

**Department of Community and Economic Development  
Development Services Division  
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY/CODE INTERPRETATION**

- CODE SECTIONS:** Renton Municipal Code (RMC) 4-6-060.J Private Streets and International Fire Code (IFC) Section 503 Fire Apparatus Access Roads
- SUBJECT:** Determination of minimum pavement width for new private streets.
- BACKGROUND:** The pavement width for private streets was inadvertently changed in 2009 to twelve (12) feet, which is the allowed width for shared driveways. The Fire Code requires a minimum of twenty (20) feet in width for private access streets exceeding 150 feet in length. Most private streets will exceed 150 feet in length. Standard practice since the inadvertent code change has been to require a minimum of twenty feet of pavement width for new private streets.
- JUSTIFICATION:** For private access streets and shared driveways, the intention is to match the standards set in the Fire Code. If they are less than 150 feet in length, then the pavement width can be as narrow as twelve (12) feet. If the length exceeds 150 feet, then the minimum width should be twenty (20) feet. The majority of private streets, which serve greater than three lots, exceeds 150 feet, and therefore would correctly be constructed to a twenty (20) foot minimum width.
- DECISION:** Private streets as permitted under both IFC 530 and RMC 5-6-060.J shall consist of a minimum twenty-six (26) foot easement with a twenty (20) foot pavement width.
- DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR APPROVAL:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Neil Watts
- DATE:** November 5, 2013
- APPEAL PROCESS:** To appeal this determination, a written appeal -- accompanied by the required filing fee -- must be filed with the City's City Clerk no later than 14 days from the date of this decision. Your submittal should explain the basis for the appeal. Section 4-8-110 of the Renton Municipal Code provides further information on the appeal process.