

MAINE ROADS

PUBLIC ROADS IN MAINE

- State highways – (23 MRSA §53) -- a system of connected main highways throughout the State which primarily serve arterial or through traffic; yearround MaineDOT maintenance (unless inside urban compact area)
- State Aid highways – (23 MRSA §53) -- those highways not included in the system of state highways which primarily serve as collector and feeder routes connecting local service roads to the arterial state highway system; yearround MaineDOT maintenance except municipalities plow/sand them (unless inside urban compact area)
- Town ways (municipality or county) – (23 MRSA §53) -- all other highways not included in the first 2 classes, which are maintained by the towns and primarily serve as local service roads providing access to adjacent land; yearround municipal or county maintenance;
Also defined in 23 MRSA §3021 -- "Town way" means:
 - A. An area or strip of land designated and held by a municipality for the passage and use of the general public by motor vehicle;
 - B. All town or county ways not discontinued or abandoned before July 29, 1976; and
 - C. All state or state aid highways, or both, which shall be classified town ways as of July 1, 1982, or thereafter, pursuant to section 53.
- Public easements – (23 MRSA §3021) -- "Public easement" means an easement held by a municipality for purposes of public access to land or water not otherwise connected to a public way, and includes all rights enjoyed by the public with respect to private ways created by statute prior to July 29, 1976. Private ways created pursuant to former sections 3001 and 3004 prior to July 29, 1976 are public easements.
- Seasonal parkways (23MRSA §53-A) – an access road to public recreational areas with 10 limitations

On the Federal level, there are other terms used such as Interstate, arterials, collectors and local roads

PRIVATE ROADS IN MAINE

- Private easements
- Private road associations
- Private property

Title 29-A §101. Definitions:

- 58. Private way. "Private way" means a way privately owned and maintained over which the owner may restrict use or passage and includes a discontinued way even if a public recreation easement has been reserved.
- 59. Public way. "Public way" means a way, owned and maintained by the State, a county or a municipality, over which the general public has a right to pass.
- 75. Street or highway. "Street" or "highway" means a public way.
- 92. Way. "Way" means the entire width between boundary lines of a road, highway, parkway, street or bridge used for vehicular traffic, *whether public or private*.