

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BY POTENTIAL ADOPTERS***

### ***Recruiting volunteers – How many people does a group need?***

As many as it takes. We recommend you involve enough people so that the pickups are manageable, some individuals may be comfortable picking up their area by themselves, and can make solo adoptions.

### ***Is it difficult to keep the roadsides clean?***

That depends largely on the traffic volume, the location of the road, the size of your group and frequency of your pick-up. Most report that their pickups are not particularly taxing.

### ***What's in it for me?***

With your name on a sign, your organization or group will be recognized as a community leader who takes pride in their community, and as an organization or group that takes action. Your organization/group will receive full support in achieving clean roadsides, not just with a supply of bags, safety vests, traffic control signs and pick-up sticks, but also by having a friendly ear at the Department.

### ***How does the actual cleanup work? What should we do with our bags?***

Start by setting a date and time convenient for all who want to participate. Be sure that the pickup is in the daylight, and avoid rush hour. Gather the group before starting to pass out the provided equipment. Check to see that everyone has gloves and closed toe shoes, and then take a few minutes to review basic safety issues. At that point you should be ready to start bagging trash.

When the pickup is completed, try to gather the bags in one or two places, preferably by the Adopt A Road signs. If you have less than five bags, please dispose of them properly yourselves. If there are more than five full bags or groups can't remove the collected trash, please notify the Department so that removal of the bags can be scheduled. In either case make sure to report the number of participants and number of bags collected to the Department.

### ***How often are we supposed to clean our roadside?***

A minimum number of pickup events are required by the contract, but organizations/groups may pick up more frequently. If you conduct the pickups at regular intervals, you can get a sense of how much littering is done for a period, and then adjust your schedule to keep pace.

### ***Can a sign say whatever we want it to?***

No. Signs are generally for the name of those conducting the clean ups. The intention is to recognize the organization or business, not your message.

### ***How much of a difference does adopting make?***

Children and young adults who pick up litter with family and friends learn valuable lessons that can lead to life-long environmental awareness. Seeing volunteers at work along the road often makes motorists think twice before carelessly discarding their trash.

## ***ADOPTER/ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES***

- Group supervisor must attend safety training prior to the first clean-up.
- Participants must adhere to all Safety Rules and Regulations.

- Groups must complete at least four clean-ups of their adopted roadway segment per year.
- Schedule each clean-up at least two weeks prior to clean-up date.

***JEFFERSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES***

- Provide safety training and safety rules and regulations to organization's group supervisor for distribution to program participants.
- Provide and initial supply of safety vests, trash pick-up sticks, gloves and trash bags as well as traffic control signage to be used by volunteer organizations.
- Remove filled trash bags from roadside and dispose of properly.
- Install signs identifying the name of volunteer organization.