

A mailbox which is installed with a support structure of stone, masonry or some other material, that can cause damage to a vehicle or interferes with the safety of the traveling public is considered a Right of Way Encroachment. Georgia Code Section 32-6-1 states that such encroachments or obstructions are unlawful on “any public road”.

This document is modeled from the 2001 AASHTO guideline, [A Guide for Erecting Mailboxes on Highways](#).

9A PURPOSE

Under O.C.G.A. Section 32-6-1, the Department can legally determine that any structure on a state R/W is an obstruction and require its removal. However, in order to give appropriate notice to the public of which mailbox supports may be replaced on state R/W, and those which will be considered an obstruction or encroachment upon state R/W, the following rules are to be followed.

9B ACCEPTABLE STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL MAILBOXES

Mailboxes shall be of light sheet metal or plastic construction conforming to the requirements of the U.S. Postal Service. Newspaper delivery boxes shall be of light sheet metal or plastic construction of minimum dimensions suitable for holding a newspaper.

1. Mailboxes supports shall not be set in concrete unless the support design has been shown to be safe by crash tests when so installed.
2. A single 4”X4” or 4” diameter wooden post or a metal post with strength no greater than a 2” diameter standard strength steel hollow pipe and embedded no more than 24” into the ground will be acceptable as a mailbox support. A metal post shall not be fitted with an anchor plate, but it may have an anti-twist device that extends no more than 10” below the ground surface.
3. The post-to-box attachment details should be of sufficient strength to prevent the box from separating from the post top if a vehicle strikes the installation.
4. The minimum spacing between the centers of support posts shall be three-fourths the height of the posts above the ground on multiple mailbox installations.

9C POLICY

No mailbox or newspaper delivery box will be allowed to exist on State Right of Way if it interferes with the safety of the traveling public or the function, maintenance, or operation of the highway system. A mailbox installation that does not conform to the provisions of this regulation is an unauthorized encroachment under Georgia Code Section 32-6-1.

The location and construction of mailboxes shall conform to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Postal Service as well as to standards established by the Department. Department standards for the location and construction of mailboxes are available from the Area Engineers Office or the District Maintenance Office.

To help prevent future confusion on this subject, a copy of the Acceptable Standards for Residential Mailboxes, which governs the location and construction of mailboxes on the State Right of Way shall be attached with all issued Residential Driveway Permits.