

**HENRY COUNTY  
SECONDARY ROAD  
CLASSIFICATION POLICY**

**March 9, 2006**

- I. Purpose** - The purpose of this policy is to classify all county roads as a part of the county infrastructure highway system as to provide for levels of maintenance effort and restricted access, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 309.57; to set road and bridge standards for secondary roads; and to provide procedures for the upgrading of non-surfaced area service roads.
- II. DEFINITIONS** – For use in this policy, certain items or words used herein shall be interpreted or defined as follows:
1. “Farm-to-Market” roads shall mean those county jurisdiction intracounty and intercounty roads designated by the Farm-to-Market Review Board which serve principal traffic generating areas and connect such areas to other farm-to-market roads and primary roads as classified in section 306 of the Code of Iowa. Farm-to-market roads include those secondary roads which are federal aid eligible.
  2. “Area Service System” shall include those secondary roads that are not part of the farm-to-market road system.
    - a. “Class A” roads shall mean an Area Service road with a maintained surface.
    - b. “Class B” roads shall be all non-surfaced area service roads with a reduced level of maintenance from Farm-to-Market or Area Service Class A roads.
    - c. “Class C” roads shall be area service roads with a reduced level of maintenance from Farm-to-Market or Area Service Class A & B roads and have a restricted access. Area Service Class C roads shall not mean what is construed in the normal sense as a driveway or private lane to a farm building or dwelling.
  3. “Board” shall mean the Board of Supervisors of Henry County.
  4. “Engineer” shall mean the County Engineer of Henry County.
  5. “County” shall mean Henry County.

**III. ROAD AND BRIDGE STANDARDS** – Henry County road and bridge standards for new or complete reconstruction projects shall be according to the current Iowa Department of Transportation Instructional Memorandum Number 3.210. I.M. 3.210 sets minimum design criteria and Henry County hereby sets their own standards for the following design elements:

1. **Bridge Width:** Minimum bridge width will be 30 feet for FM and Class A roads and 24 feet for Class B or Class C roads.
2. **Roadway Top Width:** The minimum roadway top will be 22 feet wide.
3. **Surfacing:** Granular surfacing shall be applied at a rate of 1800 ton per mile (approximately 4" deep). This may be applied in two applications not more that 1 year apart.
4. **Foreslope:** The typical foreslope will be 3:1 or flatter.
5. **Backslope:** The typical backslope will be 3:1 or flatter with isolated locations no steeper than 2:1.
6. **Ditch Depth:** The typical ditch depth will be 3 feet or more.
7. **Right of Way:** The typical minimum right of way will be 50 feet from centerline on each side for paved roads and 33 feet from centerline on each side for non-paved roads.

**IV. AREA SERVICE "CLASS A" ROADS** – Class A roads shall be a surfaced roads and shall be maintained in conformance with applicable state statutes.

**V. AREA SERVICE "CLASS B" ROADS** – The Board is empowered under authority of Chapter 309.57 of the Code of Iowa to classify secondary roads on the Area Service System in the County as Area Service "B" roads so as to provide for a reduced level of maintenance effort on roads so designated.

1. **How Established.** The Board shall, by resolution, declare its intention to establish an Area Service "B" road in the County after consultation with the County Engineer.
2. **Notice of Action.** Before the Board may take action to establish an Area Service "B" road, a notice of the proposed action, including the location of the Area Service "B" road and the time and place of the meeting at which the Board proposes to take action shall be published as provided in Iowa Code Section 331.305.
3. **Board Action.** At the meeting, the Board shall receive oral or written objections from any resident or property owner of the County. After all objections have been received and considered, the Board, at that meeting or a date to which it is adjourned, after consultation with the County Engineer, may by resolution establish the proposed Area Service "B" road.

4. **Reclassification.** A road with an Area Service "B" classification shall retain the classification until such time as a request for reclassification is submitted to the Board. The Board may add or delete any road from the Area Service "B" classification by following the preceding procedure.
5. **Maintenance Policy.** Only the minimum effort, expense and attention will be provided to keep Area Service "B" roads open to traffic. For the various maintenance activities, the minimum maintenance on Area Service "B" roads will be as follows:
  - a. Blading or dragging will not be performed on a regular basis.
  - b. Snow and ice removal will not be performed. Sanding and salting will not be performed.
  - c. Bridges and culverts on Area Service "B" roads may not be maintained to carry legal loads but will be posted as appropriate to advise of any load limitations. Upon failure or loss, the replacement structure will be appropriate for the traffic thereon.
  - d. Mowing or spraying weeds, cutting brush and tree removal may not be performed on a regular basis. Adequate sight distances may not be maintained.
  - e. There will be no surfacing materials applied to Area Service "B" roads.
  - f. Shoulders will not be maintained.
  - g. A crown will not be maintained.
  - h. There will be no road repairs on a regular basis.
  - i. Uniform width for the traveled portion of the road will not be maintained.
  - j. Regular inspections will not be conducted.
  - k. Except for load limit posting for bridges, signing shall not be continued or provided. Area Service "B" roads shall have signs conforming to the Iowa State Sign Manual installed and maintained by the County at all access points to Area Service "B" roads from other public roads, to warn the public they are entering a section of road which has a lesser level of maintenance effort than other public roads.

