; or if the property owners requesting acceptance of roads into the County Road System contribute funds sufficient to upgrade the roads to meet specifications in the Subdivision Regulations, with such funds to be in an amount determined by the County Engineer.
2. The amount of an assessment is based on an estimate prepared by the County Engineer of the cost to upgrade roads in a subdivision to County specifications, and prorated over the property in the subdivision.
3. In accordance with State law, a road improved through assessment becomes a County road, and the County must maintain the road from that point on.
4. If voters in the subdivision disapprove the proposed assessment, State law decrees that the issue may not be proposed again for a period of four years.
5. The proposed assessment, if approved, will result in liens placed against the property which can usually be paid out over a certain period of time, usually three to five years.
6. Accordingly, if the assessment is approved, improvements to the roads, other than routine maintenance operations, may require phasing over a period of time as well, contingent upon receipt of funds from the assessment. Roads awaiting upgrade would receive routine maintenance such as grading, patching, etc.

Requirements from a subdivision requesting assessment of roads:

- A 60-foot road right-of-way dedicated to the public must be existing or be provided by property owners.
- Any pipelines in the road rights-of-way must be deep enough to allow construction of roadside ditches adequate for draining the roads, with a clearance of approximately two feet.

The owner of such a petroleum pipeline must be willing to enter into a joint use agreement with the County to permit a public roadway over their pipeline.

The considerations discussed above are general in nature. Other factors may be involved, and the actual procedures must be determined independently for every situation.

In order for your roads' names to be placed on a waiting list for assessment, the property owners in your subdivision need to indicate interest in pursuing this matter, by preparing a simple petition requesting that Commissioners Court improve the roads in your subdivision so that they may be accepted into the County Road System and assess the cost of repairs against the property owners. Your petition should be signed by approximately one-fourth of the property owners on the road or roads you want to have improved. When your petition is received your roads' names will be added to a waiting list for a possible assessment.

When your road is reached on the waiting list, the Commissioners Court will schedule a public hearing on the question. Following the public hearing, at its discretion, the Court may order the County Engineer's office to mail ballots to affected property owners. When the ballots are returned and counted, if a majority votes in favor of the assessment, the roads will be accepted into the County Road System, and the actual roadway improvements can be scheduled.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bradford  
GIS/Data Technician  
County Engineer