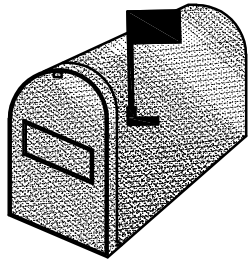


RULES for
CONSTRUCTION and
INSTALLATION of
MAILBOXES
and
REMOVAL of
OBSTRUCTIONS
on
COUNTY
and
TOWNSHIP ROADS

This pamphlet outlines the Mercer County mailbox unit and support installation rules and guidelines for County and Township Roads.



Issued by:

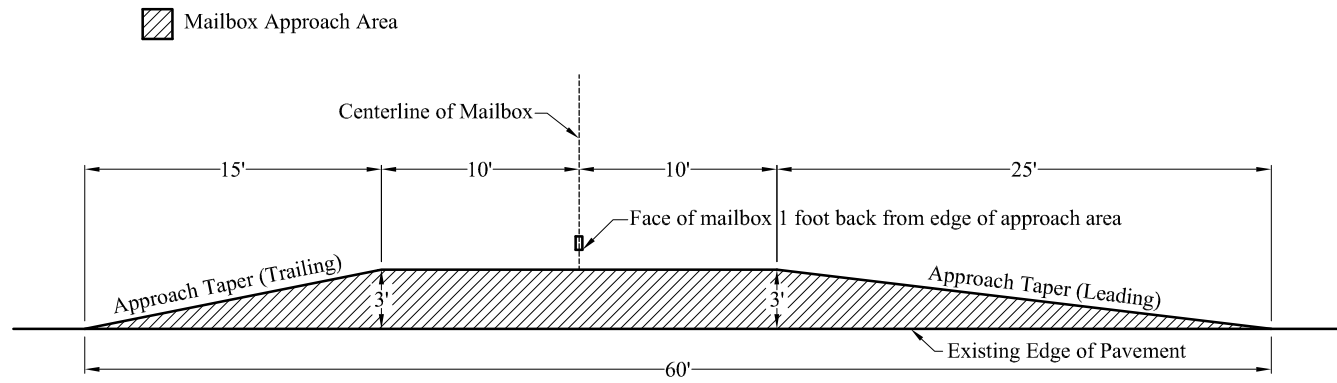
The Mercer County Engineer

James A. (Jim) Wiechart, P.E., P.S.

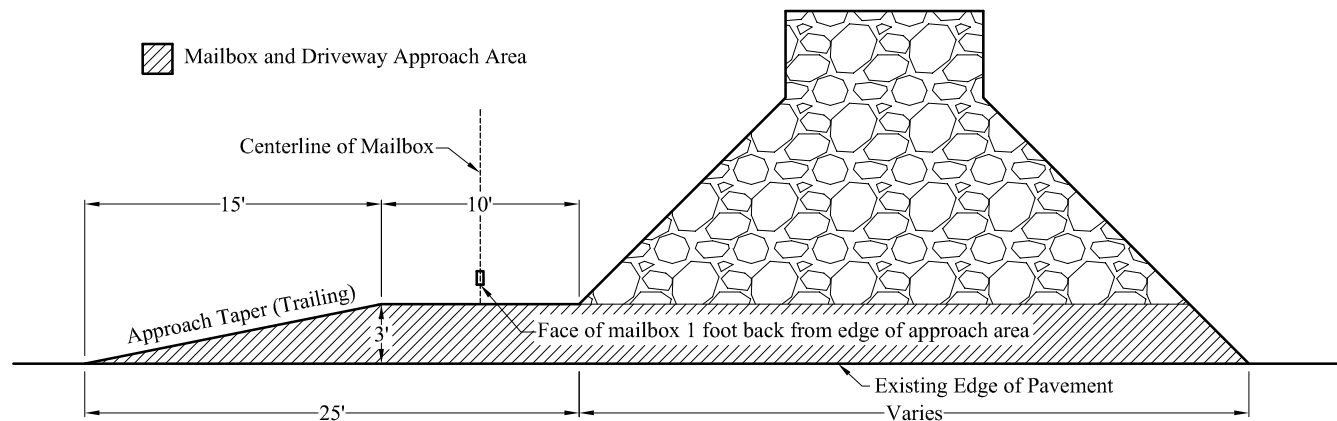
In cooperation with:

