

Rural Mailbox Safety

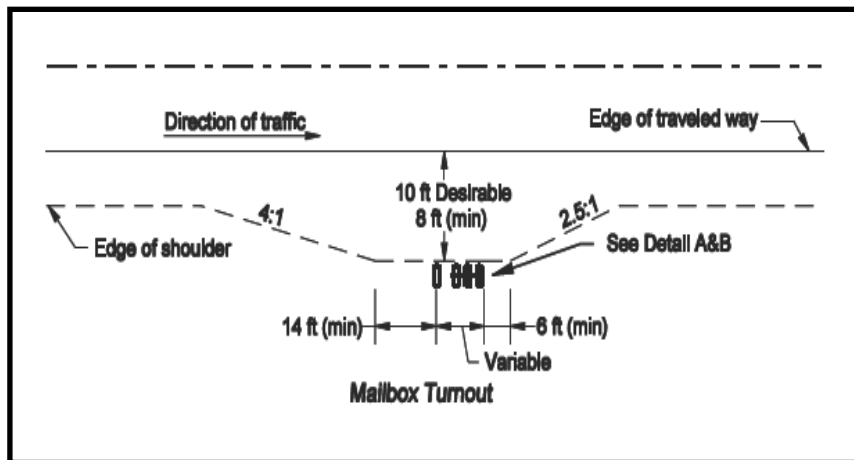
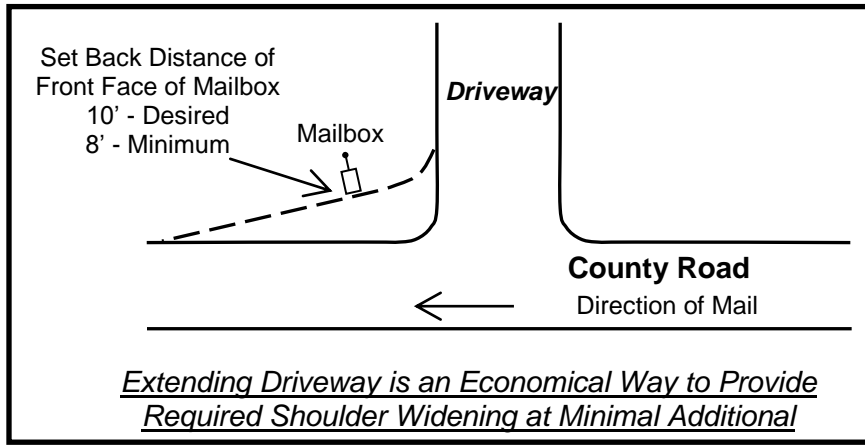
Lincoln County Public Works strives to provide the safest possible County road system for the traveling public. To do so requires enforcement of certain local and state laws providing for the removal of hazards and obstructions within county rights-of-way.

Most roadside mailboxes are relatively simple and unlikely to pose a serious threat to vehicles. These are relatively lightly constructed supports which will easily break off, posing little harm to the vehicle. It is the heavy, ornamental or multiple installations that can be lethal roadside obstacles. Ornamental mailboxes such as old plows, wagon wheels, ornamental iron work, masonry installations, large receptacles filled with sand or concrete, metal posts larger than 1 ½ inches inside diameter, and wood posts larger than a nominal 4 inches square or 4 inches diameter, are a hazard or obstacle if placed within the roadside clear zones. The use of a plank to mount several mailboxes is especially hazardous.

WARNING: The following are excerpts from a 1992 Ohio Supreme Court ruling:

“WHERE AN ABUTING LANDOWNER OR OCCUPIER USES THE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH A HIGHWAY PURPOSE, AND WHERE SUCH USAGE CONSTITUTES AN UNREASONABLE HAZARD TO USERS OF THE HIGHWAY, THE LAND OWNER OR OCCUPIER MAY BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE IMPROPER USE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.” “A LAND OWNER OR OCCUPIER IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO KNOW THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY. THE BORDER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IS A BOUNDARY LINE LIKE ANY OTHER”.

To reduce the liability exposure of land owners or occupiers and Lincoln County, we want to inform you that anything which you cause to be placed, or cause to remain on County Right-of-Way could be the cause of legal action being brought against you. If you currently have such items as improperly located fences, trees, shrubs, stones or any other obstructions on the Right-of-Way, you should make arrangements to have them relocated or removed.



