

Title 13

ROADS AND BRIDGES*

*For statutory provisions on county roads and bridges, see RCW 36.75--36.88.

Alphabetical and numerical listings of county roads are available at the county auditor's office and the office of the department of public works under file numbers 32012 and 32013.

Chapters:

13.04 County Road System

13.08 Road and Bridge Specifications

13.10 Load Limits and Speed Limits

Chapter 13.04

COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

Sections:

13.04.010 Map adopted.

13.04.020 Establishment and Speed Limits

13.04.010 Map adopted.

Pursuant to RCW 36.75.080, those county roads shown on the map accompanying Resolution dated March 5, 1956, which map is marked as Exhibit A and dated January 1, 1956, are designated as the Whitman County Road System. No liability shall incur to Whitman County by reason of maintenance or lack of maintenance of any other roads than those hereby adopted, except as otherwise specified in Section 13.04.020. (Prior code §9.04.010(part)).

13.04.020 Establishment and abandonment of county roads.

Any county road which is at any future time by action of the board of county commissioners legally and duly established as a county road shall become a part of the county road system. Any county road which is legally and duly vacated and abandoned by action of the board of county commissioners shall, upon the effective date of the order vacating said road, cease to be a part of the county road system and ownership of the right-of-way so vacated shall be disposed of in accordance with existing law at the time of said vacation. (Prior code §9.04.010part).

Chapter 13.08

ROAD AND BRIDGE SPECIFICATIONS*

Sections:

13.08.010 State standards adopted.

*For statutory provisions on county design standards, see RCW Chapter 36.86.

13.08.010 State standards adopted.

The Revised Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction adopted by the Washington State Highway Commission, Department of Transportation, effective January 1, 1977, and the current revisions thereto are adopted by Whitman County.
(Res. 31226, 1977).

Chapter 13.10

LOAD LIMITS AND SPEED LIMITS

Sections:

13.10.010 Authorization for limits.

13.10.020 Maximum gross weight limits.

13.10.030 Penalty-Misdemeanor.

13.10.040 Effective date.

13.10.010 Authorization for limits.

The county engineer is authorized to place load limits and speed limits upon the county roads as needed and shall do so by causing to be erected and maintained signs designating the restrictions at each end of the portion of any county road affected thereby.
(Ord. 35497 (part), 1982).

13.10.020 Maximum gross weight limits.

- A. Axle. "Axle" means structure or structures in the same or approximately the same transverse plane with a vehicle supported by wheels and on which or with which such wheels revolve.
- B. Tandem Axle. "Tandem axle" means any two or more consecutive axles whose centers are less than seven feet apart.
- C. Gross Weight Limit.
 - 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (C)(3) and (4) of this section, no special permit shall be issued for movement on any county road or route of a county road within the limits of any city or town where the gross weight, including load, exceeds the following limits:
 - a. Twenty-two thousand pounds on a single axle or on dual axles with a wheelbase between the first and second axles of less than three feet six inches;
 - b. Forty-three thousand pounds on dual axles having a wheelbase between the first and

second axles of not less than three feet six inches but less than seven feet;

- c. On any group of axles or in the case of a vehicle employing two single axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of not less than seven feet but less than ten feet, a weight in pounds determined by multiplying six thousand five hundred times the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;
 - d. On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of not less than ten feet but less than thirty feet, a weight in pounds determined by multiplying two thousand two hundred times the sum of twenty and the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group;
 - e. On any group of axles with a wheel base between the first and last axle of thirty feet or greater, a weight in pounds determined by multiplying one thousand six hundred times the sum of forty and the distance in feet between the center of the first axle and the center of the last axle of the group.
2. The total weight of a vehicle or combination of vehicles allowable by special permit under subsection (C)(1) of this section shall be governed by the lesser of the weights obtained by using the total number of axles as a group or any combination of axles as a group.
 3. The weight limitations pertaining to single axles may be exceeded to permit the movement of equipment operating upon single pneumatic tires having a rim width of twenty inches or more and a rim diameter of twenty-four inches or more or dual pneumatic tires having a rim width of sixteen inches or more and a rim diameter of twenty-four inches or more and specially designed vehicles manufactured and certified for special permits prior to July 1, 1975.
 4. Permits may be issued for weights in excess of the limitations contained in subsection (C)(1) of this section on roads or sections of roads which have been designed and constructed for weights in excess of such limitations, or for any shipment duly certified as necessary by military officials, or by officials of public or private power facilities, or when in the opinion of the department of transportation the movement or action is a necessary movement or action; provided, that in the judgment of the Whitman County public works department the structures and road surfaces on the routes involved are capable of sustaining weights in excess of such limitations and it is not reasonable for economic or operational considerations to transport such excess weights by rail or water for any substantial distance of the total mileage applied for.
 5. Permits may be issued for the operation of fire trucks on the roads if the maximum gross weight on any single axle does not exceed twenty-four thousand pounds and the gross weight on any tandem axle does not exceed forty-three thousand pounds.
 6. Application shall be made in writing on special forms provided by the department and shall be submitted at least thirty-six hours in advance of the proposed movement. An application for a special permit for a gross weight of any combination of vehicles exceeding two hundred thousand pounds shall be submitted in writing to the department at least thirty days in advance of the proposed movement.

