

KITTITAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

**AGENDA STAFF REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** May 4, 2010

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Requesting the Board of County Commissioners to direct the County Engineer to make an examination of Godawa lane to determine the true width of the road.

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**BACKGROUND:** Godawa Lane is a County maintained road located in the Upper County off Lower Peoh Point Road. Records indicate the road has been maintained by Kittitas County since 1968, but no records have been found regarding the actual establishment of Godawa Lane. Because there is no establishment record, the actual width of the Godawa Lane right-of-way is unknown.

Godawa Lane has been on the County's Road Log since the 1960s, and was shown on the 1968 Kittitas County General Highway Map, the 1971 Kittitas County Road System Map, and on all County Road Maps since then.

The County Road Log, from 1968-2004, has shown Godawa Lane extending for 0.74 miles. In 2004, mile post 0.63 to 0.74 was vacated. The width of the vacated portion was determined to be 60'. The County Road Log currently shows Godawa Lane extending for 0.63 miles.

A subdivision has been proposed at the end of Godawa Lane, and improvements to the road have been required as mitigation. Public Works desires to know the actual width of Godawa Lane prior to the design of improvements.

RCW 36.75.110 states: "Whenever the board declares by resolution that the true location, course, or width of any county road is uncertain and that the same should be determined, it shall direct the county road engineer to make examination and survey thereof."

**INTERACTION:**

Public Works, Prosecutor's Office

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Sign Resolution

**HANDLING:**

Please return two originals to Public Works.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution, Map, Supporting Documents

**LEAD STAFF:**

Christina Wollman, Public Works Department  
Planner II

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY OF KITTITAS  
STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-\_\_\_\_\_**

**DIRECTING THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO MAKE AN EXAMINATION OF GODAWA LANE**

**WHEREAS:** Godawa Lane is a County maintained road located off Lower Peoh Point Road; and

**WHEREAS:** The 1968 Kittitas County General Highway Map showed Godawa Lane extending south for approximately 0.74 miles; and

**WHEREAS:** The 1971 Kittitas County Road System Map showed Godawa Lane extending south for approximately 0.74 miles; and

**WHEREAS:** Godawa Lane has been shown on all County Road Maps since then, but the width was not determined; and

**WHEREAS:** From the 1960s to 2004, the Kittitas County Road Log has shown Godawa Lane extending for 0.74 miles; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2004, mile post 0.63 to 0.74 was vacated, and the Kittitas County Road Log presently shows Godawa Lane extending for 0.63 miles; and

**WHEREAS:** No records have been found in the Commissioner's Journals regarding the actual establishment of Godawa Lane; and

**WHEREAS:** The records indicate the road has been maintained by the County from 1968 to the present; and

**WHEREAS:** The true width of Godawa Lane is uncertain.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Board of County Commissioners, in the best interest of the public, believes that the true width of Godawa Lane should be determined and does hereby direct the County Engineer to make an examination and survey of Godawa Lane as per RCW 36.75.110.

DATED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010 at Ellensburg, Washington.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Mark McClain, Chairman

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Paul Jewell, Vice-Chairman

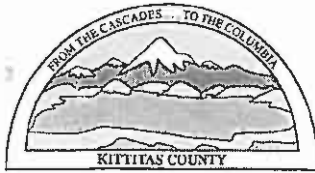
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Alan A. Crankovich, Commissioner

Attest:  
Clerk of the Board

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Julie A. Kjorsvik



## **KITTITAS COUNTY**

### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

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#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** File

**FROM:** Jeff Thorpe, Survey Party Chief

**DATE:** February 9, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Godawa Road

1967: Kittitas County Road Log showing Godawa Road extending for 0.74 mile.

1968: Kittitas County General Highway Map showing Godawa Road extending south for approximately 0.74 mile.

1971: Kittitas County Road System Map showing Godawa road extending south for approximately 0.74 mile.

1971: Kittitas County vs Sichelstiel Zerebic Road R/W was determined by the courts to be 60'+.

1981: Letter from Prosecutors office to Don Berdan County Engineer with an opinion on Sparks Road establishment and R/W width.

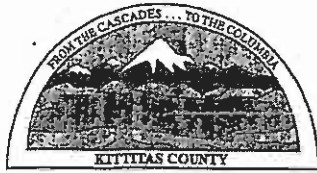
2003: Engineers Report on the proposed Vacation of a portion of Godawa Road

2004/2009: County Road Atlas showing Godawa Road beginning at the intersection of Lower Peoh Point Road and ending at mile post 0.74.

