

PURPOSE:

The purpose of implementing a Dig Once policy include:

- Protecting newly and recently paved roads and sidewalks
- Ensuring efficient, non-duplicative placement of infrastructure in the Public Rights of Way (PROW)
- Minimizing the impact of construction on residential and commercial communities
- Reducing overall costs if all underground work in the PROW by capitalizing on significant economies of sale
- Enhancing the uniformity of construction
- Leveraging construction for the deployment of a public communications network

BACKGROUND:

Encouraging simultaneous underground construction and co-location of infrastructure in the PROW creates benefits both the community and all users of the PROW. The excavation of roads and cutting of sidewalks substantially reduces the lifetime and performance of those surfaces. Furthermore, each excavation diminishes the space available for future infrastructure. While aerial construction methods requiring attachments to utility poles are usually less expensive than underground construction, aerial installation have significant drawbacks, including a limit to the quantity of cables and attachments that can be placed on existing utility poles in more crowded areas, lack of ownership of overhead infrastructure, and greater exposure to outside conditions. Underground construction, using protective conduit, generally provides scalable, flexible, and durable long-term infrastructure.

POLICY DIRECTIVE:

1. Unless waived by the Public Works Director because of undue burden, or an unfavorable cost-benefit analysis, or the consideration of other relevant factors, the PROW Excavator/Permittee will install two 3-inch diameter conduits for the following types of projects that has a minimum continuous open trench length of 300 feet:
 - a) Excavations for the purpose of installing utilities, including but not limited to communications, electrical, gas, water, wastewater, storm drainage.
 - b) Other excavations, or work on public property or in the public right of way that provide a similar opportunity to install conduit for future use.
2. Unless the Public Works Director determines otherwise, the typical standard installation requirements are listed below:
 - a) Pipe diameter 3-inch nominal.
 - b) Made of PVC Schedule 40 material.
 - c) Laid to a depth of not less than 18 inches below grade in concrete sidewalk areas, and not less than 24 inches below finished grade in all other areas when feasible, or the maximum feasible depth otherwise.
 - d) When feasible and needed, install minimum 3-foot radius sweeps and bends.
 - e) When practicable, furnish with 10 AWG insulated tracer wire inside at least one pipe and an external "warning" ribbon tape a minimum of 3-inches above the conduit.
 - f) All conduit couplers and fittings shall be installed to be watertight. Conduits shall be sealed with endcaps upon installation.

3. Conduits installed will be owned by the City.
4. A record of all City-owned conduits will be documented and transferred to the City for geographic information system (GIS) entry whenever feasible.
5. The PROW Excavator/Permittee should make a documented effort to work with other utility agencies co-locate infrastructure in same trench whenever feasible to minimize construction costs, minimize future public disruptions and encourage efficient use of the PROW.
6. Each utility shall participate in periodic coordination meetings as requested by the City with other utilities and affected public agencies. The purpose of these meetings shall be to coordinate activity between public works projects and utility projects in the PROW.