State Highway Administration of Maryland

ROAD TYPES AND DEFINITIONS

Instructional Memorandum HPS-2

The following road types and definitions have been prepared for the assistance and guidance of the District Engineers and their assistants, and the County Road Engineers of the respective counties in reporting changes in and improvements to roads of the State and County Highway Systems by calendar year; whether these changes and improvements are accomplished by maintenance, reconstruction, or construction; and whether the work is done by State or County forces, Federal-aid, or by contract.

To distinguish between and properly report types, the person reporting must be familiar with the history of the construction and development of the roads on which he is reporting.

It is desirable for the sake of uniformity and accuracy that in each District the District Engineer assign someone who is most familiar with the roads of all counties to supervise the interpretation of types.

In counties that construct and maintain their own roads, it is urgently requested that the County Road Engineer interpret and report the types.

Type	
A - Primitive Road	An unimproved route (on which there is no public maintenance) usable by 4-wheel vehicles and publicly travelled by small numbers of vehicles.
B - Unimproved Road	A road composed wholly, or with minor local exceptions, of the natural ground of the region traversed; which may or may not have been bladed; does not conform with respect to alignment, grade and drainage (at least to the definition of a "Graded and Drained Earth Road"); and on which the only work that has been done by public authority is that required to maintain a condition of bare passability for horse drawn or motor vehicles.

C - Graded & Drained Earth Road	A road of natural earth aligned and graded to permit reasonably convenient use by motor vehicles, and drained by longitudinal and transverse drainage systems, natural and artificial, sufficiently to prevent serious impairment of the road by surface water.
D - Soil-Surfaced Road	A road of natural soil, possessing qualities of alignment, grade and drainage at least equal to those described under "Graded and Drained Earth Road", the surface of which has been treated for purposes of stabilization by the addition of a course of mixed soil; such as, sand-clay, soft shale or topsoil, or an admixture; such as, bituminous material, portland cement, calcium chloride, sodium chloride, or fine granular material (sand or similar material).
E - Gravel or Stone Road	A road possessing qualities of alignment, grade, and drainage at least equal to those described under "C", and having a wearing surface which consists of gravel, broken stone, slag, chert, caliche, iron ore, hard shale, chat, disintegrated rock or granite, or other similar fragmental material (coarser than sand).
F - Bituminous Surface Treated Road	A graded and drained earth road, a soil-surfaced road or a gravel or stone road to which has been added by any process a surface mat of bituminous material and mineral aggregate less than one inch in compacted thickness.
G - Mixed Bituminous Road	A road, the wearing course of which is one inch or more in compacted thickness, composed of gravel, stone, sand, or similar material, mixed with bituminous material under partial control as to grading and proportions, and the base course of which is a nonrigid type.
H - Bituminous Penetration Road	A road, the wearing course of which is one inch or more in compacted thickness, composed of gravel, stone, sand, or similar material, treated with a light bituminous material of low cementing qualities which is introduced by downward or upward penetration; the base course of which is a nonrigid type.

I - Bituminous Concrete or Sheet Asphalt Road	A road, the wearing course of which consists of gravel, stone or sand mixed with bituminous material in accordance with precise specifications defining gradation of the mineral aggregate and proportions of aggregate and bituminous cement one inch or more in compacted thickness, and laid on a base course of either rigid or nonrigid type.
J - Concrete Road	A road, the wearing course of which consists of portland cement concrete with or without a bituminous mat less than one inch in compacted thickness.
K - Brick Road	A road, the wearing course of which consists of vitrified paving brick with or without a bituminous mat less than one inch in compacted thickness.
L - Block Road	A road, the wearing surface of which consists of stone block, wood block, asphalt block, or other form of block, except vitrified paving brick, with or without a bituminous mat less than one inch in compacted thickness.

NOTE: Surfaced or stabilized shoulders should not be reported as surface widening unless designed and built as part of the traffic bearing surface and equal to it in load bearing capacity.