

It is possible to convert a road that is not maintained by El Paso County to a County maintained road. However, roads are not typically converted because the process is usually difficult and expensive. Prior to El Paso County accepting a road into the maintenance system, road improvements would be necessary. It would be necessary for the homeowners to hire a surveyor, engineer, and contractor to design and upgrade the road. Some items that would need to be addressed are right-of-way, drainage, and road design. In many cases, the right-of-way for a road that is not maintained by El Paso County has not been dedicated to El Paso County. The minimum width that must be dedicated to El Paso County for a local road is 70 feet (this includes a 60-foot right-of-way plus two 5-foot Public Improvement Easements granted to El Paso County). Drainage would also need to be addressed. Improperly drained roads can lead to maintenance issues and road failures with high maintenance costs. The capacity of all existing drainage structures must be checked to verify they are large enough to carry expected flows. It would also be necessary to improve the roads.

Having El Paso County accept a road for maintenance can be difficult and expensive. This is especially true after a subdivision is established. As an alternative to going through the road acceptance process by upgrading a road to meet El Paso County standards, many subdivisions hire a contractor to do routine maintenance within their subdivisions. This reduces the initial costs that would be necessary for road acceptance and allows the maintenance and improvements to be decided at the discretion of the homeowners in the subdivision. Generally, drainage improvements should be done first to help protect the road. Drainage improvements should consist of installing cross drainage to carry the flow of water from one side of the road to the other. This will help prevent damage to the road during high water flows. After cross drainage is complete, drainage parallel to the road should be constructed consisting of ditches and driveway culverts. After drainage improvements are complete, road improvements should be performed. Road improvements should consist of installing gravel surface material with the proper crown. The crown for gravel roads should be approximately 4 percent which will help remove water from the driving surface.