

Community Corner

What you need to know

Mailbox Placement



Height of mailbox placement

Your mailbox should be 41 inches to 45 inches from the road surface.

Why: The snow plow wing is 40 inches, having a mailbox at 42 inches is a risky minimum, and does not consider build-up of snow, ice or gravel



How far off the road should a mailbox be placed?

Your mailbox should be placed 6 inches to 8 inches back from the curb or shoulder.

Why: Snowplows have a 15-foot wide pass. NYS Traffic Law prohibits the snowplow from crossing the centerline. Hence anything 15 feet from the centerline will get hit.



Mailbox installation.

A 4" x 4" wood support or a 2" diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe, buried no more than 24" deep.

Why: This is recommended by the Federal Highway Administration.



Why all these standards?

Safety! The best mailbox supports must be stable but bend or fall away if hit.



NYSLTAP -
CLRP website



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How to install a
mailbox USPS

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THAT'S NOT WHERE THAT BELONGS!

GRASS CLIPPINGS

It is a violation of **New York State Vehicle and Traffic Safety Law, Section 1220** to mow grass clippings and/or rake leaves into the road.

Grass clippings in the roadway can create a slippery surface, especially when wet, increasing the risk of losing control and crashing. Clippings can also wash into storm drains, causing blockages that lead to localized flooding.

SNOW

It is a violation of **New York State Vehicle and Traffic Safety Law, Section 1219** to place obstructions in the roadway. This includes pushing snow removed from driveways, sidewalks, etc. back into the road. Snow pushed into the road can cause hazards not only for the public but for snowplows.

OTHER OBJECTS OFTEN PLACED IN THE ROW

Free-standing basketball nets, garbage cans and other objects placed near or on the road pose safety risks, including traffic hazards, instability (especially in high winds), and potential injury from tipping over.

Garbage cans are allowed to be placed in their **designated pick-up areas on pick-up days only**. Once garbage and/or recycling have been picked up, all cans and bins must be removed from the ROW and/or roadway ASAP.

Basketball nets can obstruct snow removal and maintenance, create liability concerns, and encourage unsafe play near roads.

NYS Highway Law Section 319

Anything placed within the ROW can be considered an obstruction, including but not limited to basketball hoops, as they impede the department's ability to properly and efficiently maintain the ROW and/or roadway.



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Roadway Safety Series

Stopping crashes BEFORE they happen

Rather than waiting for a crash to occur, highway officials can be proactive by looking for common risk factors and making improvements in locations where there is a higher chance of a crash.

The “systemic,” or risk-based, safety approach is part of an overall Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP) that incorporates simple, low-cost improvements at locations with a higher chance of a serious crash.

Safe Systems

The goal is a safe system where everyone gets home safely every day. Responsibility is shared and safety is proactive.



Targeting Hazardous Locations

A data driven approach; existing crashes are reviewed to find “hot spots” which have a concentration of crashes. Also, common factors such as high speeds, more traffic, sharp corners, or trees next to the highway are examined and the entire road network is reviewed to look for locations which have more risks. The LRSP prioritizes improvements in the places which have higher chances of the next crash; which may be in a place that has never had a crash in the past.

Fixing Hazardous Locations

By looking for higher risk locations and “hot spots,” the municipality can immediately start addressing these locations with proven countermeasures. The proactive approach pays for itself by reducing the number of serious crashes.

Pavement Management Summer Intern Program

“... proved a valuable asset that has allowed for precise future budgeting and planning, not only for road maintenance, but also for construction.”

- Isaac Jalszynski, Student Intern

CONTACT

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Benefits to Municipalities:

- Develop & implement a pavement management system
- Apply repairs at the right place and at the right time
- Improve the overall road network of an agency



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WHAT IS THE RIGHT OF WAY ON MY ROAD OR STREET?

The right-of-way (ROW) is the space including the road or street and land on either side of a road that is typically used for storm drainage & a safe recovery area for vehicles that leave the road surface.



HOW BIG IS THE ROW?

- If there is a deed or other paperwork filed with the County or Town Clerk, that is the right-of-way (ROW), otherwise...
- The ROW is the area that the highway department maintains on roads & streets used by the public (and has been maintained for at least ten years)

WHY IS THE ROW ON MY PROPERTY?

The NYS Legislature established roads by use & streets by prescription to account for existing public highways in towns and villages in 1797. While you may own to the centerline, the law was written to ensure all of the public has rights to travel on public roads.



WHO OWNS THE ROW?

The landowner still owns the land on these user roads. The highway or street department just has a right (and duty) to maintain the road or street in a safe and efficient manner. The landowner still maintains some rights (such as getting the wood from any trees removed for safety reasons).

References:

Highway Law §189

Village Law § 6-626

Powers & Duties Manual (from NYSLTAP)



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Property Owner & Highway
Department Maintains



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Work Zones People's lives are in your hands



Slow Down.

Speeding is one of the major causes of work zone crashes. Everyone in the work zone is part of a family. It could be yours!

Pay attention to the signs.

The warning signs are there to help you move safely through the work zone. The black and orange signs let you know there is work being done.



Don't Drive Distracted.



100% of your attention should be on the road and its surroundings. Checking your phone could be a matter of life or death.

Obey the Flaggers.

The flagger knows what is best for moving traffic safely through the work zone. A flagger has the same authority as a regulatory sign or a police officer, so you can be cited for disobeying their directions.



Be Patient & Stay Calm.

Work zones aren't there to inconvenience you. The work zone crew members are working to improve the road & make your future drive better.



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