

Requests for Maintenance or Upgrades

Requests for maintenance on a Town roadway, such as a pothole that needs fixing, a plugged drainage structure, or a malfunctioning traffic signal, should be directed to the Public Works Department at **(802) 264-5620** or **DPW@colchestervt.gov**.

Requests can always be submitted in person at the Public Works Department, located on the second floor of the Town Office at 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT, 05446. **Town Staff does not accept requests made via Facebook or Front Porch Forum.*

Unsure if the road is Town-owned, State-owned, or privately owned? Please still contact DPW and we can ensure the request is directed to the responsible party. Once an issue is reported, a work order is sent to DPW Operations personnel for assessment and scheduling based on safety, necessity, funding, and resource availability.

Requests for New or Upgraded Infrastructure

Requests for new crosswalks, flashing beacons at existing crosswalks, new sidewalks, new drainage structures, or similar can also be submitted via the contact information above. These requests are handled by the Town Engineer or Technical Services Offices and will be evaluated based on safety, necessity, available funding, compliance with applicable standards, laws, regulations and other criteria.



Quick Facts

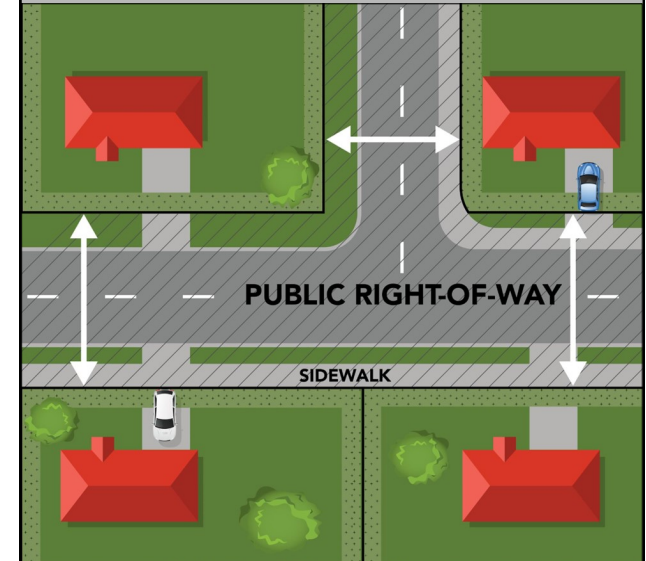
- The size of the ROW varies by roadway and typically extends well beyond the edge of the traveled portion of the roadway. ROW widths generally range from 50-60 feet wide.
- The Town employs 12 fulltime maintenance workers responsible for maintaining the Town's ROW infrastructure and buildings.
- The Town maintains approximately 80 miles of paved roadways and approximately 13 miles of gravel roadways.



ROW Considerations

- Snow should not be placed in the ROW, whether the roadway or sidewalk, when clearing your property.
- While trash and recycling bins should be put in the ROW on collection days, please do so in front of your own property.
- Parking in front of your neighbors home, either for you or your guests, is discouraged on a regular basis.
- If a construction project on your property involves disturbance in the ROW, ensure your contractor inquires as to whether a ROW or other permits are needed from the Town.
- The location of underground utilities may not always be apparent. **Always** contact DigSafe at 1-888-DIG-SAFE at least 48 hours before you dig, even if your project does not involve ROW disturbance. Utilities are commonly located outside of the roadway ROW, and can create dangerous conditions if damaged.

Town of Colchester Public Works Department Public Right-Of-Way Fact Sheet



Topics Covered Include:

- What is the Public Right of Way (ROW)?
- What is located in the ROW?
- Who maintains it and how?
- How is maintenance funded?
- What can I do within the Public ROW?

? Did You Know ?

In 2023, Town highway crews used 100 tons of hot asphalt mix in the summer, and 14 tons of "cold patch" mix in the winter, to address potholes on paved Town roadways. The Town manages 93.7 miles of total roadway, including both paved and gravel roads.