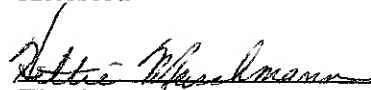
- VI. AREA SERVICE “CLASS C” ROADS** – The Board is empowered under authority of Chapter 309.57 of the Code of Iowa to classify secondary roads on the Area Service System in the County as Area Service “C” roads so as to provide for a reduced level of maintenance effort and restricted access on roads so designated.
1. **How Established.** Roads may only be classified as Area Service “C” by resolution of the Board. The resolution shall specify the level of maintenance effort and the persons who will have access rights to the road. The resolution shall only allow access to the road to the owner, lessee, or person in lawful possession of any adjoining land or the agent or employee of the owner, lessee, or a person in lawful possession, to the agent or employee of any public utility, or to any peace officer, magistrate, or public employee whose duty it is to supervise the use or perform maintenance of the road.
  2. **Notice of Action.** Before the Board may take action to establish an Area Service “C” road, a notice of the proposed action, including the location of the Area Service “C” road and the time and place of the meeting at which the Board proposes to take action shall be published as provided in Iowa Code Section 331.305.
  3. **Board Action.** At the meeting, the Board shall receive oral or written comments from any resident or property owner of the County. After all comments have been received and considered, the Board, at that meeting or a date to which it is adjourned, may take action after consultation with the County Engineer.
  4. **Reclassification.** A road with an Area Service “C” classification shall retain the classification until such time as a petition for reclassification is submitted to the Board. The petition shall be signed by one or more adjoining landowners. The Board shall approve or deny the request for reclassification within 60 days of receipt of the petition.
  5. **Access.** Access to any Area Service “C” road shall be restricted by means of a gate or other barrier, as determined by the County Engineer. A gate may be purchased, installed and maintained by the adjoining landowners.
  6. **Signs.** Area Service “C” road shall have signs conforming to the Iowa Signing Manual per 761 Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) Chapter 130. The signs shall be installed and maintained by the County at all access points to the Area Service “C” roads from other public roads to warn the public that access is limited.
  7. **Trespass.** Entering an Area Service “C” road without justification after being notified or requested to abstain from entering or to remove or vacate the road by any person lawfully allowed access shall be a trespass as defined in Section 716.7 of the Code of Iowa (2005).

- VII. POWER OF THE BOARD** – All jurisdiction and control over Farm-to-Market roads and Area Service roads shall rest with the Board, pursuant to the Iowa Code Section 309.57. The Board may direct the Planning and Zoning Board to review petitions for road reclassification.
- VIII. EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY** – As provided in Iowa Code Section 309.57, the County and officers, agents and employees of the County are not liable for injury to any person or for damage to any vehicle or equipment which occurs proximately as a result of the maintenance of a road which is classified as Area Service “B” or “C”, if the road has been maintained to the level of maintenance effort described in this chapter or in the establishing resolution.
- IX. ADDITIONS TO AREA SERVICE SYSTEM** – It shall be the policy of the Board not to accept any additional roads or streets into the County highway system.
- X. RECLASSIFICATION TO AREA SERVICE “CLASS A”** – The Board may consider reclassifying an Area Service “Class B” or “Class C” road to Area Service “Class A” classification. All Area Service Class B or Class C roads to be improved, must be improved full length and must connect to present Class A or FM roads at each end of the road to be improved. It is the policy of the county not to improve dead end roads.
1. Petition by property owners.
    - a. Petitions shall be signed by affected property owners which contains the following statement:

