

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Notifications

Notifications have always been a requirement for construction and we acknowledge that DTM has not enforced it strictly. With COVID causing people to spend more time at home, they have noticed, are curious, and complained about work being done in their neighborhood. We have elected to enforce the notification requirement to provide advance warning to major projects that will impact streets and make access more difficult. We have reduced the notification limits and have generalized the way it is done. We will still require it for some but not all projects during design. We do require some form of notification for all construction.

Location of Utilities

The location of utilities within a street cross section has always been identified in the City's Development Code and assumed to be followed for planning purposes. The community has identified water harvesting and sustainability to be more important than ever. Some direction must be given to plan for above ground improvements as more and more features are competing for the same space. Joint trench and removal of abandoned utility lines is important to meet this goal.

Removal of Utilities

The intent is to remove as many obstructions as possible that are above ground. New poles and their accessories can be installed but should look to take the place of other verticalities where possible. Screening in residential areas is required where no locations exist to place accessories. Topped poles need to be removed but fiber and communication line attachments remain after many years of the pole owner topping the pole. Abandoned utilities must be removed or a cost sharing agreement developed to guarantee participation in the cost to remove abandoned pipes and conduit that affect others who must work around them or to remove them when street improvements or utility installations are being made. Conduits can remain in place if they are to be reused again but must be marked with any AZ811 request regardless of if empty or not.

Pavement Replacement/Patching Requirements

As new infrastructure goes in or old infrastructure is replaced, the existing pavements are disturbed. Every time a pavement is cut, its life is cut in half. Multiple cuts is a sure way of promoting premature pavement failure. It is costly to maintain and upsetting taxpayers who want a better pavement surface. The voters have approved a pavement maintenance program that is costly to run and it will take many years before all the streets can be improved. In the interim, the pavements must be preserved until they can be replaced. The document describes the expectations and will address complaints that requirements differ from inspector to inspector.

Submittal Drawings and Record Drawing Expectations

Many of the submittals are done professionally and contain the information to do a review and process a permit application quickly. We receive many that are not. It was our intent to establish baseline expectations for everyone to follow. It seems by the comments that many designers cannot confirm current depths, locations, changes in alignments, and abandonments. DTM pays a large amount of money to locate utilities for our capital projects and this information is sometimes best available information only. We want to promote Utility Companies keep better records and to share information with each other when designing new infrastructure. This will cost everyone less time and money in the long run if we work together.

No of Permits Open or to be Renewed

We have understood the need for the City to improve our efficiency, but the number of permits received each week has increased fivefold from previous years. Many of the permits that are applied for are not intended by the Utility Company to be started soon, but they are being carried on the books and affect others from starting work in the same area. We have increased the number of permits open or allowed to be renewed but with the caveat that Utility Companies who are not diligent to close permits may be denied future permit approvals at the City’s digression.

Here is a quick reference to the changes that were made to the May 2021 draft version of the manual. The file name is referenced as June 2021

Table of Contents- Added Chapter 3.

- Pg 5 3. Definitions:
- Pg 5 added “accessory equipment” definition
- Pg 5 added/modified Annual Permit definition
- Pg 5 “cost sharing agreement” (CSA) definition
- Pg 5 “Emergency Restoration” added definition
- Pg 5 “Maintenance” definition
- Pg 5 MITZ boundary and definition clarification
- Pg 6 Microsurface treatment definition added
- Pg 6 “NESC” definition added
- Pg 6 “New Projects” definition added
- Pg 6 “Night” definition provided
- Pg 6 “Power Sharing Agreement” definition added
- Pg 6 “Standard Utility Placement” definition added
- Pg 6 “TNE” definition clarified
- Pg 6 “Topped Pole” definition added
- Pg 6 “Utility Waiver” definition added
- Pg 6 “Verticality” definition added
- Pg 6 “Voter approved franchise agreement” definition added
- Pg 7 Modifications to include direction for Utility Companies to follow their agreements and the manual.
- Pg 7 Modification to language to ‘make an effort to complete work and close out permits before the permit expiration date’.
- Pg 8 Clarification when a TNE is required
- Pg 8 Annual Permit clarification (in progress)
- Pg 8 Added “other than for Emergency Restoration”
- Pg 9 Changed contractor to “Utility Company”
- Pg 9 Support drawing clarification as “design professionals” and made clarification of content of record drawings
- Pg 10 Clarification made of ways to address the abandonment of facilities
- Pg 11 Modified Holiday Moratorium description
- Pg 11 Street capacity restoration clarification made
- Pg 11 Clarified impact to schedule
- Pg 11 Clarified “Night Work” by making Tucson Code reference and not a specific time