Typical 60 Foot Wide Residential Right of Way Cross Section

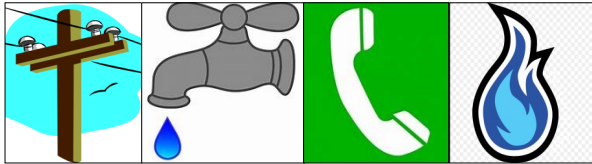
What is the Public Right-of-Way?

The Public Right-of-Way (ROW) is a dedicated space for public infrastructure, including:

- Roadway, sidewalks, and bike paths
- Street lights & traffic signals,
- Street trees, signs, and guardrails
- Overhead utilities like electric, telephone, cable
- Subsurface utilities like water, sewer, storm-water, gas, electric, etc

Who owns what's in the Public ROW?

Utility Companies: Power poles, waterlines, telecommunications, gas, etc. are owned and operated by individual utility companies.



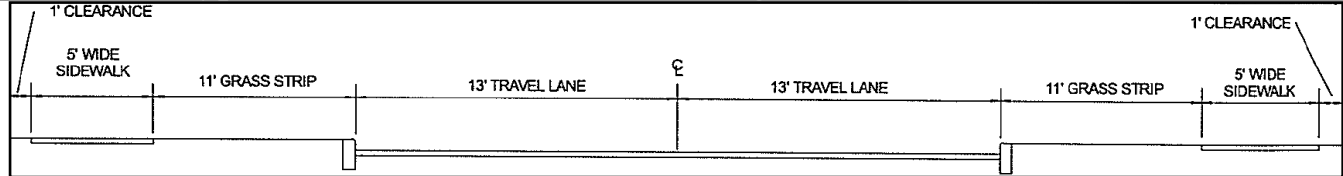
Town of Colchester:

Owens and maintains Town roadways, sidewalks and paths, street lights, traffic signals, trees, road signs, guardrails, ditches, culverts, drainage structures, and sanitary sewer infrastructure.



State of Vermont:

Roosevelt Highway (Route 7), College Parkway (Route 15), Main St (Route 2A), Route 2, and Highway I-89 are state-owned roadways and the Agency of Transportation is generally responsible for infrastructure maintenance, traffic signals, snow removal, and road improvements.



Funding for ROW Maintenance

Maintenance of Town infrastructure is funded in several different ways, including:

- Stormwater fees, which fund stormwater system operations and maintenance
- Sewer system user fees, which fund sewer system operations and maintenance
- Municipal taxes, which fund public roadway maintenance
- Capital Transportation Funds, which support paving and transportation projects
- Grant funds, which DPW staff pursue for eligible projects
- Loans as approved by Colchester voters

Can I put my fence in the ROW?

Private use of the Public ROW is governed by Chapter 13 of Colchester's Code of Ordinances. The following items are prohibited in the ROW:

- Fences, railings, or similar
- Vegetation that obstructs the sidewalk or road, including required sight distances
- Basketball hoops or other recreation equipment as this can interfere with plowing or mowing activities

These items are not actively policed, but the Town has the right to remove them if they pose a maintenance issue.

Property owners can have their mailboxes within the public ROW if they meet U. S. Postal Service Mailbox Standards, as well as private driveway entrances, with the understanding that plowing, repairs, and other maintenance are the responsibility of the private property owner.

What ROW maintenance work is done?

Town highway crews perform maintenance year-round, with activities involving the following:

- Snow removal (plowing) on streets, sidewalks, and multi-use paths.
- Cleaning/repairing drainage systems including roadside ditches, stormwater collection structures, stormwater pipes, roadway and driveway culverts, and ponds
- Street sweeping of paved roads
- Gravel road maintenance: grading, dust control, and spreading additional gravel
- Paved road maintenance: filling potholes and cross walk and stop bar line painting
- Vegetation management such as tree pruning, brush cutting, hazardous tree removal, and roadside mowing
- Roadside sign installation and replacement

Some Town ROW maintenance work is carried out by contractors due to the specialized equipment necessary to perform these tasks, including:

- Roadway repaving
- Stormwater pipelining
- Wastewater system cleaning
- Traffic signal maintenance
- Removal of hazardous trees
- Sidewalk repairs and replacement
- Roadway centerline and edge line striping



The administrative section of Public Works completes a competitive bidding process to ensure residents are being provided these services at the lowest cost possible.