**Survey Monument Preservation Policy**

Suggested Minimum Content

Survey monuments are public domain and belong to all of the citizens of Washington State. RCW [58.24.040(8)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=58.24.040), RCW [36.86.050](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.86.050), and [332-120](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=332-120&full=true) WAC require county road departments to manage and protect survey monuments located within the county road rights of way. No survey monument shall be removed, destroyed or have reasonable access impeded before a permit is obtained from the DNR. The County Engineer, as a licensed professional engineer in the State of Washington, can be held accountable for improper survey monument protection perpetrated by the county road department.

It is recommended your agency adopt a Survey Monument Preservation Policy or Plan addressing the following outline:

Purpose

‘The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the Department understands its duty to protect and preserve survey monuments within the county road right of way when performing any type of work, but in particular construction projects and pavement preservation projects where there is a risk that monuments could be disturbed or covered.’

Relevant Statutes

The DNR has rule making responsibility regarding survey monument protection within Washington State. RCW 58.24, RCW 58.09, 332-120 WAC.

The Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors has regulatory over individual professional engineers and land surveyors regarding monument protection…but lacks authority over public agencies. RCW 58.09, 332-120 WAC, 196-27A-030(5) WAC, RCW 58.04.015.

The CRABoard has regulatory authority over Counties/county road departments regarding “provisions of law relating to county road administration and the standards of good practice”. RCW’s 36.78.070(3), 090(1)(b), 100, RCW 36.86.050, RCW 58.09, 332-132 WAC, 136-50-050(5) WAC.

Training of Staff – the importance of and the law regarding survey monuments and your policy

Engineering Staff

Survey Staff

Maintenance and Operations Staff

Survey and Engineering Community Engagement

Procedures for private surveyors, engineers, or others to report issues encountered with survey monuments within the county road right of way. i.e. buried monument in a paved surface, damaged case and cover, etc.

The County does have a duty to address legacy issues from past road department practices once identified.

Procedure for correcting identified legacy issues. i.e. raising, monument case and cover, assessing for disturbance and notification of SOR if possible.

Procedures for Maintenance and Construction Projects

Records research – Due Diligence. Record Keeping if applicable.

Physical Site Inspection

Procedures for Protection During Operations

DNR-PLSO MOU for surfacing operations

Follow DNR’s available permitting procedures and options for disturbing, destroying, resetting, and completion reporting for Survey Monuments. Survey Recording Act.