

Policy: 6755-12- Granting Permits for Requests to Use
Right of Way for Movie and Television Production

Section: Permits - Miscellaneous

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Granting Permits for Requests to Use Right of Way for Movie and Television Production

As Georgia has become more popular as a location for television and film, there has been increasing demand for use of the State Highway System for locations. In order to facilitate the timely and orderly review of these requests the Department has established this policy for such uses.

1. A permit is required for all requested use of the Right of Way for film purposes. Permits are issued by District Traffic Operations. If locations requested are in multiple Districts, a separate Permit must be issued for each District.
2. Permits may be issued for uses of the right of way within the guidelines set out in [Exhibit 2](#). All fees set out in [Exhibit 1](#) and [Exhibit 2](#) are for up to two miles of continuous use within a 2-mile segment of roadway. Additional miles will be charged at 33% of the base fee per mile. Separate applications must be submitted for any segments separated by more than ½ mile from the previous segment. Transportation Data Viewer must be used for all traffic counts/ADT required for the application. Entrance and exit ramps are measured separately from the main line for purposes of determination of length of roadway usage. The length of the ramp will be added as a part of the distance requested. A ramp use fee will be charged in addition to the permit fee for impacts other than Type A, on Interstate, or similar roadway, ramps. If the requested Permit does not meet the guidelines or if there are safety concerns or excessive impacts on the travelling public, District Traffic Operations may refuse to issue a permit and/or request a different location be used.
3. Requests must be made far enough in advance to ensure adequate review and notice. Deadlines for applications are set out in [Exhibit 2](#). Under limited circumstances applications may be expedited, however, no application for lane closures on an interstate or a full road closure on any road can be expedited and no application for any use will be approved on less than 48 hours' notice. Although the Department makes reasonable efforts to meet the timelines set out in [Exhibit 2](#), these timelines are not guaranteed. Major and complex permits/projects may take significantly longer. The fee for an expedited review is equal to one half day usage, with a minimum of \$1000, for the use requested. Outside of District 7, permits cannot be completed in less than 72 hours.
4. For permitting purposes, sidewalks and parking lanes will be treated as shoulders, and bicycle lanes will be treated as travel lanes. If the location has sidewalks, either one sidewalk must remain open to pedestrian access at all times, or a pedestrian detour route must be submitted along with the traffic control plan. A pedestrian detour may be considered a major impact.
5. Rolling camera cars without flashing light poles are permitted without charge provided they do not interfere with normal traffic flow or create distractions for the travelling public. This provision does not apply to oversized vehicles.

6. Locations within active construction zones will not be permitted without written agreement from the Contractor. In such situations, the applicant is responsible for contacting and making such arrangements directly with the Contractor before applying for a permit.
7. Local Government and Law Enforcement must be notified of the intent to use right of way concurrently with the Department. Georgia State Patrol (GSP) must be notified of all applications on the interstate. The Applicant is responsible for making these contacts and must provide the Department with a primary contact within the Local Government or Law Enforcement entity for coordination purposes. The Department must receive written confirmation of this coordination, including the name of the on-site Officer(s) in charge, directly from the Law Enforcement entity, prior to final issuance of the permit.
8. For non-interstate locations, any affected businesses or residents should be notified of the impacts no less than 48 hours before any impacts occur.
9. Each permit application is site specific; the District offices will determine what if any conditions or special provisions are required for the requested location. This may include, among other things, specific requirements for local law enforcement presence.
10. Proof of insurance must be provided prior to the start of production. The minimum amount of insurance required will be determined by the District, taking into consideration the requested uses and potential impacts.
11. Specific restrictions applicable to all permits:
 - a. No hazardous chemicals may be used on the road or right of way.
 - b. No hazardous chemicals may be used in any manner that will create runoff.
 - c. No materials may be used that may create a hazard for motorists on the road during or after filming
 - d. No water on the road when temperatures are predicted to be below freezing
 - e. Nothing may be used that could create slick conditions or damage the road surface
12. Requests to use GDOT buildings or other non-road facilities must be approved in writing by GDOT Facilities Management in conjunction with the applicable District, before applying for a permit. GDOT does not guarantee that any of its non-road facilities are available, such requests will be reviewed and evaluated on a case by case basis.
 - a. In the event a permit is approved for use of a GDOT owned or operated Rest Area, the Rest Area and any attached facilities, parking lots, picnic areas, dog walks, etc., must remain open and accessible to the travelling public during their regularly scheduled hours. A permittee may not interfere with any GDOT employee or contractor performing their regularly assigned on-site duties. A cleaning fee will be charged for all Rest Area permits.
 - b. Effective June 1, 2018, the GDOT training facility adjacent to the Charlie Brown Airport is not available for use.
13. All locations must be returned to same condition or better upon completion of filming. Failure to return the location in acceptable condition will result in the assessment of damages against the permittee.
14. Permits for use of right of way are issued for specific time frames only. Failure to clear a location by the specified time will result in the Applicant being charged a liquidated damages fee as set out in [Exhibit 2](#).
15. The Department may issue limited permits for Type A and B uses on State Routes for authorized student films at a reduced fee. The requesting student should provide an official letter, on school letterhead, from the professor making the assignment, and proof of insurance coverage in addition to all other permit requirements. Student film permits will only be issued for two hours of use between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. Monday-Friday or may be scheduled for other two hour periods on Saturday-Sunday depending on the location and traffic needs.

16. Permittees may conduct Pacing and Intermittent Traffic Control (ITC) on State Routes. ITC is not permitted on Interstates or similar routes.
17. Certain activities on low ADT roadways may be considered “major impacts” and be charged a use surcharge. Examples of these types of impacts include, but are not limited to: closure of a town square, detours substantially longer than the closure area, and unavailability of more than 50% of parking in the permit area. At the discretion of the District, additional fees may be charged for special services, i.e. replacing a standard traffic signal head to a special style.
18. All applicable GDOT policies, FAA licensing, rules and regulations must be met for operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (also known as drones) over the Right of Way. Copies of any required FAA license or certification must be provided to the Department prior to issuance of any permit for use which includes drones.
19. The Georgia Department of Transportation, as an Agency of the State of Georgia has no authority whatsoever outside the boundaries of the State of Georgia. Any entity wishing to use right of way outside of the State of Georgia is required to obtain any necessary permits and permissions from the appropriate State government.

To request the use of right of way for movie or television production or for further information contact the appropriate [district personnel](#).

References:

Click here to enter Policy references, if any.

History:

corrected typo: 06/07/19;

new policy added: 07/16/15