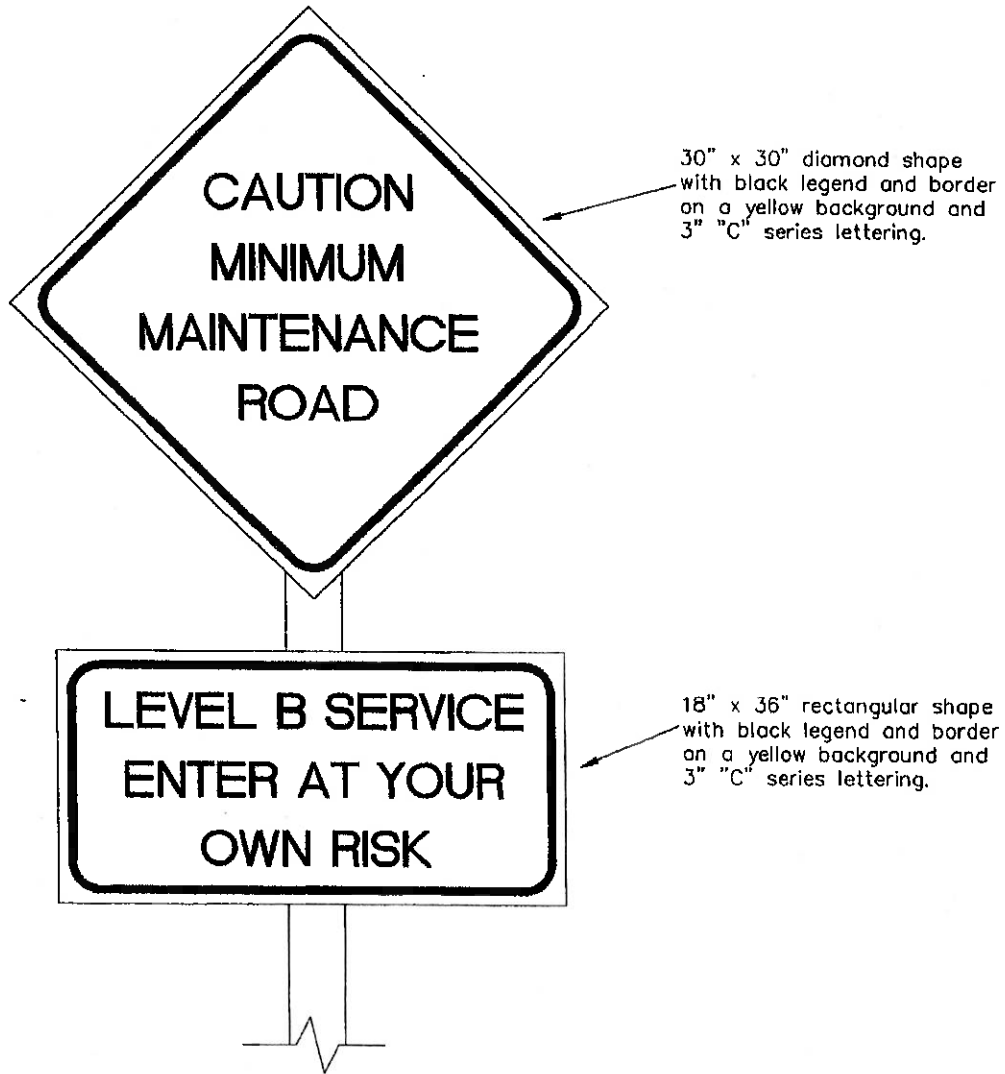
The undersigned petitioners shall pay all costs of improving an established Area Service “B” or “C” road to the minimum standards as detailed in Section III, including providing right of way for said improvement. Said cost shall equal the construction cost estimate by the Engineer as modified by adjusted benefit defined below in item 3.b.
    - b. Upon the favorable consideration for reclassification by the Board and the road improvements being satisfactorily made to bring the road up to Area Service “A” standards, the Board will reclassify the road.
  2. Petition for economic development in commercial, industrial or agricultural business ventures.
    - a. Petitions for reclassification shall follow the procedures detailed in the preceding sections.
    - b. Petitions shall be signed by the owners of the business ventures and shall contain the following statements:
      - (1) The total assessed value of the proposed commercial, industrial or agricultural business venture shall not be less than \$1,000,000.00.

