

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
POLICY/PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Subject: Stormwater Standards for Linear Transportation Projects
Functional Area: Engineering Division
Policy Number: PW-005

I. Background:

In compliance with the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, the Federal Clean Water Act, and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these acts, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov) is subject to a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit under authority of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) within the Department of Natural Resources. The most recent permit (No. GAG610000) became effective on December 6, 2017 and expires on December 5, 2022. In section 4.2.5.2 of this permit, EPD is requiring ACCGov apply stormwater performance standards to linear transportation projects.

II. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the EPD requirement to develop a program for implementing stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) in association with linear transportation projects.

III. Definitions:

Linear transportation project means any project with the primary purpose of improving or constructing any street, sidewalk, bike facility, or trail.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) refer to post-construction water quality and detention features.

IV. Applicability:

1. This policy applies to any linear transportation project that meets all of the following criteria:
 - a. Linear transportation projects that involve the net creation of 5,000 square feet (SF) or more of new impervious cover
 - b. Linear transportation projects funded exclusively by Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County revenue
2. This policy is not applicable if any of the following conditions apply:
 - a. Linear transportation projects that replace existing impervious area and do not result in a 5,000 SF or greater increase

- b. Linear transportation projects that involve the creation of less than 5,000 square new impervious cover
- c. Sidewalks or trails 15 feet wide or less where runoff is directed via sheet flow toward vegetated areas at least twice as wide as the paved area, provided that the potential for erosion is adequately addressed
- d. Linear transportation projects partially or completely funded by sources other than ACCGov including but not limited to grants, State, or Federal funding
- e. Projects with Mayor & Commission concept approval prior to December 31, 2018
- f. Maintenance projects and safety projects whereby the sites are not connected and the individual site involves the net creation of less than 5,000 SF of new impervious cover
- g. Linear transportation projects and associated transportation facilities that are part of a larger common plan of development. Such projects must meet stormwater performance standards in compliance with the most recent NPDES permit (No. GAG610000).

V. Procedure:

For applicable projects, the general procedure outlined below will be used to satisfy the EPD requirement to regulate stormwater management on linear transportation projects.

1. ON-SITE MITIGATION

Once a concept plan has been approved by Mayor & Commission, the Stormwater Division Administrator will review the project. All concentrated flow outlets that meet the applicability requirements in Section IV will be investigated by the Stormwater Division Administrator for feasibility of implementing stormwater control measures that satisfy the unified stormwater criteria as defined in the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual. Priority shall generally be given to the criteria that address the most commonly occurring rainfall events. Feasibility will be determined by consideration of the necessity for additional right of way, the need for structural underground practices, the severity of downstream water quality and quantity impacts, conflicts with utilities, and opportunities for off-site mitigation. Additional right of way requirements, utility conflicts, and structural underground practices will generally be considered as a basis for infeasibility without the need for rigorous cost justifications. A report will be provided by the Stormwater Division Administrator after Mayor & Commission concept plan approval. This report will identify outlet characteristics, document findings of the feasibility investigation, and provide recommendations for on-site stormwater control measures determined to be feasible by the Stormwater Division Administrator.

2. **WATERSHED MITIGATION FEE CALCULATION**

In lieu of implementing stormwater control measures and for any project that satisfies the applicability criteria for linear transportation projects, as defined in Section II, the net increase to impervious surface shall be calculated by the project manager and verified by the Stormwater Division Administrator. After Mayor and Commission preliminary construction plan approval and an evaluation of the feasibility of on-site stormwater practices, the linear transportation project shall pay into the appropriate Watershed Mitigation Fund an amount equivalent to the following:

$$\text{Watershed Mitigation Fee} = \text{Net Impervious Surface Increase (SF)} \times \$4$$

Any estimated costs for design, right of way, utility relocation, and construction may be deducted from the Watershed Mitigation Fee, as reviewed by the Stormwater Division Administrator.

3. **WATERSHED MITIGATION FUND**

Upon receipt of payment, the Stormwater Division Administrator shall verify appropriate payment and that revenues are deposited into the appropriate mitigation fund(s) according to the associated increase in impervious area within the associated watersheds.

4. **WATERSHED MITIGATION PROJECTS**

As sufficient funding is made available, the Stormwater Division Administrator shall oversee the delivery of watershed management projects within the associated watersheds as defined by the most recent Watershed Management Plans.

5. **REPORTING**

By September 30 of each year, the revenue and expenses of the previous fiscal year for each Watershed Mitigation Fund shall be audited by the Transportation & Public Works' Capital Programs Coordinator. This report shall be submitted to the Transportation & Public Works and Finance Directors and be made available to EPD in the annual stormwater permit report.

6. **STATE AND FEDERAL PROJECTS**

Projects partially or fully funded by State or Federal funds shall comply with any and all relevant stormwater practices as defined by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

VI. Exceptions:

All exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Mayor and Commission.

Recommended By: Transportation & Public Works Department

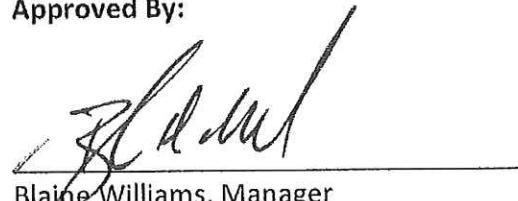


February 8, 2019

Date: _____

Drew Raessler, P.E., Director

Approved By:



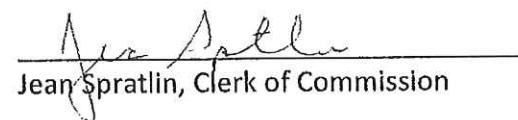
Date: _____

2-15-19

Blaine Williams, Manager

Approved by the Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County on

2-5, 2019



Date: _____

2-18-2019

Jean Spratlin, Clerk of Commission