



# POLICY - PRIVATE TO PUBLIC ROAD TRANSFERRAL

Effective Date: May 31, 2019


Version 1.2

According to the Virgin Islands Code, under Title 20: Highways and Motor Vehicles, "The Commissioner of Public Works is authorized to receive offers to dedicate private roads to public use throughout the Virgin Islands. Pending the approval of the dedication by the Legislature, the Commissioner may grade and effect temporary repairs to the road or roads contained in the offer, provided (1) that a showing is made that the road or roads to be dedicated are used by the public and (2) that a map showing the location of the road is presented to the Commissioner together with proof of the authority of the proposed grantor to effect the dedication."

The following outlines the necessary steps to transfer a private road to a public road:

1. A request must be made to the Department of Public Works (DPW) in writing, stating the need for the road transferral.
2. A detailed assessment will be conducted by DPW to determine the road's eligibility.
3. If eligible, an engineering assessment will be developed. The assessment will include cost estimates for design and construction, as well as right-of-way needs.
4. The assessment will be returned to the applicant, who must then approach an elected official of the Legislature for assistance in providing legislation for adoption and a funding source.
5. Legislation authorizing the government to adopt the road must then be created.
6. The governor accepts the road into the public road registry.
7. Once funding is in place and all properties have been transferred, the department will officially accept the roadway into the system.

  
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 Commissioner Derek Gabriel

  
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 Date

*\* It should be noted that the law also gives some liberty to the Commissioner of Public Works to pave private roads when the interest of the public is being served.*