**Summary 2009:** No records were found in the Commissioner Journals regarding the actual establishment of Godawa Road

Records (above) indicate the road was maintained by the County from 1968 to the present. The location of the road is in question as is the R/W width. There are RCW's giving the county direction is determining the roads true location and width. See attached

Jeff Thorpe  
Survey Party Chief  
Kittitas County DPW



## **KITTITAS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Paul D. Bennett, P.E., Director

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT PROPOSED VACATION OF A PORTION OF GODOWA LANE**

Kittitas County Public Works has initiated the potential vacation of a portion of Godowa Lane. Pursuant to RCW 36.87.040 an inspection has been made of Section 35, Township 20 North, Range 15 East, W.M.

#### **Recommendation:**

I recommend that the Board of County Commissioners declare the southerly 580 feet of Godowa Lane as unnecessary to the transportation system for Kittitas County and authorize the vacation of said right of way.

#### **Background:**

- Communications with Jon Schneider, representing property owner Albert L. Duncalf regarding Godowa Lane initiated this Public Hearing. The "End of County Road" is questioned by the property owner. The property owner has requested that this road be removed from the county road system. The \$300 fee for roadway vacation has been waved as the County is initiating this action.
- No historical documents have been located for the establishment of Godowa Lane. No deeds or easements have been recorded and no surveys or establishments have been located in the Commissioners Journals that grant legal access to this portion of the road.
- Godowa Lane was included on the county road system between 1960 and 1971. No records could be located with the exact date for the adoption to the county road system. A resolution approved in 1971 reaffirmed the roads on the county road system. Godowa Lane was included on this resolution. Kittitas County has received gas tax funds on Godowa Lane.
- Godowa Lane is a dead-end gravel road. The southerly 580 feet is approximately 16' wide providing access to a single property owner.
- There is no existing cul-de-sac on Godowa Lane for school buses, emergency vehicles or snowplows at the end of the county road.
- Currently the turn around for the snowplows is at MP 0.41. The proposed vacation begins at MP 0.63. Without the deeded establishment papers, this is an excellent opportunity to have the adjoining property owners provide the 60' right of way documents. At the same time, additional right of way should be established to construct a cul-de-sac at MP 0.63 for a safe turn around.
- Should future development occur in this area, the development will be responsible for future road improvements and/or dedications as may be required.
- The current priority array rating for Godowa Road is 16. With the current funding and planning schedule for hard surfacing gravel roads, Godowa will be considered in 15 years.
- The current average daily traffic count for Godowa Lane is 73 vehicles.

- Godowa Road is considered a primitive road resulting in a very low level of service. If development occurs in this area, the level of services will need to be revisited.
- The Kittitas County Assessor has provided a land value of \$5,000 to \$7,500 per acre.
- The total acreage of the right of way is approximately .80 acres (580 feet long, 60 feet wide). The estimated value for this right of way ranges from \$4,000 to \$6,000.
- Without any established and/or recorded documents for the entire Godowa Lane, Kittitas County can claim this as a county road in accordance with RCW 36.75.070 Highways worked for seven years are county roads.

**Requirements of RCW 36.87.040 Engineers Report:**

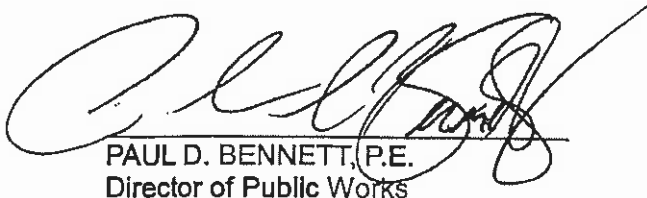
1. Whether County road should be vacated or abandoned.
  - There are no compelling circumstances for the portion of Godowa lane to be vacated to remain on the county road system as it provides access to a single property owner.
2. Whether road is in use or has been in use.
  - Godowa Lane currently is a public road through RCW 36.75.070, as no establishment papers have been located. This is a dead-end road, used primarily as a private driveway.
3. The condition of the road.
  - The existing road is approximately a 16-foot wide gravel road.
4. Whether it will be advisable to preserve it for the county road system in the future.
  - There are no advantages to preserving the portion of Godowa lane for the County Road system at this time. Should the property owners object to dedicating the right of way for Godowa Lane from MP 0.41 to 0.63, the county should investigate the possibility of vacating that portion of Godowa Lane,
5. Whether the public will benefit by the vacation.
  - The public will benefit from the reduction in tax dollars expended for the maintenance of a private drive.