For more information on Mailbox Requirements Please Call

Lincoln County Public Works
27234 SR 25 N
Davenport, WA 99122
Telephone: (509) 725-7041

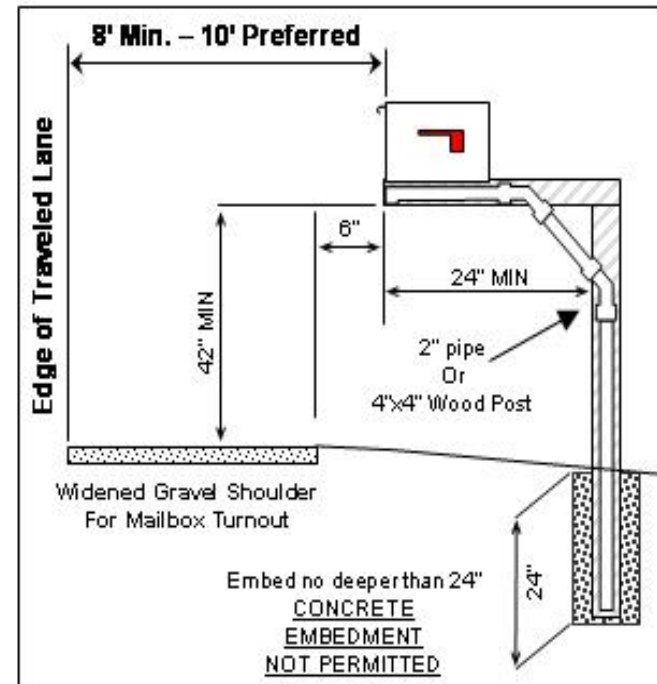


REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MAILBOXES

ALL MAILBOX UNITS, ATTACHMENTS, DECALS, SUPPORTS AND INSTALLATION THEREOF ARE TO BE IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH UNITED STATES POSTAL REGULATIONS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

1. THE MAILBOX UNIT SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED ENTIRELY OF PLASTIC AND/OR LIGHTWEIGHT GALVANIZED STEEL ATTACHED TO THE SUPPORT STRUCTURE (POST) WITH SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO PREVENT THE BOX FROM SEPARATING FROM THE POST IF STRUCK BY A VEHICLE.
2. THE SUPPORT STRUCTURE (POST) SHALL BE A WOODEN POST (NO LARGER THAN 4 IN. X 4 IN. SQUARE OR 4 IN. DIAMETER ROUND) OR A METAL POST WITH A STRENGTH NO GREATER THAN A 2 IN. DIAMETER STANDARD STRENGTH STEEL PIPE. NO SUPPORT STRUCTURE SHALL BE EMBEDDED MORE THAN 24 INCHES INTO THE GROUND. A METAL POST SHALL NOT BE FITTED WITH AN ANCHOR PLATE, BUT IT MAY HAVE AN ANTI-TWIST DEVICE THAT EXTEND NO MORE THAN 10 INCHES BELOW THE GROUND SURFACE. MAILBOX SUPPORTS SHALL NOT BE SET IN CONCRETE.
3. NO CONCRETE, BRICK, MASONRY OR OTHER LIKE MATERIAL SHALL BE USED AS A MAILBOX POST OR DECORATIVE POST SURROUND.
4. THE UNIT SHALL BE PLACED AT AN OFFSET FROM THE EDGE OF THE TRAVELED LANE SO THAT THE ROADSIDE FACE OF THE MAILBOX IS NO CLOSER THAN 8 FEET (10 FEET PREFERRED) FROM THE EDGE OF THE TRAVELED LANE. WHEN A MAILBOX IS INSTALLED IN THE VICINITY OF AN EXISTING GUARDRAIL, IT SHALL BE PLACED BEHIND THE GUARDRAIL.
5. MULTIPLE MAILBOX UNITS OF MORE THAN TWO BOXES SHALL NOT BE MOUNTED ON ONE SUPPORT. HOWEVER, LIGHTWEIGHT NEWSPAPER BOXES MAY BE MOUNTED BELOW THE MAILBOX ON THE SIDE OF THE MAILBOX SUPPORT. MULTIPLE POSTS SHALL BE PLACED NO LESS THAN 3 FEET APART.
6. DESIGNS NOT DESCRIBED ON THIS STANDARD DRAWING WILL BE ACCEPTABLE ONLY IF WRITTEN APPROVAL IS GRANTED BY LINCOLN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS.

7. THE OWNER SHALL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND SHALL HOLD LINCOLN COUNTY HARMLESS AND DEFEND ANY AND ALL CLAIMS FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGES THAT MIGHT BE BROUGHT AS A RESULT OF THE INSTALLATION AND EXISTENCE OF MAILBOXES WITHIN COUNT RIGHT-OF-WAY.
8. MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAILBOXES ARE FOREVER THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROPERTY OWNER.



The Standard installation noted above has proven successful in reducing the likelihood of mailbox damage caused by snow removal. The recommended installation places the box on a 24-inch minimum arm, at a preferred height of 46 inches. The front of the box should be located a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the traveled way.

Lincoln County is NOT responsible for any damage to a mailbox due to being hit by flying snow and/or ice.