D. Gross Weight, Wheelbase and Axle Factors.

1. No vehicle or combination of vehicles shall operate upon Whitman County roads with a gross load on any single axle in excess of twenty thousand pounds, or upon any group of axles in excess of that set forth in the following table, except that two consecutive sets of tandem axles may carry a gross load of thirty-four thousand pounds each, if the overall distance between the first and last axles of such consecutive sets of tandem axles is thirty-six feet or more.

Distance in feet between the extremes of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	Maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles							
	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles	8 axles	9 axles	
2 axles								
4	34,000							
5	34,000							
6	34,000							
7	34,000							
8	34,000	42,000						
9	39,000	42,500						
10	40,000	43,500						
11		44,000						
12		45,000	50,000					
13		45,500	50,500					
14		46,500	51,500					
15		47,000	52,000					
16		48,000	52,500	58,000				
17		48,500	53,500	58,500				
18		49,500	54,000	59,000				
19		50,500	54,500	60,000				
20		51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000			
21		51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500			
22		52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000			
23		53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000			
24		54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000		
25		54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500		
26		55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000		
27		56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500		
28		57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500	82,000	
29		57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000	82,500	
30		58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500	83,000	
31		59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000	83,500	
32		60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500	84,500	90,000
33			64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000	85,000	90,500

34			64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000	85,500	91,000
35			65,500	70,000	75,000	80,500	86,000	91,500
36			66,000	70,500	75,500	81,000	86,500	92,000
37			66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500	87,000	93,000
38			67,500	71,500	77,000	82,000	87,500	93,500
39			68,000	72,500	77,000	82,500	88,500	94,000
40			68,500	73,000	78,000	83,500	89,000	94,500
41			69,500	73,500	78,500	84,000	89,500	95,000
42			70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500	90,000	95,500
43			70,500	75,000	80,000	85,000	90,500	96,000
44			71,500	75,500	80,500	85,500	91,000	96,500
45			72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000	91,500	97,500
46			72,500	76,500	81,500	87,000	92,500	98,000
47			73,500	77,500	82,000	87,500	93,000	98,500
48			74,000	78,000	83,000	88,000	93,500	99,000
49			74,500	78,500	83,500	88,500	94,000	99,500
50			75,500	79,000	84,000	89,000	94,500	100,000
51			76,000	80,000	84,500	89,500	95,000	100,500
52			76,500	80,500	85,000	90,500	95,500	101,000
53			77,500	81,000	86,000	91,000	96,500	102,000
54			78,000	81,500	86,500	91,500	97,000	102,500
55			78,500	82,500	87,000	92,000	97,500	103,000
56			79,500	83,000	87,500	92,500	98,000	103,500
57			80,000	83,500	88,000	93,000	98,500	104,000
58				84,000	89,000	94,000	99,000	104,500
59				85,000	89,000	94,500	99,500	105,500
60				85,500	90,000	95,000	100,500	105,500
61				86,000	90,500	95,500	101,000	105,500
62				91,000	96,000	86,500	101,500	105,500
63				87,500	92,000	96,500	102,000	105,500
64				88,000	92,500	97,500	102,500	105,500
65				88,500	93,000	98,000	103,000	105,500
66				89,500	93,500	98,500	103,500	105,500
67				90,000	94,000	99,000	104,500	105,500
68				90,500	95,000	99,500	105,000	105,500
69				91,000	95,500	100,000	105,500	105,500
70				92,000	96,000	101,000	105,500	105,500

2. When inches are involved: under six inches take lower, six inches or over take higher. The maximum load on any axle in any group of axles shall not exceed the single axle or tandem axle allowance as set forth in the table above.

3. The maximum axle and gross weights specified in this section are subject to the braking requirements set up for the service brakes upon any motor vehicle or combination of vehicles as

provided by state law.

4. Loads of not more than eighty thousand pounds which may be legally hauled in the state bordering this county which also has a sales tax, are legal in this county when moving to a port district within four miles of the bordering state except on the interstate system. This provision does not allow the operation of a vehicle combination consisting of a truck tractor and three trailers.
5. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, a vehicle or combination of vehicles in operation on January 4, 1975, may operate upon the public roads of this county, including the interstate system within the meaning of Section 127 of Title 23, United States Code, with an overall gross weight upon a group of two consecutive sets of dual axles which was lawful in this state under the laws, regulations, and procedures in effect in this state on January 4, 1975.