**Summary of Recommendation:**

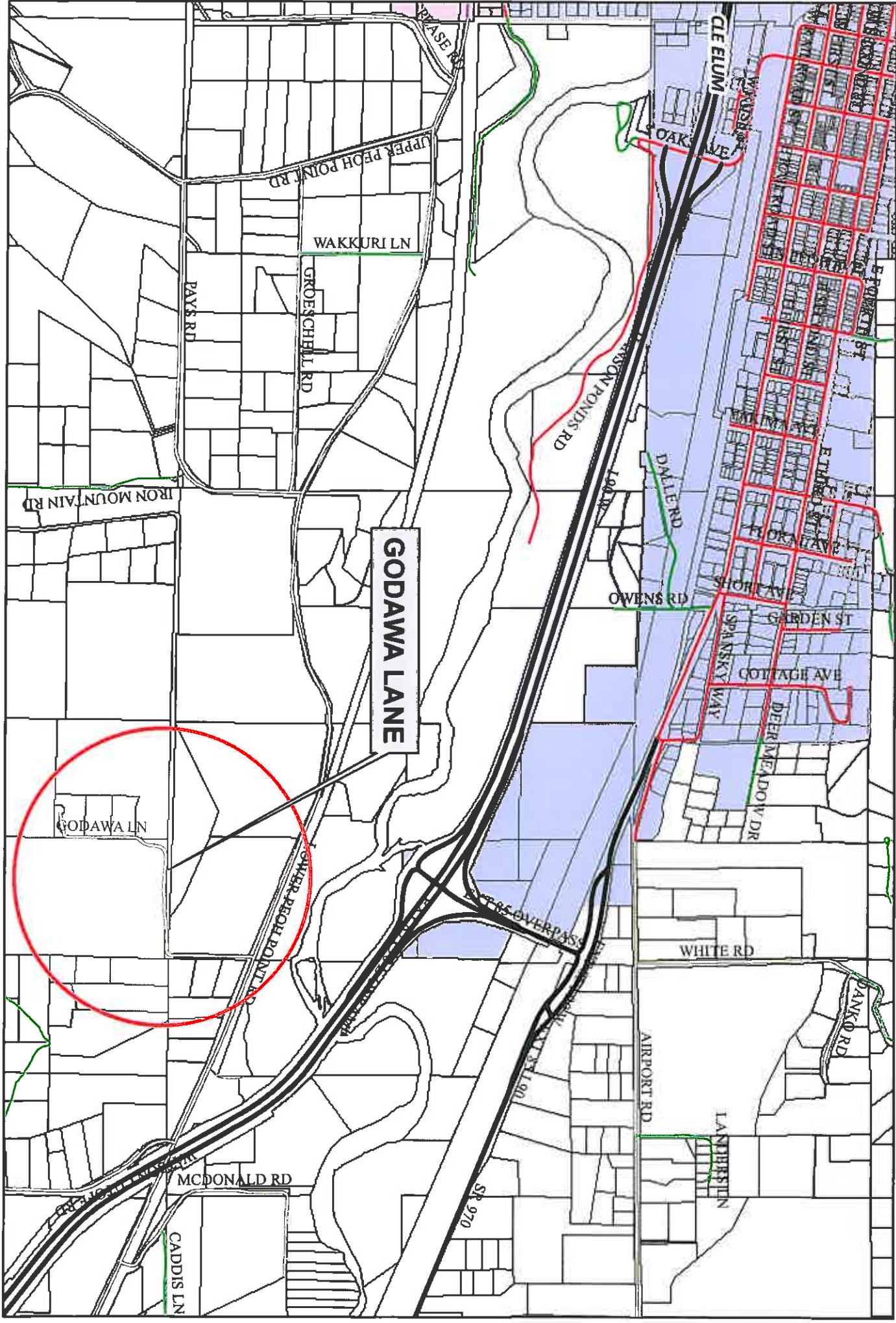
It is my recommendation to vacate the southerly 580' of Godowa Lane. I further recommend that the county not require the adjoining property owner to purchase this right of way, since there are no establishment records.

