



GDOT Publications

Policies & Procedures

Policy: 3625-2- Certified Public Road Mileage
Section: Highway System
Office/Department: Office of Transportation Data

Reports To: Division of Permits & Ops
Contact: 404-347-0699

The following policy has been developed to provide clarity and continuity to the development of the certified public road mileage.

The Office of Transportation Data is responsible for the development and maintenance of the reporting of public roads on the state highway system and on all public roads on each of the county road systems within the state of Georgia¹. In addition, the Office of Transportation Data is responsible for the annual Federal Highway Administration report of certified public road mileage². These records and reports are used in the apportionment of monies at both the state and federal levels³ for the construction and maintenance of public highways.

The Department is granted the authority to establish reasonable rules and regulations regarding the mileage record⁴ in order to efficiently and effectively carry out the related duties assigned to the Department.

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) Title 32, chapter 1, section 3, in addition to other things, defines “Public road” to mean in part:

a highway, road, street, avenue, toll road, tollway, drive, detour, or other way that either is open to the public or has been acquired as right of way, and is intended to be used for enjoyment by the public and for the passage of vehicles in any county or municipality of Georgia, including but not limited to the following public rights, structures, sidewalks, facilities, and appurtenances incidental to the construction, maintenance, and enjoyment of such rights of way. . .

Consistent in this definition is the idea of travel.

Other sections within Georgia Code also reference the notion of travel e.g.;

O.C.G.A. Sec. 40-1-1(19) defines Highway to mean - ‘...the entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.’

O.C.G.A. Sec. 40-1-1(63) defines Street to mean – ‘...the entire width between boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.’

¹ O.C.G.A. Sec. 32-4-2(b)

² 23 CFR 460 et seq. & 23 USC 402 (c)

³ O.C.G.A. Sec 32-5-27, 23 U.S.C. 402 & 23 CFR 460 et seq

⁴ O.C.G.A. Sec 32-4-2

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In contrast, earlier in that same chapter, O.C.G.A. Sec. 40-1-1(2) defines Alley to mean – ‘...a street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of lots or buildings in urban districts and not intended for the purpose of through vehicular traffic.’

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23, Chapter I, Subchapter E, Part 460 section 2 defines “Public road” as;

...any road under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel.

“Open to public Travel” is further defined in this code section as;

that the road section is available, except during scheduled periods, extreme weather or emergency conditions, passable by four-wheel standard passenger cars, and open to the general public for use without restrictive gates, prohibitive signs, or regulation other than restrictions based on size, weight, or class of registration.

These definitions are consistent with the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices – which has been approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard⁵;

Alley⁶: “A street or highway intended to provide access to the rear or side of lots or building in urban areas and not intended for the purpose of through vehicular traffic.”

Highway⁷: “A general term for denoting a public way for purposes of vehicular travel, including the entire area within the right-of-way.”

Because both reports are used in the apportionment of public funds for the construction and maintenance of streets and highways for the benefit of the traveling public, and alleys by definition are not for the benefit of the traveling public, but rather for the benefit of selected businesses and lot owners, alleys will not be considered in the final tally of either the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant certified public mileage report nor the Federal Highway Performance Management System Certified Public Mileage Report.

⁵ MUTCD 2009, page I “The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard in accordance with Title 23 U.S. Code, Sections 109(d), 114(a), 217, 315, and 402(a), 23 CFR 655, and 49 CFR 1.48(b)(8), 1.48(b)(33), and 1.48(c)(2).”

⁶ MUTCD 2009 edition, Section 1A.13(9)

⁷ MUTCD 2009 edition, Section 1A.13(83)

References:

[Click here to enter Policy references, if any.](#)

History:

annual review: 01/29/21;

new policy: 03/18/19

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