- Pg 11 Clarified what street intersection closing means and how to do it.
- Pg 12 Clarified why daily reporting is necessary for annual permits
- Pg 12 Clarified that notifications are required for some design and for all construction
- Pg 12 Changed notification distance to 300-ft
- Pg 13 Clarified how addresses for notifications are to be provided to the Utility Company
- Pg 13 Clarified pictures and signs are only for new above ground infrastructure
- Pg 14 Changed notification step to “attempt contact”.
- Pg 14 Clarified” if the Utility Company already has a Public Information outreach”, they may continue to follow it provided it meets the intent of this manual.
- Pg 15 Clarified “utility locations” as general reserved corridors
- Pg 15 removed separation notes to Figure 2 and emphasized individual horizontal or vertical separation requirements that differ from what is shown for each utility shall apply.
- Pg 16 Figure 3 modified
- Pg16 Reservation for tree planting space emphasized
- Pg 17 Clarified that concrete cap applies when infrastructure is less than 2-feet deep.
- Pg 18 Utilities may use another utility’s space with an approved utility waiver request.
- Pg 18 Allowance to bore under existing trees provided the bore depth is at least 4-ft deep.
- Pg 19 Application for aerial heights in compliance with NESC unless it is the pole owner.
- Pg 20 Scale requirements revised
- Pg 20 Drawings must show approximate pavement disturbance/ patching area.
- Pg 20 Pipe or conduits modified to include width for non-circular sections
- Pg 20 Notes must be added to drawing bringing attention to more work is associated with this improvement and will be made in another phase of construction.
- Pg 20 Reference to when survey monuments must be referenced to establish baseline to measure from
- Pg 20 Reference to topography and when needed
- Pg 22 No MCP required for residential locations at the time of ROW submittal. Review done in the field. MCP required for all arterials and collector street location ROW applications
- Pg 25 Modification to language to when applicable by replacing the expectation to “should”.
- Pg 25 The degree of accuracy does not require advanced potholes but an effort to check on potential conflicts should be made. This information should be described on the plans for reviewers to know.
- Pg 25 Repair and restoration language added to the permit work description.
- Pg 26 Clarified UPRR meaning
- Pg 26 Clarification of native plant protection to determine in design and verified in the field
- Pg 28 Reminder that a Utility Waiver Request is needed when proposing obstructions in the SVT
- Pg 29 Clarification that less than 150-ft separation may be approved for a SWF with a Utility Waiver request
- Pg 30 Clarified intent to keep above ground accessories out of view and included potential locations to look for.
- Pg 30 Vertical identification markers can be approved in specific locations
- Pg 31 Attachments to bridges and structures require a structural analysis by a structural engineer.
- Pg 32 Description that pavement restoration work may have opportunity to include in a City project or arrangements for the City to do with a Cost Sharing Agreement. This implies a fee is paid instead.
- Pg 33 Clarified that concrete cap required when utilities are less than 24-inches from the surface.
- Pg 33 Reduced the moratorium patch length to 25-ft instead of 50-ft
- Pg 34 Microsurface required on area 25-ft beyond T-top patch
- Pg 34 Clarified that multiple cuts means more than one

- Pg 34 Clarified that pot holes are treated as multiple cuts unless in newer pavement where coring can be used to patch.
- Pg 35 Patch work for bore pits must be shown on plans and patched per the manual requirements
- Pg 35 Clarify that concrete tint or integral color to match as best as possible when hardscape or colored concrete is disturbed.
- Pg 35 AZ 811 markings must be removed in parkway (between curb and property line) areas only within 30-day after work is completed. Pavement markings may remain.
- Pg 36 Clarified to use existing public irrigation system when it is practicable to maintain trees or shrubs that are replaced. Hand watering may be necessary where irrigation systems do not exist.
- Pg 37 Clarification of temporary pedestrian access through the site must be provided but can be provided by different means such as a temporary path or the use of the street when barrier is provided for safety.
- Pg 38 Clarification of open trenches to follow the City's Supplement to the MUTCD. This document addresses barricading and open excavations in the parkway.
- Pg38 SWF pole placement can be less than 150ft with an approved Utility Waiver Request
- Pg 39 SWF pole placement can be less than 150ft with an approved Utility Waiver Request
- Pg 39 Intent to reduce above ground obstacles added
- Pg 39 Clarification made that permission needs to be given by the pole owner
- Pg 39 Recommendations to collocate where possible and why
- Pg 40 Approval by pole owner required
- Pg 40 Strand mounted equipment must follow ARS requirements for shroud size limitations.
- Pg 42 Screening required if accessories not located in out-of-sight locations
- Pg 46 Utility Waiver Request required when accessory locations cannot comply
- Pg 54 Notification distance is reduced to 300-ft
- Pg 54 Clarification that these are resident notifications
- Pg 54 A list of resident notifications must be provided. Clarification as to when it applies is made.
- Pg 56 Clarification that active permits requires but does not apply to emergency restoration, maintenance or commercial and residential services.
- Pg 56 Minor change is clarified
- Pg 57 Field change approval description is modified
- Pg 59 Clarification of record drawings
- Pg 60 Permits to be renewed and permits open number is increased to 100. City reserves the right to reduce this if staff is unavailable or utility companies do not comply with requirements including removing fiberoptic lines from topped poles.
- Pg 60 Abatement has been clarified
- Pg 60 Manual shall be reviewed each year and modifications made or in effect July 1st.