

Walsh County Highway Department

Culvert & Bridge Policy

"County" = Walsh County Highway Department

"Owner" = Township, landowner, Walsh County Water Board, other agency

- The County will provide culverts up to 40 feet in length, unless more length is required for proper slope, to an owner only when a culvert is deemed necessary, is 36" or larger, and is located in the County right-of-way.
 - A drainage permit is required for any culvert being installed in the County right-of-way or for any culvert where the drainage will lead to a Walsh County road ditch.
- The County will cost share with the Owner (70% County – 30% Owner) on a culvert up to 40 feet in length when a culvert is deemed necessary, is 36" or larger, and is located in the township right-of-way. Private drives are excluded from the cost share, as the owner is responsible for the full cost.
- The County will not cost share or provide culverts for any culvert less than 36" unless it is located in the County right-of-way and is deemed necessary.
 - The Owner is responsible to pay for any culverts that are not deemed necessary or are not located in the township or county right-of-way.
- Culverts can ONLY be ordered by a township official as the culvert will be billed to the township the culvert is being installed in. The township may then bill the owner.
- For culverts provided by the County, the owner is responsible for the installation and future maintenance of the culvert.
- The County shall maintain any bridge over a legal drain that is located on the township or county road system. The County will not bill any portion of the maintenance costs to the Water Board or the township.
- If the Water Board constructs a bridge over or in connection with a drain that is not located on the township or county road system, the Water Board shall bear the cost of construction and maintenance of the bridge. (Century Code 61-16.1-43)
- If the Water Board or Walsh County Highway Department constructs or re-constructs a bridge over or in connection with a drain that is located on the township or county road system, the cost shall be shared 60% by the drain or Water Board and 40% by the county. The cost share shall be figured after any cost share from the state. (Century Code 61-16.1-43)
- Any culvert that is to be constructed under a county or township road in conjunction with a new legal drain will be shared 60% by the drain or Water Board and 40% by the county. The cost share shall be figured after any cost share from the state. The Water Board will not bill any portion of the culvert cost to the township and the Water Board will pay for the installation costs of said culverts.
- Any time a bridge on the county bridge system is removed and replaced with culverts, the county may ask the township, in which the bridge is located, to cost share on the cost of the culverts and at that time an agreement will be signed to say which entity will maintain the culverts after they are installed.

This policy is at the discretion of the Superintendent of Highways and is also dependent on the County Highway budget. If there are no funds available, no culverts will be furnished by the County.