

Memorandum



DATE January 21, 2010

TO Members of the Transportation and Environment Committee:
Linda Koop (Chair), Sheffie Kadane (Vice Chair), Jerry R. Allen, Tennell Atkins,
Carolyn R. Davis, Angela Hunt, Delia Jasso, Pauline Medrano, Ron Natinsky,
Vonciel Jones Hill

SUBJECT Street Cut Standards and Implementation

Attached is the "Street Cut Standards and Implementation" briefing that will be presented to you on January 25, 2010. It is a follow-up to the January 8, 2010, briefing memo, regarding the City's street cut repair policies and procedures, that was provided following the January 6, 2010, Atmos Energy Corporation Franchise Renewal briefing to the City Council.

Please contact me if you need additional information.



Jill A. Jordan, P.E.
Assistant City Manager

c: The Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Thomas P. Perkins Jr., City Attorney
Deborah Watkins, City Secretary
Craig Kinton, City Auditor
Judge C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager
David K. Cook, Chief Financial Officer
Jeanne Chipperfield, Director, Official of Financial Services
Edward Scott, City Controller
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager
Rick Galceran, P.E., Director, Public Works and Transportation

Street Cut Standards and Implementation

Presented to the
Transportation and Environment Committee

By Public Works and Transportation
January 25, 2010





Purpose

- Update the Committee on street cut policies and practices
- Determine if ordinance changes are required



History

- Comprehensive Right-of-Way (ROW) Management Ordinance
 - City Code Chapter 43, Article VIII
 - Approved by City Council January 2001
 - Became effective March 2001
 - Last modification effective March 2006



History and Original Goals

- Identification and accountability of utility providers
- Specifications for street repairs
- Enforcement provisions
- Reduce damage occurrences
- Balance utility service with preserving infrastructure
- Safety and convenience to the traveling public

ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Identification and Accountability

- Registration of Public Service Providers (PSP)
- Plans of record required
- Major project defined
- Insurance requirements
- Project identification
- Warranty – Materials and workmanship



ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Street Repair Specifications

- Joint trenches
- Temporary repair limitations
- Restoration requirements for new pavement
- Permit required unless exempted
 - No pavement cut
 - Single pole replacement



Temporary Repair to Asphalt Street

ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Street Repair Specifications

Permanent Repair to Concrete Street (Case 1)



Before Ordinance



Required by Ordinance

ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Street Repair Specifications

Permanent repair on asphalt surface that was constructed, reconstructed, or resurfaced less than than sixty (60) months prior to the repair. (Case 2)



Includes slurry seal on the surface

01.07.2010

ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Street Repair Specifications

Permanent Repair on asphalt surface that was constructed, reconstructed, or resurfaced more than sixty (60) months prior to repair (Case 3)



Allowed Before
Ordinance



Required by
Ordinance



ROW Management Ordinance

Highlights related to Enforcement and Coordination

- Permits may be denied, suspended, or revoked
- Conformance with public improvements
- Emergency/safety repairs
- Mutual notification of annual work plans
- Special requirements for boring or directional drilling



Permit Activity for 2009

- Computer database records, issues, and tracks
- Internet access to permit system with 94 system subscribers
- 33 registered subscribers
 - Self input of permit information
 - Allowed to do emergency repairs without first securing a permit
- 61 registered non-subscribers
 - Less frequent users of the ROW
 - Not allowed self input of permit information
 - Not allowed to do emergency repairs without first securing a permit



Permit Activity for 2009

January 1 thru December 31

- 11,946 permits recorded
 - 5,561 Water/Wastewater
 - 107 Electric
 - 4,284 Gas
 - 191 Telecommunications and/or Cable
 - 1,803 Other (Soil testing, DART, Bond program projects, Driveways, one time projects, etc.)
- No current fee for permit
 - Majority of permits are covered by franchise or building permit fees



Permit Activity for 2009

By reason for the work

- Repair existing service – 9,500
- New services – 550
- Other – 2,000 (Soil testing, DART, bond program projects, driveway permits, one time projects, etc.)
- Stop service/abandon line – 100
- Exploration – 150

Note: The total exceeds overall permit total because some permits include multiple reasons for the work. Numbers are rounded.



Permit Activity for 2009

By location for the work

- Street – 9,500
- Sidewalk – 950
- Alley – 1,000
- Parkway – 900
- Median – 100

Note: The total exceeds overall permit total because some permits include multiple reasons for the work. Numbers are rounded.



Results and Compliance

- Registration of Public Service Providers (PCP)
 - Firm name and address
 - Certified telecommunications provider PUC number
 - Day to day contacts
 - Emergency contacts
 - Names of contractors and subcontractors
- Inspection resources – daily inspections
 - Cut Control Supervisor and 9 Inspectors
 - Currently working to equip all staff with cameras



Results and Compliance

- Fewer damage incidents reported
- More detailed plans
- Joint trenches and multiple ducts emphasized
- Compliance with temporary repair timeframe
- Better street repairs and coordination
 - Pavement Cut and Repair Standards Manual
 - Training outreach to utility providers and contractors



Results and Compliance

- Computer permit system tracks non-compliance
- Area sweeps for lingering temporary repairs
- Enforcement through actions against the permit
 - Denying permits
 - Suspending permits
- A violator may be cited
 - \$500 to \$2,000 for failure to clear debris from ROW
 - \$500 for all other offenses



What Is Next?

- Continue to partner through training of PSPs and contractors
- Utilize enforcement as needed
- Merge GIS capabilities with permit administration
- Give inspectors field access to permit system (lap tops required)
- Update Permit System to provide detailed tracking of work
- Further improve the ordinance