

# **KOSCIUSKO COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

## **GRAVEL ROAD UPGRADE PROGRAM**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Property owners who live on unimproved, gravel roads have purchased property on that road with the knowledge that the road has a gravel surface. The Kosciusko County Road Specifications dated December 3, 1984 states the following:

“Any road that has a gravel surface can be accepted by the Board of Commissioners of this county for inclusion in the county highway system of Kosciusko County as an existing gravel road will always remain a gravel road and be maintained as such (with no dust inhibitor) by the county highway department.”

It is understood that properties along unimproved, gravel roads have a reduced value that is reflected in the price of the property. Similarly, properties along improved roads have an increased value that is also reflected in the price of the property. Therefore, it is inappropriate for property to be purchased along an unimproved, gravel road at a reduce price and later upgraded at the cost to the entire population of the county.

It is further understood that the County’s cost of maintenance to an unimproved, gravel road increases as residential areas increase along the road.

It is also understood that the cost to maintain a gravel road over a period of years can be minimized by hard surfacing the road.

### **II. GRAVEL ROAD UPGRADE PROCEDURE**

Property owners that desire an upgrade of an unimproved, gravel road to a hard surface road may petition the Kosciusko County Highway Department to upgrade the gravel road under the following guidelines:

1. The County Highway Department will determine the most suitable type of hard surface for the road. The surface type will be based upon engineering principles.
2. The County Highway Department will determine the cost to upgrade the unimproved, gravel road. (The cost shall include not only the cost of materials, but also the cost of labor.)

3. The County Highway Department will determine the cost to maintain the unimproved, gravel road over a period of five (5) years. (The cost shall include not only the cost of materials, but also the cost of labor.)
4. The County Highway Department will contribute funds that equal the calculated maintenance cost of the unimproved gravel road toward the cost of the upgrade. The property owners must contribute the remaining funds.
5. When the County's cost to maintain a gravel road exceeds the cost to hard surface the road, the County will contribute the entire portion toward the project.
6. In the first five (5) years of the program, the total fund for the gravel road program will be divided into two portions. The first portion, consisting of 75% of the total, will be designated for unimproved, gravel roads whose maintenance costs exceed the cost to upgrade the road. The remaining portion will be used for upgrading roads with property owner participation.
7. If there are no roads whose maintenance cost exceeds the cost to upgrade the road, the total fund for the gravel road program will be designated for the property owner participation.
8. The funds for the Gravel Road Upgrade Program will be expended in the order that the upgrade project is scheduled.
9. A project is considered "scheduled" once the property owners review the preliminary cost estimate provided by the Kosciusko County Highway Department and submit a signed document stating the following:
  - a. The name and telephone number for the property owner's contact person.
  - b. The property owners agree to the upgrade project
  - c. The property owners desire to have the upgrade project placed on the Kosciusko County Highway Department's tentative schedule.
  - d. The property owners commit to the property owner's share of the project cost.
10. Once the Kosciusko County Highway Department determines that the upgrade project is scheduled for the current year road program, the Department will review the preliminary cost estimate and re-calculate the cost based upon current site conditions and current material and labor costs. The Department will submit the new cost to the property owner's contact person. Based upon the new cost, the property owner's may elect to continue with the project or cancel the project.

11. The property owners must submit the funds for the property owner's portion one month prior to the start of the upgrade project.
12. Each year the County Highway Department will recommend an amount to the County Council to be appropriated toward the Gravel Road Upgrade Program. The County Council will appropriate the funds as it deems necessary from the County Highway Budget.
13. Once the funds for the Gravel Road Upgrade Program are exhausted, the program is discontinued until the following year.
14. The upgrading project will be performed according the County Highway Department's schedule.
15. Upgrade projects previously received under the Gravel Road Upgrade Program of March 3, 1998, shall be completed and scheduled under the terms of said ordinance.
16. The Gravel Road Improvement Program signed on March 3, 1998 by the Kosciusko County Board of Commissioners shall be superseded by the above.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
Kosciusko County

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Ron Truex, President

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Bradford Jackson, Member

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Avis Gunter, Member

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Attest: Sue Ann Mitchell  
Kosciusko County Auditor

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Date