

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DRIVEWAY CULVERT AND DRAINAGE INFORMATION

General

Driveway culverts, in a residential or commercial driveway application, are owned and maintained by the property owner. The purpose of the driveway culvert, is to provide access to the privately owned property, over a ditch along the County highway. A driveway culvert is installed by the individual property owner, after being granted a MCDOT Permit under Section 136 of the NYS Highway Law, which also includes provisions from MCDOT's Highway Access Guidelines. Even if you, as the property owner did not originally apply for the permit, the originally issued permit covers the culvert installation in perpetuity, and transfers with the property in this particular case. As such, it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, replace, and clean out driveway culvert pipes as they are not County assets.

Also important to note, a municipality is responsible for the natural flow of surface water. However, it is not obligated to construct sewers to manage surface water resulting from natural drainage or from the grading or paving of streets

From the MCDOT 136 Highway Permit Conditions:

MCDOT does not own or maintain items such as private driveways (including culvert pipes), ditch pipes (unless 3 or more consecutive properties, installed under permit), utility mains or services not installed by MCDOT (water, gas, electric, sanitary, cable, etc.), sidewalks or any fixed item/hardscape (such as mailboxes, retaining walls, fences, trees, landscape rocks/boulders, etc.) that there is no record of being installed under permit.

From the MCDOT Highway Access Guidelines:

- c) Driveway Culverts and Closed Drainage Systems:
 - (1) Existing and new driveway culverts, are the responsibility of the property owner.
 - (a) The owner shall maintain the culvert in working order. This includes keeping the end of the pipe clean and free of debris
 - (b) The driveway at, around or above the culvert pipe is the responsibility of the property owner.
 - (c) The cost of all repairs or reconstruction of the culvert and other appurtenances shall be borne by the property owner. Should the driveway culvert be replaced as part of a Monroe County DOT Capital Improvement or a Highway Maintenance project, the County shall bear the cost. Upon completion of the MCDOT project, responsibility and ownership of the culvert pipe is transferred back to the property owner and along with it, future repairs and maintenance.
 - (2) When enclosed drainage systems are being constructed for roadway drainage, existing storm drainage systems from private residences may be connected to the County system in compliance with Monroe County DOT standard details, provided the runoff is storm drainage only and does not contain household or sanitary runoff.
 - (3) Enclosed drainage systems that encompass less than 3 consecutive properties must be maintained by the property owner.
 - (4) Closed systems conveying flows across 3 or more properties shall only be the responsibility of MCDOT once they are constructed to MCDOT standards.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please see MCDOT's website:

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/dot-hwybrdgeng#permit-forms>