The Board of County Commissioners

The Mercer County Prosecuting Attorney



MAILBOX APPROACH APRON



COMBINED DRIVEWAY & MAILBOX APPROACH APRON

FOREWORD

It is the duty of the County Engineer to provide the safest possible highway system for the traveling public of Mercer County. Section 5547 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for the removal of obstructions within the county highway system rights-of-way. The Federal Highway Administration has adopted the following standards for rural mailboxes. Mailboxes not in compliance with these standards are an unacceptable safety hazard and an obstruction to the safe use of the highway and should be removed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF MAILBOXES

All mailbox units, attachments, decals, supports and the installation thereof are to be in strict accordance with United States Postal regulations and in compliance with the following specifications and standard drawings.

1. The mailbox unit shall be constructed entirely of plastic and/or lightweight galvanized steel attached to the support unit with sufficient strength to prevent the box from separation from the post top if struck by a vehicle.
2. The support structure (post) shall be either a wooden post (no larger than 4 inch x 4 inch square or 4 1/2 inch diameter round) or a metal post with a strength no greater than a 2 inch diameter standard strength steel pipe (with a weight not in excess of 2.6 lbs. per foot). No support structure shall be embedded more than 24 inches into the ground. A metal post shall not be fitted with an anchor plate, but it may have an anti-twist device that extends no more than 10 inches below the ground surface. Mailbox supports shall not be set in concrete.
3. The unit shall be placed at an offset from the edge of the pavement so that the roadside face of the mailbox is no closer than 2' from the normal edge of the pavement or 1' from the back of a paved approach apron if one exists. When a mailbox is installed in the vicinity of an existing guardrail, it shall be placed behind the guardrail unless otherwise approved by the County Engineer.
4. Multiple mailbox units of more than two boxes shall not be mounted on one support. However, lightweight newspaper boxes may be mounted below the mailbox on the side of the mailbox support. Multiple posts shall be placed no less than three feet apart.

5. Designs not described in this brochure will be acceptable only if written approval is granted by the Mercer County Engineer's Office.
6. The owner shall assume responsibility for and shall hold Mercer County harmless and defend any and all claims for personal injury and property damages that might be brought as a result of this work.

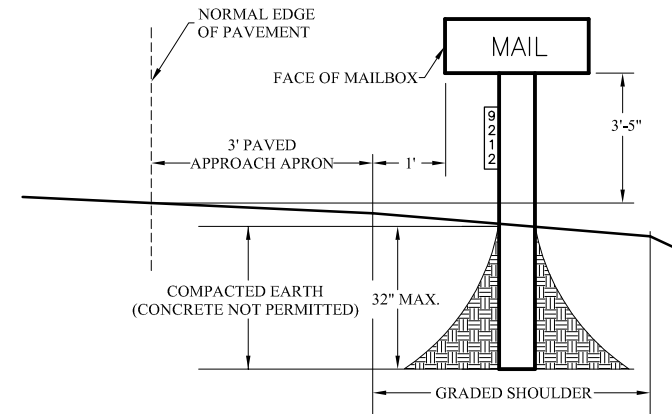
WARNING

Following are excerpts from a 1992 Ohio Supreme Court ruling:

"WHERE AN ABUTTING LANDOWNER OR OCCUPIER USES THE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH A HIGHWAY PURPOSE, AND WHERE SUCH USAGE CONSTITUTES AN UNREASON-ABLE HAZARD TO USERS OF THE HIGHWAY, THE LAND OWNER OR OCCUPIER MAY BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE IMPROPER USE OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY."

"A LAND OWNER OR OCCUPIER IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO KNOW THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPERTY. THE BORDER OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IS A BOUNDARY LINE LIKE ANY OTHER."

To reduce the liability exposure of land owners or occupiers and Mercer County, we have an obligation to inform you that anything which you cause to be placed, or cause to remain, on the right-of-way could be the cause of legal action being brought against you. If you currently have such items as fences, trees, shrubs, stones or any other obstructions on the right-of-way, you should make arrangements to have them removed.



GROUP MAILBOX

