

CHAPTER 12.16 UTILITY POLICY GUIDELINES AND VARIANCES

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HISTORY

Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.010 Determinations

In determining the locations where and the conditions under which utility facilities and private lines will be allowed to occupy County road rights of way, the provisions of DCC 12.16 apply in conjunction with the appropriate general provisions of DCC 12 and such special provisions as may be imposed. When acting as the authorized representative of the Board, these guidelines shall be followed by the Administrator.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.000 on 2/4/1976

12.16.020 Private Lines Permitted When

Privately owned lines are allowed to occupy a County right of way only when there is no other feasible location for the facility involved.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.005 on 2/4/1976

12.16.030 Location And Construction Controls

The following general and special considerations supplement those set forth in DCC 12.20.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. ~~203-7~~ §4.100 on 2/4/1976

12.16.040 Utility Lines; General Considerations

- ~~1.—Utility lines should be located to minimize need for later adjustment to accommodate future road improvements and to allow servicing such lines with minimum interference to highway traffic.~~
- ~~2.—To the extent feasible and practicable, crossings of the County road should be on a line generally normal (90 degrees) to the road alignment.~~
- ~~3.—All utility installations on, over or under the County road right of way and attachments to road structures shall be of durable materials and designed for long service life expectancy and relatively free from routine servicing and maintenance.~~
- ~~4.—Provisions for future expansion of utility facilities so as to minimize hazards or disruptions of traffic during future installations is encouraged.~~
- ~~5.—All utility installations within the right of way, both public and private service, are required to include the installation of a locate wire.~~

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. ~~203-7~~ §4.110 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. ~~2020-005~~ §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.050 Special Considerations; Pipelines

In the case of pipeline permits:

- ~~1.—The minimum depth to the top of the pipe will be 30 inches from the ground line or top of wearing surface and 30 inches from bottom of road drainage ditch line. Depth may be increased when warranted by conditions such as possible increases in ditch depths from scouring or road maintenance, clearance of existing drainage structures or other utilities, code requirements, etc. All pipelines shall be located under drainage structures or under drainage ways except that pipelines may be attached to bridges at locations specified by the Administrator.~~
- ~~2.—Longitudinal installations should be located on a uniform alignment outside of the normal maintenance operating area (beyond ditch or curbline) and as near the right of way line as terrain and existing utilities will reasonably allow, but upon older road with narrow rights of way underground facilities may be allowed in the shoulder area if there is no other feasible location.~~
- ~~3.—Where a buried crossing is sought:
 - ~~1.—To expedite insertion, removal or replacement of carrier pipes, to protect carrier pipe from external loads or shock, and to carry leaking fluids or gases away from the roadway, it is considered desirable to place pressure pipeline crossings of the County roads in conduit or casing pipe. Exceptions may be made for coated and/or cathodic protected~~~~

steel pipe placed by the trenching method, ductile iron pipe and other durable type pipe having a long term life expectancy, leak proof joints and capable of withstanding the external loads applied through the use of the roadways. Coated pipe placed by the boring or jacking method should be placed in a casing pipe unless the coating is of a type resistant to abrasions.

- 2.—Casing pipe should extend a minimum of two feet beyond the slope, ditch or curbline. When sealed and vented, vents shall be located outside the maintenance operating area, preferably at the right of way line.
- 3.—When no casing pipe is specified, one grade heavier wall thickness than normal may be required as a precautionary measure.
- 4.—Conditions which are generally unsuitable or undesirable for underground crossings should be avoided. These include locations such as in deep cuts, near footings, bridges and retaining walls, across intersections at grade, at cross drains where flow of water drift or stream bed load may be obstructed, and in wet or rocky terrain where it is difficult to obtain minimum bury.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. ~~203-7~~ §4.120 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.060 Special Considerations; Underground Electric Power And Communication Lines

In case of permits for underground electric power and communication lines:

- 1.—All lines installed in ducts or multiple duct systems are subject to the same controls as pipelines.
- 2.—Power and communication cable placed by the direct burial (ploughing) method shall be subject to the following controls:
 - 1.—Longitudinal installations shall be located inside the roadbed section only if the terrain is such that a cable installation outside the ditch line would be extremely difficult and costly, or if the section of road traverses a scenic area where an overhead installation would detract from the aesthetic values.
 - 2.—When allowed in the roadbed section, longitudinal buried cable shall be placed a uniform distance from the pavement edge as near the outside edge of the ditch as possible without interfering with drainage facilities. In no case shall it be less than one foot from the pavement edge.
 - 3.—When located outside the roadbed section, the cable shall be placed as near the right of way as possible while maintaining a generally uniform distance from the highway centerline or right of way line so as to be easily identified by warning signs.

