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RULE NO. R161-26.26

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE **POSTING DATE: August 24, 2026**

The Director of Austin Transportation and Public Works proposes to adopt the following rule on October 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF PROPOSED RULE

A rule proposed in this notice may not become effective before the effective date established by a separate notice of rule adoption. A notice of rule adoption may not be posted before September 25, 2026, or after November 2, 2026 (the 70th day after the date of this notice).

If a proposed rule is not adopted on or before the 70th day, it is automatically withdrawn and cannot be adopted without first posting a new notice of proposed rule.

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RULES

The City requests comments from the public with respect to the proposed rules included in this Notice. Comments must be submitted in writing to the contact person below no later than September 24, 2026. A summary of the written comments received will be included in the notice of rule adoption that must be posted for the rule to become effective.

Contact Person:

Amber Hutchens, Capital Program Consultant
Austin Transportation and Public Works
Amber.Hutchens@austintexas.gov
512-947-5646

TEXT OF PROPOSED RULE

The text of the proposed rule indicating changes from the current text is attached to this Notice.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RULE

Rule R161-26.26 proposes new language for the Transportation Criteria Manual that allows the use of ribbon drives on residential sites.

An affordability impact statement regarding the proposed rule is available by contacting Amber Hutchens, amber.hutchens@austintexas.gov or 512-974-5646.

AUTHORITY FOR ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RULE

The authority and procedure for adoption of a rule to assist in the implementation, administration, or enforcement of a provision of the City Code is provided in City Code Chapter 1-2 (*Adoption of*

Rules). The authority to regulate design and construction of parking and circulation areas is established in City Code Section 25-6-561 (*Design and Construction Standards for Parking and Loading Facilities).*

CERTIFICATION BY CITY ATTORNEY

By signing this Notice of Proposed Rule R161-26.26, the City Attorney certifies the City Attorney has reviewed the rule and finds that adoption of the rule is a valid exercise of the Director's administrative authority.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Richard Mendoza, P.E., Director
Austin Transportation and Public Works

Date: 8-21-26

Deborah Thomas, City Attorney

Date: 8-24-26

9.3.4.4 – Ribbon Drives Accessing Minor Driveways

Ribbon drives consist of two parallel tracks paved with asphaltic concrete or other permanent hard surfacing material and separated by an unpaved area. Ribbons drives are not permitted in the right of way, but are allowed for properties accessing the right of way from a Minor Driveway (Section 7.3.1) subject to the following criteria:

1. Each ribbon shall be a minimum of 2' in width separated by pervious surface. The ribbon drive shall be a minimum 8' in width edge to edge.
2. The pervious surface separating the runners must be grass, gravel, or other approved material.
3. Driveways that are required to be a fire lane per the Fire Code shall not use a ribbon design.
4. A ribbon drive may curve or change direction up to 10 degrees before the curve must become a solid surface.