I further recommend that the Board of County Commissioners instruct this department to begin discussion with the property owners from MP 0.41 to MP 0.63 to dedicate a 60' right of way and cul-de-sac area.

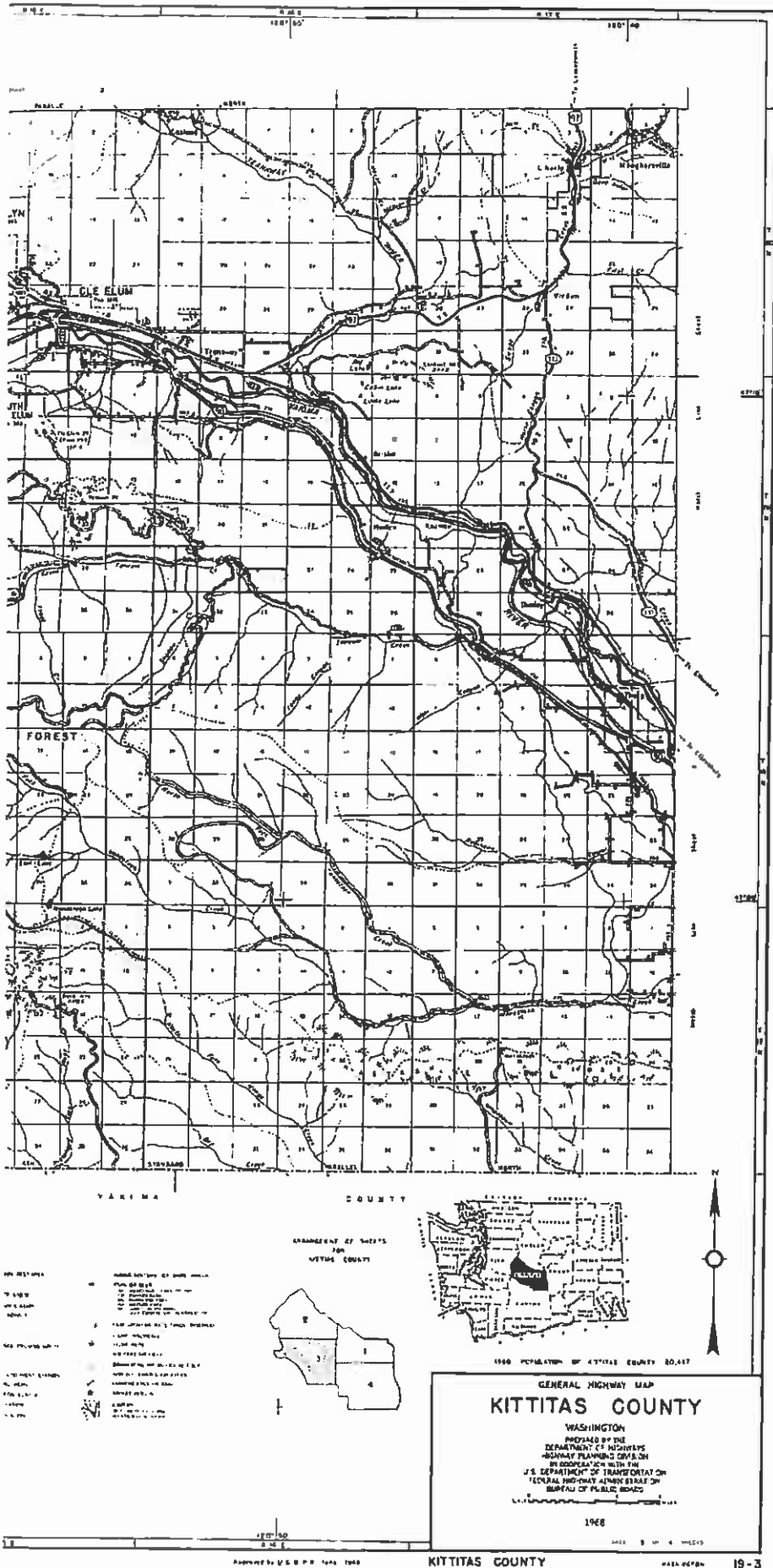
Dated this 17 day of November, 2003



PAUL D. BENNETT, P.E.  
Director of Public Works



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1968  
1971  
1977  
1991  
1994  
2004  
2009

Godowa Lane  
is drawn full  
length on these  
County Maps