

MOTION

On November 15, 2019, the Council approved an ordinance to allow for the use of micro-trenching to cut into City streets to install underground utilities and adjusted the Street Damage Restoration Fee for street cuts that used this installation method (C.F. 19-0986). Traditional methods of installing underground utilities require digging trenches and making significant cuts and excavations into City streets. At the time, micro-trenching was a newer method of installing utilities that had a significantly lower impact of damage to City streets while allowing companies to utilize newer technologies to make quicker and less-invasive cuts into City streets.


Three years later, on February 8, 2022, the Council approved an ordinance that authorized the use of alternate “trenchless” utility installation methods, including directional boring, and adjusted the Street Damage Restoration Fee for these small excavation methods as well, again revising City standards to accommodate newer street cut technologies (C.F. 21-0301).

The City has shown it is committed to encouraging industry innovation that allows for more expeditious installation of utilities that help bridge the digital divide and provide superior internet access to residents, while also maintaining the integrity of City infrastructure. Given that it has been nearly five years since the City authorized the use of micro-trenching and two years since it last updated street cut standards under the Municipal Code, the City should review how these new technologies have been deployed and whether the City’s standards are sufficient for today’s available street cut technologies.

The Bureau of Engineering is the City agency responsible for permitting utility installations that require work within the public right-of-way, including installations that require cutting into street infrastructure. Their work and recommendations led to the City amending its standards to allow for newer utility installation methods, and they continue today to develop standards for newer, more cost-effective utility installations with lower impact to City streets.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be instructed to report with an update on the use of micro-trenching and other trenchless utility installations across the City and to include recommendations if any code or policy changes are needed for the implementation and development of new utility installation standards.

PRESENTED BY:


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SECONDED BY:



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