

## **POLICY & SPECIFICATIONS FOR INSTALLATION/REPAIR OF A UTILITY IN COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY**

- A. Any person, firm, or corporation (hereafter called Utility) desiring to do any type of construction within the right-of-way of a County road such as installing, connecting to, or repairing utilities, shall first make application to the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department for a permit.
- B. The Utility expressly recognizes that the issuance of a permit by Tarrant County does not grant any right, claim, title, or easement in or upon the road or its appurtenances. In the future, should Tarrant County, for any reason, need to work, improve, relocate, widen, increase, add to, decrease, or in any manner change the structure of the road or right-of-way, the line, if affected, will be moved, or relocated at the complete expense of the Utility.
- C. Tarrant County, its employees, agents or assigns will be held harmless of all claims, actions, or damages of every kind and description which may occur to or be suffered by any person or persons, corporation, or property by reason of the performance of any such work, character of material used or manner of installation, maintenance or operation or by improper occupancy or rights-of-way or public place or public structure, and in case any suit or action is brought against Tarrant County for damages arising out of or by reason of any of the above causes, Utility, its successors or assigns, will upon notice to him or them of commencement of such action, defend the same at his or their own expense, and will satisfy any judgment after said suit or action shall have finally been determined if adverse to Tarrant County.
- D. Tarrant County, its employees and agents will, at not time, be held liable for any damage or injury done to the property of Utility whether in contract or in tort, which may result from improving and/or maintaining County road.
- E. Requests for Utility's appurtenances to be placed within County rights-of-way that are larger than the standard telephone riser boxes, water meters, gas meters, etc. will be studied on a case by case basis; right-of-way widths, roadway geometrics, sight distance, roadway maintenance, and public safety will be studied prior to the issuance or denial of a permit.

- F. Utility requesting permit must provide three copies of drawings or diagrams showing proposed utility location with respect to right-of-way, type of utility, size, length, and material.
- G. The construction and maintenance of such utility shall not interfere with the property and rights of a prior occupant. When necessary to remove or adjust another utility, a representative of that utility shall be notified to decide method and work to be done. Any cost of temporarily or permanently relocating other utilities shall be borne by permit holder or contractor.
- H. The Utility/Contractor shall make every effort to open and close all trenching operations during the daylight hours of one day. Appropriate measures shall be followed in the interest of safety, traffic convenience and access to adjacent property for all trenching operations. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to adhere to the section on construction and maintenance as outlined in the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- I. All lines, where practicable, shall be located to cross roadbed at approximately right angle thereto. No lines are to be installed under or within 50 feet of either end of any bridge. No lines shall be placed in any culvert or within 10 feet of the closest point of same.
- J. Parallel lines will be installed as near to the right-of-way line as possible, and no parallel line will be installed in the roadbed or between the drainage ditch and the roadbed without special permission of the Transportation Services Department.
- K. No work shall be performed in the County right-of-way until after a permit has been issued by the Transportation Services Department. Each permit will be valid for a period of thirty (30) calendar days from issue date. If construction has not been completed within this period, permit must be renewed. The Contractor shall have the executed permit available on the job site during the duration of the work.
- L. All open cut excavations shall be no greater in width than is necessary to adequately install the utility line. The minimum depth of a utility line shall be twenty-four inches (24") below the flowline of existing ditch.
- M. Operations along roadways shall be performed in such a manner that all excavated material be kept off the pavements at all times, as well as all operating equipment and materials. No equipment or installation procedures will be used which will damage any road surface or structures. The cost of any repairs to road surface, roadbed, structures, or other right-of-

- N. way features as a direct result of this installation will be borne by the Utility.
- Upon completion of the project, all equipment, construction material, surplus materials, trash, broken concrete, lumber, etc. shall be removed from the construction site. The entire construction site shall be graded and cleaned to present the appearance as it was prior to construction or better.
- O. For utility lines crossing under County road, Contractor shall be required to drill, core, or bore through the subgrade at a depth to be determined by the Transportation Services Department. If, however, such procedure is deemed impractical by reason of rock, utilities, underground construction or terrain, special permission shall be granted by the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department before an open road cut will be allowed. If approved, trenching, backfilling, and resurfacing of the cut shall be done in accordance with the procedures outlined in this specification. The Utility/Contractor shall be responsible for all paving repair for a period of one year after completion.
- P. Backfill requirements for all open cut excavation and trenches shall be as follows:
1. Areas not subject to or influenced by vehicular traffic – the trench backfill shall be placed in layers not more than ten inches (10") in depth, and shall be compacted by whatever means the Contractor chooses.
  2. Areas subject to or influenced by vehicular traffic – the trench backfill shall be mechanically compacted in six-inch (6") lifts to a minimum of ninety percent (90%) modified proctor density.
    - a. Dirt Roads – Backfill shall be well tamped in six inch (6") layers to a point nine inches (9") below the surface of the road, after which one-foot (1') of good gravel shall be tamped until level with the existing surface.
    - b. Gravel Roads and Streets – Backfill shall be well tamped in six inch (6") layers to a point nine inches (9") below the surface of the road after which one foot (1') of good gravel shall be tamped until level with the existing surface.
    - c. Asphalt Roads – Backfill materials shall be selected mineral aggregate and cement in proportions of 27 to 1, properly compacted (tamped to proper density of 90%) to within two inches (2") of road surface. Asphaltic concrete must then be added and tamped or rolled to make a level surface with existing road surface.

- Q. The Contractor shall not cut or open more than one-half of the roadway at a time, in order to maintain the flow of traffic at all times. However, in an emergency or with the permission of the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department, the total width of the roadway may be cut or opened, provided barricades are placed at the first intersection each way from the cut, and suitable detour signs are erected.
- R. Any and all of the above work shall be done under the direction of, and be satisfactory to, the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department. The holder of the permit shall notify the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time the work will be done, and a County Inspector shall be present at the time the work is done. This will in no way relieve the permit holder from his responsibility for maintenance due to failure of the repaired cut.
- S. Failure to Comply with Specifications: If an opening or cut is not refilled and restored as herein provided, and approved by the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department, it shall be the duty of the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department to notify the permit holder in writing to refill and restore the opening to the satisfaction of the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department. If the permit holder fails to comply to the written request within three (3) days after receipt of such notice, the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department shall report this fact to the Commissioners' Court, who may thereupon order the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department to have the cut refilled and restored at the cost of the permit holder. The estimate of the Tarrant County Transportation Services Department as to the cost of such refilling and restoration shall be the established cost against the permit holder. No further permits shall be issued to such a permit holder until these costs have been paid.

Prepared by: *Tarrant County Transportation Services Department*  
*100 E. Weatherford Street, Room 401.*  
*Fort Worth, Texas 76196-0601*  
*Telephone (817) 884-1250*