



Road Name Application

Please use the following form to apply for naming a new public or private road in Whatcom County.

Include with the application a section map, plat map, or drawing of the private road, showing all parcels that will use the road.

All legal property owners who have the right to use the road must agree to the road name and stated conditions in writing. Use the second half of the form to collect signatures of the property owners.

All road names submitted for consideration must be approved by Emergency Services to prevent duplication of road names.

How to submit your application:

1. Return completed form to: Addressing Coordinator, Whatcom County Engineering Division, 5280 Northwest Drive Suite C, Bellingham WA 98226. Or,
2. Email your application to engineering@co.whatcom.wa.us.

Date: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Name of Development: _____

Parcel Number: _____ (tax ID number)

No. of Lots: _____

ROW or Easement Width: _____

Completed Width: _____

Public Road

Gravel

Length of Road: _____

Private Road

Paved

List three different road names, and the preferred road type, in order of preference:
(Maple Lane and Maple Way are not different road names)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Available road types: Circle, Court, Drive, Lane, Loop, Place, Street, Terrace, Way

Whatcom County Public Works – Engineering Division

5280 Northwest Drive, Suite C / Bellingham, WA 98226

Phone: (360) 778-6200

We, the following property owners that are or will be accessing the road to be named, have reviewed the proposed names and agree with the choices.

We understand that when the road is named our addresses will be changed.

We understand that if the private road sign at the entrance of the road is stolen or destroyed, it will be the shared responsibility of all property owners to replace and maintain the sign.

Name Printed	Signature	Current Address	Parcel Number
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Additional notes and comments from property owners:

Chapter 12.60 - ROAD NAMING

12.60.060 Criteria for road name selection

- A. Objectives. Names should be pleasant sounding, appropriate, and easy to read and pronounce (so that the public, and children in particular, can handle the name in an emergency situation) and shall meet What-Comm (9-1-1) computer programming requirements.
- B. Recommended Types of Names. Names of local historic families, individuals, landmarks and events, features of the natural terrain, plants and animals, names of aesthetic or community significance.
- C. Unacceptable Names. Numeric (e.g., 42nd, 56th, Fifty-Fifth, etc.) if they have already been used or if they do not conform to the address grid system; alphabetical letters (A, B, C, etc.); frivolous, complicated or unseemly names (e.g., My Road, Slick Road).
- D. Avoidance of Name Duplication. Similar sounding names shall be considered duplication regardless of spelling. No duplication of names shall be permitted within Whatcom County. Road type shall not be used to distinguish road names within these areas, except in logically compelling instances where there is contiguity (e.g. Oak Circle at the end of Oak Street; but not Oak Lane at a location not contiguous with Oak Street). Directional indicators (e.g., North, South, Northeast) shall not be allowed as street names to distinguish noncontiguous roads (i.e., if there were an existing Wilson Road, "North Wilson Road" could not be considered a distinct, nonduplicative name).
- E. Road Type Designations. Due to existing road names, "view", "vista", "trail" and "plaza" shall not be permitted as road type. The designation "highway" shall be reserved for state and federal administered roads.
- F. Directional Prefixes. Roads running east-west which intersect (cross or abut) the Guide Meridian shall be prefixed "East" on the east side of the Guide and "West" on the west side of the Guide
- G. Directional Suffixes. Directional suffixes shall not be allowed in road names. (Ord. 96-049).

12.60.070 Name assignment procedure.

- A. The applicant for a new road may propose three original names: a preferred name and two alternates.

The department shall provide the road applicant with a copy of this chapter and a list of preapproved names from which a road name may be selected, if the applicant prefers not to propose an original name.

- A. If preapproved name is not selected, the road name approval process shall consist of submission to the department for review including What-Comm 9-1-1 and the local fire chief according to the criteria set forth in WCC 12.60.060.
- B. If an appeal is made, the citizen appeal committee shall evaluate the appeal with regard to compliance, review proposed road names for appropriateness, and make recommendations on new road names and road name changes.
- C. When the recommendations of the department and the citizen appeal committee do not agree, or when the applicant contests the decisions of the department and the citizen appeal committee, the matter may be referred to the council for consideration. (Ord. 96-049).

12.60.080 Road name signs.

- A. Signs on public county roads shall be placed and maintained by the county. When an applicant dedicates a road to the public, the applicant shall pay for the initial installation of the road name sign(s).
- B. Signs on new private roads shall be installed and maintained by the applicant in accordance to Whatcom County Development Standards. On existing private roads, the responsibility for installation and maintenance of signs shall rest collectively with the owners of real property which abuts or may use the private road as access or as outlined in the plat covenants. (Ord. 96-049).

12.60.090 Road sign specifications.

- A. For Arterial Roads. The color and letter size shall be consistent with current county road signs for all public county roads. In addition to the road name, block numbers shall be shown on all new and replacement arterial road signs.
- B. For Private Roads. Signs designating private roads shall be the same style as public road signs in accordance with Whatcom County Development Standards. Block numbers shall be shown on or with all new and replacement private road signs at public road intersections. (Ord. 96-049).