



KITITIAS COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Planning Commission Staff Report

Date: February 14, 2012

Action Requested: Conduct public hearing to consider amending Kittitas County Code 12.01-12.12 Road Standards

BACKGROUND: Kittitas County Public Works began the process of updating the Road Standards in January 2011 and held open houses in April 2011. During the process it was decided that a Citizen Advisory Committee needed to be formed to review the proposed changes. The CAC was formed and met every other week throughout the summer. The proposed draft is the recommendation of the CAC.

Kittitas County Road Standards are requirements for developers and other private parties constructing or modifying roads that need county permits or are required by a land use activity. The County also uses the standards for its own construction of new County roads or reconstruction of existing roads.

The last formal update to the Kittitas County Roads Standards was in September 2005. Since the last update, requirements, practices, and industry standards have changed. Additionally, the county has heard from the development community and land purchasers that several standards are poorly defined and need clarification.

Therefore, the Kittitas County Public Works Department is seeking approval from the Board of County Commissioners to update the road standards to reflect new road design and construction requirements and practices. The proposed updates will also ensure road standards comply with current stormwater management requirements, fire codes, environmental policies, state and federal requirements, and the County's Comprehensive Plan and Long-Range Transportation Plan. Additionally, the proposed updates will clarify the standards, where necessary, so they are easy to understand and enforce.

Major changes to the Road Standards include second access requirements, timing of improvements, bringing new roads onto the county system and private road standards. These changes and others are outlined in the attached Summary of Changes.

RECOMMENDATION: Public Works recommends the Commission conduct a public hearing and issue a recommendation of approval to the Board of County Commissioners.

ATTACHMENTS: KCC 12.01-12.12 Road Standards Draft, Summary of Changes, Suggested Findings of Fact

LEAD STAFF: Christina Wollman, Planner II