



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 2, 2020

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, REVIEWING AND APPROVING REVISED COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS AND DELEGATING AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS TO MAINTAIN AND UPDATE SAID STANDARDS

Whereas, there are over 1,368 miles of county roadways and highways in the County of Sonoma; and

Whereas, said roadways and related improvements and appurtenances are constructed by the County or by private parties and other entities as project- and Subdivision Map-related improvements; and

Whereas, utilities and other infrastructure facilities are commonly installed and maintained within said roadways pursuant to County-issued encroachment permits, and repaving and other requirements are imposed to mitigate for related trench work in order to preserve surface and roadway conditions; and

Whereas, the County's Department of Transportation and Public Works has extensively studied impacts to roadways caused by trenching, including surface and sub-surface degradation caused by pavement cuts and excavations of roadbeds; and

Whereas, given a multitude of roadway function and preservation considerations, including the needs for safety, drivability, and surface and roadbed durability, uniform standards are needed for all roadways and for the projects relating thereto, including for new roadways and for trenching activity within existing roadways; and

Whereas, existing County standards for roadway design, construction, and repair have been periodically updated and a current review and update of appropriate standards is now desired; and

Whereas, County's Department of Transportation and Public Works has reviewed existing standards and drafted a revised set of proposed "Road Construction Standards." The Standards are based on standards, specifications, and best-practices issued by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and otherwise reflect the professional engineering opinions and recommendations of the County's Department of Transportation and Public Works; and

Whereas, the proposed Road Construction Standards have been presented to various stakeholder groups, including water services districts who commonly install and maintain their infrastructure in County roadways. Input from working with said groups has been considered and the proposed Road Construction Standards have been drafted in light of said input; and

Whereas, for roadway trenching and other encroachment activity within existing County roadways, the Director of Transportation and Public Works has determined the proposed Road Construction Standards contain the conditions necessary for properly replacing and protecting the subject roadways and placing said roadways in as good as condition as before such roadway work; and

Whereas, the Director of Transportation and Public Works, in order to best ensure safe, long-lasting, and quality roadways, has recommended approval of the proposed Road Construction Standards to cover all roadway and related-project design, construction, and improvement-related work; and

Whereas, the proposed Road Construction Standards will inform and provide for plans, designs, and other project details for all construction and improvement of county roadways, highways, and related appurtenances; and

Whereas, from time to time, Caltrans, AASHTO, and other pertinent entities issue updates to their standards and model plans and specifications, and such updates may be appropriate for inclusion into the County's Road Construction Standards in order to keep those Standards current and consistent with state requirements or best practices; and

Whereas, from time to time the Director of Transportation and Public Works, based on his or her transferred responsibilities as former road commissioner and based on input from the Department's professional registered engineers, may deem it advisable or necessary to update or modify the County's Road Construction Standards, including to reflect new engineering and materials developments and improved construction techniques, in order to ensure up-to-date- Standards; and

Whereas, under the California Streets and Highways Code, including sections 942 and 2009, the County Board of Supervisors is empowered to set policy for county highway matters and enact and enforce ordinances and regulations for the construction, improvement or maintenance of county highways, and for the protection, supervision, management, control, or use of such highways;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Board of Supervisors that:

1. That the above-stated Recitals are true and are incorporated as if stated herein.
2. Those certain "Road Construction Standards," including as they may be modified or updated by the Director of Transportation and Public Works as authorized herein (hereinafter, collectively "the Standards"), will provide plans, designs, and other conditions and requirements for the reasonable and proper construction and improvement of county roadways and related appurtenances.

3. That said Standards are determined to be reasonable, and all plans and designs prepared in conformity with said Standards are and would be deemed reasonable and would be so approved.
4. That said Standards, in their present or hereafter current form as modified or updated by the Director of Transportation and Public Works, are hereby approved and incorporated by reference as fully as if set out fully herein. Except for as to Part I of the existing Department of Public Works *Road Standards Code* (January, 1973) which is confirmed hereby as reasonable and proper design standards for county roadways and related appurtenances, the Standards shall replace the existing County road standards and all references to County's general road standards shall be deemed to refer to the Standards approved hereby.
5. That the Director of Transportation and Public Works is authorized, periodically and as needed, to modify and update said Standards, consistent with this Resolution and in conformance with general-accepted State of California and other industry standards determined by the Director, in his or her official and professional judgment, to be reasonable and either acceptable or needed.
6. That the Director of Transportation and Public Works is directed to maintain the Standards in current, updated form, to be kept and maintained at the office of the Department of Transportation and Public Works and available to the public and any interested parties.
7. That said Standards allow for the Director of Transportation and Public Works to add conditions specific to projects, activities, and field conditions, and to approve exceptions or alternatives under certain circumstances. The Director of Transportation and Public Works is delegated authority to approve any such exception or alternative as necessary or appropriate as stated in the Standards, and which, in his or her official and professional judgment, is reasonable and in accordance with accepted engineering and roadway practice consistent with best ensuring safe, long-lasting, and quality County roadways.
8. That the Director of Transportation and Public Works has delegated authority, as to any roadway or related appurtenance project with any condition or aspect not covered by the Standards, to impose any plan, specification, and any other conditions which, in his or her official and professional judgment, are reasonable and in accordance with accepted engineering and roadway practice and standards consistent with best ensuring safe, long-lasting, and quality County roadways.
9. That the Director of Transportation and Public Works is directed to return to this Board for a review and assessment of the Standards when, in the Director's official and professional judgment, such review and assessment is warranted or needed, and at least every five (5) years.
10. That the effective date for these Standards shall commence on the effective date of that certain Ordinance of this Board being considered in conjunction herewith, to amend Sonoma County Code sections 25-40, 25-56, and 25-57 to reference these Standards.

Resolution #20-

Date:

Page 4

Supervisors:

Rabbitt:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Gorin:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.