

DRAFT RESIDENT RURAL RUSTIC SIGNATURE STEPS

- To request that an unpaved road be paved, the requestor **MUST** own an occupied parcel on the unpaved road or a road that gets its primary access from the unpaved road.
- The requester is responsible for the collection of signatures. Staff will provide the list of affected owners that need to provide paving preference.
- The requester should practice responsible etiquette when speaking to neighbors and should not pressure anyone to participate in the survey.
- The requester should provide residents with staff contact information if there are questions that the requester cannot answer.
- The requester has until February 1 to submit their signatures to County staff for further review by VDOT and admission to the Secondary Six-Year Plan (SSYP).
- Albemarle County is not responsible for any damage or injuries incurred during the survey.

According to a policy passed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 2022, all roads considered for paving must be supported by a minimum of 2/3 of the owners of occupied parcels along the affected road segment. What determines a voting eligible household is if the driveway touches the unpaved portion of the road requested to be paved. Staff need to confirm that 2/3 of support for paving is demonstrated **BEFORE** verifying with VDOT that the road is eligible for paving.

Rural Rustic (RR) paving is different from a traditional paving project; they have different standards than typical paving projects and are viewed more as a pave-in-place project. An unpaved road must meet certain geometric, traffic, and safety requirements to be considered a candidate for the RR program. Obstacles like trees, rocks, or structures too close to the road may prohibit paving. If the road is not at least 18 feet wide so that two vehicles may pass, paving is prohibited. If there are road geometries or steep drop-offs that would present a safety hazard, paving is prohibited. If traffic volumes are below 50 vehicles per day or exceed 1,500 vehicles per day, paving is prohibited.

Below is a list of the differences between a traditional paving project and a Rural Rustic paving project.

Traditional Paving Project	Rural Rustic Paving Project
Right-of-Way may be acquired; minimum road width is 18 feet and widening may be required	No Right-of-Way is taken, existing roadbed is used if wide enough (minimum 18 ft)
Vegetation clearing and tree removal to meet minimum sight-distance and clear zone requirements	Minimal vegetation clearing and no tree removal; if a tree is too close to the road to be paved then road is not paved
Road may be realigned to meet rural road standards	Road keeps existing alignment
Larger drainage and ditches are needed	Minimal drainage ditches on the side of the road

April 2025

Unpaved and paved roads both have positive and negative characteristics. A paved road tends to see speeds increase, may attract more through traffic, and create a less pleasant environment for walking/biking/riding. Unpaved roads provide a poor surface for vehicle control, cause significant dust, require more maintenance, and send stone and silt into adjacent waterways.

If the requester is unable to provide a demonstration of support of paving via collected signatures by the February 1 date, staff will go to the BOS and ask if they would like to add the requested road to the “**RURAL RUSTIC ROADS REJECTED FOR PAVING**” list. If the BOS chooses to add a road to that list, it will be on that list for six years and will not be eligible for resubmission to County staff until then.

If the requester can demonstrate support of paving by the February 1 date, staff will send the road to VDOT for a RR Review. If VDOT determines that the requested road does not meet the RR standards, the project ends, and the road is added to the “**UNPAVED ROADS NOT SUITABLE FOR RURAL RUSTIC PAVING**” list. Roads are unable to come off this list unless reviewed by VDOT again and deemed to be suitable for RR paving.

If the requester can demonstrate support of paving by the February 1 date and VDOT determines the road is eligible for RR Paving, the road will be added to the Paving Priority List and then eventually to the draft SSYP. Staff will present the draft SSYP to the BOS at an April work session and a May public hearing. If the BOS does not want the requested road to be paved, they can vote to place the road on the “**UNPAVED ROADS SECTIONS REMOVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**” list, where it will stay for six years or unless the BOS decides to remove it via a vote.

If the road is eventually adopted by the BOS at the May public hearing, staff will return in June to the BOS with resolutions for each of the newly added roads. Once resolutions are signed, VDOT is then able to begin the preliminary engineering work for the unpaved road.

If there are any other questions or concerns, please contact Albemarle County staff with the information below.

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