



**COMMISSIONERS**

Dennis Hisey	District 4 (Chair)
Jim Bensberg	District 5 (Vice Chair)
Sallie Clark	District 3
Wayne Williams	District 1
Douglas Bruce	District 2

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Julie Johnson**  
Public Communications Specialist  
Phone: 520-7324  
JulieJohnson@elpasoco.com

**Changes Added to the Road Surfacing Policy for El Paso County**

**Colorado Springs, Dec. 19, 2007** – The El Paso County Department of Transportation (DOT) has amended its road surfacing policy to allow the installation of road improvements when a majority of the property owners petition the county to have their roads paved.

The Board of Commissioners approved the resolution on Monday based upon input and recommendations from other public officials, public and private agencies, county staff and the Highway Advisory Commission.

The amended policy allows property owners to participate in a Resident Participation Program to have a gravel road paved in their neighborhood, at their own expense. If the majority of property owners wish to have a paved road, a petition is filed with the county. The county prepares a proposal with an estimate on how much it would cost to pave the road. The property owners must then come up with the funds necessary to accomplish the task.

“County transportation revenues generally don’t permit paving of gravel roads,” said Commissioner Wayne Williams. “The Resident Participation Program allows citizens who didn’t pay for paving when they bought their property to do so at a later date.”

The road surfacing policy provides citizens, elected officials, planners, developers and DOT with direction for the surfacing of gravel roads within El Paso County. The Resident Participation Program is intended to provide citizens with the opportunity to work cooperatively with DOT to voluntarily convert their gravel roads to paved roads. The current policy does not allow DOT to install a paved road through this program without 100 percent of the property owners being in agreement.

“Our former policy gave a single resident the absolute right to block paving,” said Commissioner Williams. “This revised policy allows the majority of residents to pave the road with the support of a majority of the Board of County Commissioners after a hearing.”