

The Utility Process

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Utility Section Responsibilities

- Manage the ROW in Regards to Utilities For Planned Projects on the National Highway System.
- Interstate
- US-Routes
- State Highways
- Other

Utilities Section of ROW Bureau (4/9/09)

- Accommodation of Utilities on ROW
- In the public interest for utilities to share the ROW.

Utilities Can Locate on ROW by Permit

- Split between Utilities Section & Maintenance Bureau
- More authority to be delegated to Regions

Utility Relocation

Utilities are often in conflict with highway construction.

Plans are Sent to the Utilities in the Project Area

- 30% Plans / PIH Plans
- Utilities determine if they are in conflict, requiring relocation.
 - If no conflict, Letter of Retention is Submitted

Utilities are Relocated Under Agreements

- Reimbursement:
 - On Interstate ROW all conflicts are reimbursable.
 - On Federal Aid Projects:
 - Utilities Grossing < \$250 Million/Yr are eligible.
 - Exceptions – Private ROW or Easement (Prior Rights)
 - State Funded Projects Only by Exception:
 - Prior Rights
 - Pauper

Types of Agreements

- Reimbursable & Non-reimbursable
 - For reimbursable engineering is also eligible.
- Work types: Low Bid, Continuing Contract, Part of Roadway Contract.

Agreement Approval

- Sent to Division Office for Review / Recommendation
- Sent to Utilities Section for Review / Approval
- Approval by Legal Section
- Sent to Director / Governor
- Agreement to OE / FHWA

Utility Relocation

- Agreement Approval – advertize & award bid.
- Continuing Contract / Company Forces can begin immediately.
- Work in the roadway contract can begin once project bid is awarded.

Utility Relocation

- Subject to Right of Entry.
- Environmental Approval
- Letting Proceeds if Agreements Are Received.
- Status is Reported As OK by Division/Region, But We Still Have to Get the Agreements Approved Before Utilities Can Be Relocated

Utility Relocation

- Highway Construction – Grace Period
 - We may still have a month after the letting before bid is awarded.
 - We may have another month before the contractor mobilizes and starts work.
 - Division Utility Managers Deserve Credit for the Utility Cooperation to Avoid Delays

Utility “Catch 22”

- We are the last to get what we need and the first to have to get out of the way.
- If we wait for more complete plans we have less time to do our work.
- If we go with less complete plans, we may not clear the conflicts.
- Promises Made & Excuses Used Up

How Do We Do a Better Job?

- Communication
- Coordination
- Cooperation

Cost Reductions

- Identify Major Conflicts & Avoid
 - Electrical Transmission Lines.
 - Site specific design.
 - Raw Water Supply Lines & Water Tanks
 - Gas Transmission Lines
 - Seasonal
 - Accelerated Schedule
 - May Leave Utilities Under Shoulder or Pavement

Improve Accuracy of Locating Existing Utilities.

- One Call System Limited
- Timeliness of Response
- Accuracy of Locates
 - +/- 3 Feet from Marking

Sewer Locate



Improve Accuracy of Locating Existing Utilities.

- SUE – Subsurface Utility Engineering
- GIS – “As Built’s”. ROW Inventory of UT’s
- Better to address conflicts in advance rather than on construction.
 - Reduce/Eliminate Delays & Cost Overruns

Safety



Safety



Credible Letting Schedule

- Utilities Don't Respond in a Timely Manner. We have "Cried Wolf" too often.
 - Non-reimbursable utilities may not move until they see us move dirt ... or later!
 - Overruns – reimbursable agreements not approved if project is delayed.



Credible Letting Schedule

- Better Coordination
 - Provide 2 Year Plan to Utilities
 - Provide 5 Year Plan to Utilities.

Better Communication/Cooperation

- Design Changes (especially post PIH)
 - Utility Relocation is affected by:
 - Drainage Design (especially sediment ponds)
 - Grade Changes – min cover
 - Slope Changes – construction limits
 - Selective Clearing

Timely UT Relocation/Contractor Claims

- Lengthy Relocations
 - Request Early Authorization
 - Include Work in Roadway Contract
 - Separate C & G – Utility Projects

Summary

- Try to Avoid Major Conflicts
- Accurately Identify & Address Conflicts In Advance
- Insure that Utilities Section Has Latest Plans
- Address Lengthy Relocates
- Timely Payment of Invoices

Thank You For Letting Me En"light"en You

- On The World of Utilities.

