318.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Department" means the state department of transportation.
- 2. "Highway authority" means the county board of supervisors, in the case of secondary roads, and the department, in the case of primary roads.
- 3. "Highway right-of-way" means the total area of land, whether reserved by public ownership or easement, that is reserved for the operation and maintenance of a legally established public roadway. This area shall be deemed to consist of two portions, a central traveled way including the shoulders and that remainder on both sides of the road, between the outside shoulder edges and the outer boundaries of the right-of-way.
- 4. "Obstruction" means an obstacle in the highway right-of-way or an impediment or hindrance which impedes, opposes, or interferes with free passage along the highway right-of-way, not including utility structures installed in accordance with an approved permit.
 - 5. "Officer" means any department employee, county employee, or elected county official.
- 6. "Traveled portion of the right-of-way" means that area of the highway right-of-way, not including the shoulders, on which vehicles normally travel.
- 7. "Utility" means all private, public, municipal, or cooperative owned systems for water, sewer, natural gas, electric, telegraph, telephone, transit, pipeline, heating plants, railroads, bridges, street lights, or traffic control signals.
- 8. "Utility structures" means the aboveground devices, required by a utility, including poles, lines, and wires, used for telephone, electric, natural gas, and other distribution or transmission purposes, and natural gas and electrical substations.

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