

# **PERMITTING OF ALTERNATE SURFACE MATERIALS WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY**

## **POLICY NO. 19-11**

- PURPOSE:** It is the intent of the Board of County Commissioners to establish a policy regarding the permitting of alternate surface materials such as rock, gravel, mulch, and/or other materials as approved by the County Engineer within the County right-of-way of the local road network.
- BACKGROUND:** Hernando County has adopted rules and specifications for the use of sod as the sole means of ground cover within the right-of-way. The use of sod from the property line to the edge of pavement or back of curb provides the ground cover necessary to prevent erosion within the right-of-way. The County has recognized the need to modify this requirement along local roadways to allow for lower maintenance and/or non-irrigated materials provided the property owners accept responsibility for the maintenance of the alternative surface material.
- POLICY:** It will be the responsibility of the Department of Public Works to administer and execute this policy in providing for the permitting of alternate surface materials to be installed within the right-of-way on local roads within the County. Permitting of rock, gravel, mulch, and/or other materials as approved by the County Engineer in the County's right-of-way will be permitted, subject to the following conditions:
1. Application shall be made to the Department of Public Works for a right-of-way use permit. Applications shall include improvement plan with dimensions.
  2. The applicant shall sign an affidavit indicating that the property owner agrees to maintain the alternative material; the County has no responsibility to maintain or replace the alternative material in the event it is removed for any purposes, and the County shall be indemnified and held harmless.

3. Underlayment made of porous fabric material will be required for installation under alternative surface material.
4. Rock, gravel and/or mulch shall be installed at a depth of two (2) to four (4) inches.
5. Applications on streets without curb/gutter will require a minimum of a two (2) foot buffer between the edge of pavement and the rock or gravel. The buffer is to be constructed with flat concrete curb, paved shoulder, solid sod or other measures approved by Hernando County Department of Public Works.
6. Cross section of the swale needs to be retained on open drainage systems. No obstructions impeding drainage flow will be allowed. Mulch will not be permitted for use on local roads with an open-swale drainage system.
7. Rock size to be no smaller than ½” or larger than 1 ½”.
8. Finish grade of rock, gravel and or mulch to be 1” below the curb or sidewalk.
9. No rock, gravel or mulch will be permitted on any local road with a speed limit greater than 40 MPH.
10. Driveway connections using rock, gravel and/or mulch will not be permitted.
11. The maintenance of rock, gravel and/or mulch is the responsibility of the permittee.

Adopted: January 22, 2013