- (2) The business venture will create not less than five new permanent full time jobs. Each job shall have a wage greater than or equal to the average annual wage for all industries as defined by Iowa Workforce Development for Region 16 or any subsequent region containing Henry County.
  - (3) The petitioners agree to donate the right of way needed to bring the road up to the minimum standards as detailed in Section III.
  - (4) The petitioners agree to reimburse Henry County for all improvements made at County expense if the petitioners do not fulfill the preceding requirements within two years.
- c. Upon favorable consideration by the Board, the County will make such road improvement to bring the road up to Section III standards. The Board will then reclassify the road.
3. Review by the Engineer.
- a. The Engineer shall make an estimate as to the cost of improving the road to a Class A standard.
  - b. The Engineer shall make an estimate as to the benefit of the improvement to Henry County as follows:
    - (1) The estimated change in cost of annual maintenance.
    - (2) The estimated change in income from Road Use Tax
    - (3) Economic benefit to county based on detour length and average daily traffic
    - (4) An annual economic benefit of 3% of the applicable mil rate times the proposed increase in assessed value shall be allowed. An annual economic benefit of 10% of the average wage for new permanent full time jobs, as defined above in 2.b.2, created by the business venture improvement shall be allowed.
    - (5) All values shall be calculated as a present value assuming a 30 year life and using the current discount rate for a 30 year treasury bond.

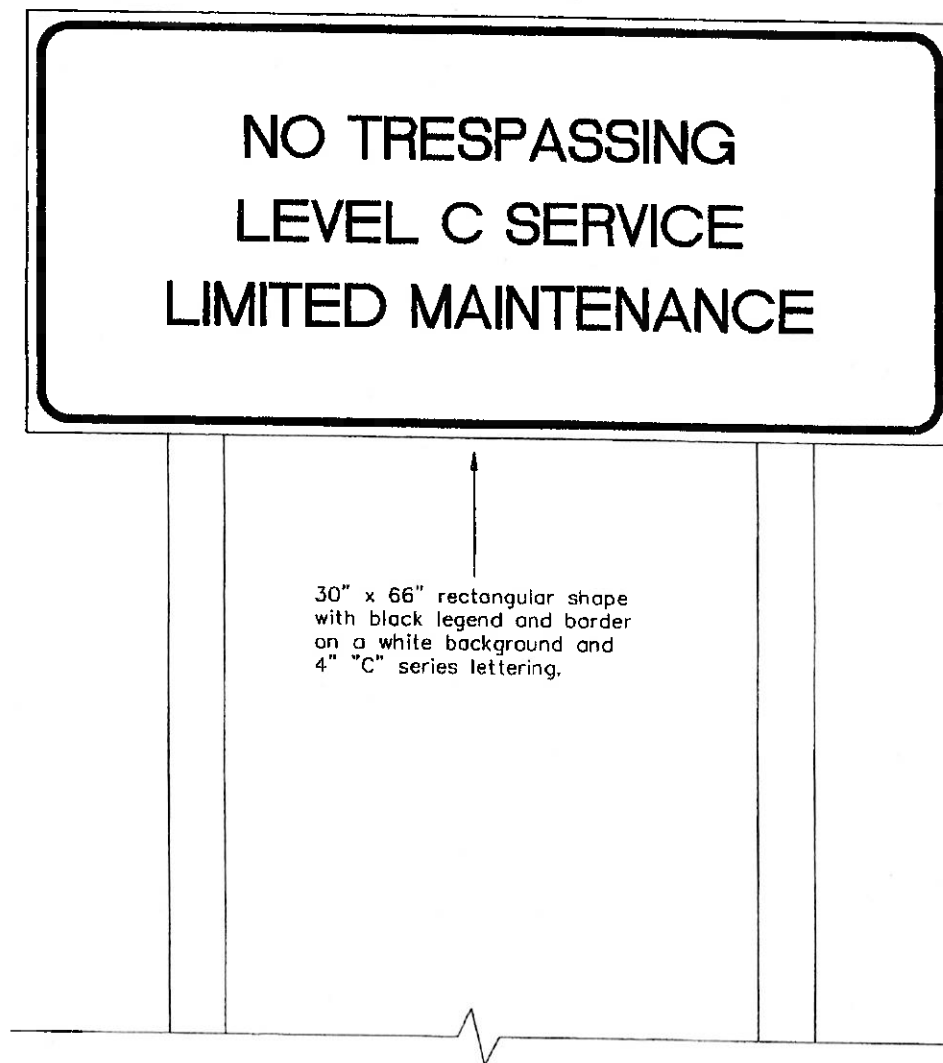
**Attested**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Hettie Maschmann**  
**Henry County Auditor**

3-9-2006  
**Date**



**SIGNS REQUIRED AT ALL ACCESS POINTS OF LEVEL B ROADS**



**SIGNS REQUIRED AT ALL ACCESS POINTS OF LEVEL C ROADS**