E. Maximum Gross Weights-Axle and Tire Factors. Subject to the maximum gross weights specified herein, it is unlawful to operate any vehicle upon the county roads with a gross weight, including load, upon any tire concentrated upon the surface of the road in excess of six hundred pounds per inch width of such tire. Other than the nonliftable steering axle on the power unit or tiller axle on fire fighting apparatus, an axle manufactured after July 31, 1993, carrying more than ten thousand pounds gross weight must be equipped with four or more tires. Effective January 1, 1997, an axle, excluding the nonliftable steering axle on the power unit or tiller axle on fire fighting apparatus, carrying more than ten thousand pounds gross weight must have four or more tires, regardless of date of manufacture. Instead of the four or more tires per axle requirements of this section: (1) An axle may be equipped with two tires limited to five hundred pounds per inch width of tire; or (2) in the case of a ready-mix concrete transit truck, the rear booster trailing axle may be equipped with two tires limited to six hundred pounds per inch width of tire. This section does not apply to oversize and overweight permits. For the purpose of this section, the width of tire in case of solid rubber or hollow center cushion tires, so long as the use thereof may be permitted by the law, shall be measured between the flanges of the rim. For the purpose of this section, the width of tires in case of pneumatic tires shall be the maximum overall normal inflated width as stipulated by the manufacturer when inflated to the pressure specified and without load thereon.

F. The Whitman County department of public works is authorized and shall determine the need for restrictions as to access onto and maximum load limits over for any county road or bridge and shall designate such restriction as provided in Section 13.10.010.

G. Enforcement Procedures-Penalties-Rules.

1. Violation of any of the provisions of this section or failure to obtain a permit, or misrepresentation of the size or weight of any load or failure to follow the requirements and conditions of a permit issued hereunder is a traffic infraction, and upon the first finding thereof shall be assessed a basic penalty of not less than one hundred fifty dollars; and upon a second finding thereof shall be assessed a basic penalty of not less than one hundred seventy-five dollars; and upon a third or subsequent finding shall be assessed a basic penalty of not less than two hundred fifty dollars.
2. Any person found to have violated any posted limitations of a road or section of road shall be

assessed a monetary penalty of not less than two hundred and fifty dollars, and the court shall in addition thereto upon second violation within a twelve-month period involving the same power unit, suspend the certificate of license registration for not less than thirty days.

3. In addition to the penalties imposed in subsection (G)(1) or (2) of this section, there shall be assessed three cents for each pound of excess weight. In no case may the penalties assessed in subsection (G)(1) and/or (2) of this section be suspended.
4. It is unlawful for the driver of a vehicle to fail or refuse to stop and submit the vehicle and load to a weighing, or to fail or refuse, when directed by an officer upon a weighing of the vehicle to stop the vehicle and otherwise comply with the provisions of this section. It is unlawful for a driver of a commercial motor vehicle as defined in RCW 46.32.005, other than the driver of a bus as defined in RCW 46.32.005(2), to fail or refuse to stop at a weighing station when proper traffic control signs indicate scales are open.

Any law enforcement officer is authorized to require the driver of any vehicle or combination of vehicles to stop and submit to a weighing either by means of a portable or stationary scale and may require that the vehicle be driven to the nearest public scale. Whenever an officer, upon weighing a vehicle and load, determines that the weight is unlawful, the officer may require the driver to stop the vehicle in a suitable location and remain standing until such portion of the load is removed as may be necessary to reduce the gross weight of the vehicle to the limit permitted by law. If the vehicle is loaded with grain or other perishable commodities, the driver shall be permitted to proceed without removing any of the load, unless the gross weight of the vehicle and load exceeds by more than ten percent the limit permitted by this chapter. The owner or operator of the vehicle shall care for all materials unloaded at the risk of the owner or operator.

Any vehicle whose driver or owner represents that the vehicle is disabled or otherwise unable to proceed to a weighing location shall have its load sealed or otherwise marked by any law enforcement officer. The owner or driver shall be directed that upon completion of repairs, the vehicle shall submit to weighing with the load and markings and/or seal intact and undisturbed. Failure to report for weighing, appearing for weighing with the seal broken or the markings disturbed, or removal of any cargo prior to weighing is unlawful.

Any person so convicted shall be fined five hundred dollars.

5. Any other provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, district courts having venue have concurrent jurisdiction with the superior courts for the imposition of any penalties authorized under this section.
6. For the purpose of determining additional penalties as provided by subsection (G)(3) of this section, "excess weight" means the poundage in excess of the maximum gross weight.
7. For the purpose of computing the basic penalties and additional penalties to be imposed under the provisions of subsections (G)(1) and (2) of this section the convictions shall be on the same vehicle or combination of vehicles within a twelve-month period under the same ownership. The defendant shall have the burden of establishing this defense by clear, cogent and convincing

evidence.

8. For the purposes of determining gross weights the actual scale weight taken by the arresting officer is rebuttable evidence of the total gross weight.

9. It is a traffic infraction to direct the loading of a vehicle with knowledge that it violates the requirements of this section and that it is to be operated on the roads of this county.

(Res. 47494, 1994; Ord. 35497 (part), 1982).

13.10.030 Penalty-Misdemeanor.

Any violation of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a misdemeanor. The penalty for a violation of load limits shall be a fine of two hundred fifty dollars, which fine shall not be suspended by any court. The penalty for violation of the speed limits shall be a fine of seven dollars for each mile over the posted speed and this fine shall not be suspended by any court.

(Ord. 35497 (part), 1982).

13.10.040 Effective date.

The provisions of this chapter shall become effective April 1, 1982.

(Ord. 35497 (part), 1982).