

(b) Authority to create; purpose. The County Commissioners [of Washington County] may create special road improvement districts within the confines of the County for the purpose of providing a method of funding the improvement of private roads in the County to County standards prior to acceptance in the County road system. Only land which fronts on the road to be improved shall be included in a district and, of such land, only so much thereof as shall have at least an average depth in one ownership of 100 feet shall be included.

(c) Petition by owners. The procedures set forth in this subtitle for the creation of a special road improvement district may only be initiated by a petition signed by the owners of the land in the proposed district having over half of the frontage on the road. The petition may be developed and the signatures obtained either by [one] 1 or more of the owners or by the County Commissioners.

(d) Commissioners' receipt of petition. Upon receipt of a petition or upon their own motion, if the County Commissioners developed and obtained the signatures to the petition, and before a district may be created, the County Commissioners shall [do the following]:

(1) Cause an investigation to be made of the section of road to be improved; the investigation shall include a study of the condition of the road, the width of the right of way, the ownership and configuration of land fronting on the road, particularly with respect to the frontages and depths of the various tracts adjoining the road, the estimated cost of improving the road and any other matters which the County Commissioners may feel are relevant to the creation of a district.

(2) Cause a public hearing to be held after written notice of the hearing and the purpose thereof has been published [one] 1 time in a newspaper having general circulation in the County and after a copy of the notice has been mailed or delivered to each owner of land in the proposed district. At the hearing, all persons having an interest in the creation of the district shall be heard and be permitted to present any evidence relevant to the person's position in the matter as may be desired.

(e) Decision by Commissioners; appeals. After the public hearing is held, the County Commissioners shall decide whether a special road improvement district shall be created for the area in question, or for part [thereof] OF IT, and, if the decision is in favor of the creation of a district, it shall cause a resolution to be passed outlining [the] ITS boundaries [thereof] and giving preliminary approval to the land therein as a special road improvement district.[; thereafter] AFTERWARDS, the same notice of its decision shall be given to the owners as was given of the public hearing. Any person aggrieved by the decision of