- ~~4.—The minimum depth for communication cables shall be 24 inches. The minimum depth for power cables shall be 30 inches. Under no circumstances shall the depth of power cable be less than 30 inches unless contained in conduit pipe or equivalent protective covering.~~
- ~~5.—All crossings shall be contained in conduit placed in the same manner and under the same controls as required for pipelines, except: communication cable may be installed without conduit when soil conditions will allow installation by boring a hole approximately the same diameter as the cable and pulling the cable through.~~
- ~~6.—Direct burial of power and communication cable under the same ploughing operation will require issuance of a separate permit to each utility company or one permit issued jointly and executed by each company.~~

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-754.130 on 2/4/1976

12.16.070 Special Considerations: Overhead Power And Communication Lines

~~In case of permits for overhead power and communication lines longitudinal installations:~~

- ~~1.—Limited to single pole type of construction with joint use encouraged in all instances. Only one pole line on each side of the road is permitted.~~
- ~~2.—Subject to terrain limitations, poles should be located approximately one foot from the right of way line unless protected by a retaining wall, guardrail, steep slope, deep ditch, or the like, or located so as not to encroach on the roadside area.~~
 - ~~1.—Location behind guardrail shall be a minimum of five feet from its face.~~
 - ~~2.—All overhead power and communication lines which are constructed parallel to the roadway shall be located downstream of bridges when crossing any stream that is prone to carry debris during flooding conditions. Overhead roadway crossings shall be constructed a minimum of 50 feet from the ends of any bridge.~~
 - ~~3.—Location on a cut slope shall be the minimum horizontal distance from centerline required to place the base of the pole at least five feet above the elevation of the top of the roadway.~~
 - ~~4.—Variance as required to maintain a reasonable uniform pole alignment will be allowed where irregularly shaped portions of the right of way extend beyond the normal right of way limits.~~
 - ~~5.—Location from edge of travel lane (fog line) shall be a minimum of 10 feet, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator.~~

- ~~3.—Guy wires to ground anchors and stub poles and other related ground-mounted appurtenances should not be placed between a pole and the traveled way where they encroach upon the clear roadside area unless they are protected as in DCC 12.16.070(B).~~
- ~~4.—Excepted from these controls are poles or other ground-mounted appurtenances required for roadway lighting and other traffic control devices. Such poles and appurtenances shall be of breakaway design serviced by underground cable.~~
- ~~5.—On sections of County roads traversing business or residential areas having a posted or statutory speed limit of forty miles per hour or less, controls will of necessity be governed by roadside development; however, all poles and ground-mounted appurtenances shall be located as far as practical behind the curb or outside the shoulder and/or parking area if there is no curb.~~
- ~~6.—When two or more utilities jointly occupy the same pole or poles, each occupant may obtain a separate permit, or a joint permit may be issued and executed by each company. Identification of the pole owner should be contained in the permit application.~~
- ~~7.—All crossings of the traveled portion of the highway including service drops shall be maintained at a minimum height of 18 feet as measured from the highest point of the traveled way under the crossing.~~

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. ~~203-7~~ §4.140 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. ~~2020-005~~ §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.080 Relocation Of Existing Facilities

- ~~1.—Existing pipelines, pole lines, power or communication cables or other facilities or appurtenances within the limits of a road construction project shall be relocated in plan and/or grade to conform to the requirements of a new installation. All facilities shall be relocated to a minimum of two feet clear of the proposed roadway neat lines and a minimum of two feet clear of all proposed structures.~~
- ~~2.—Any departure from the above-described minimum clearances will be allowed only upon approval of a written request for deviation accompanied by a statement describing why such clearances cannot reasonably be met and a drawing showing the proposed alternate to the two-foot clearance requirement.~~
- ~~3.—The County will require the contractor to make a documented request of the utility company to locate and field mark any affected underground facilities 24 hours in advance of digging.~~
- ~~4.—The utility company or operator will be required to mark such facilities per state rules.~~
- ~~5.—The County will require the contractor to refrain from digging or otherwise disturbing the earth within two feet of any such field marker, except in the presence of a utility representative, when required by the utility company. Such representative shall be assigned by the utility company and shall be on the job site at the appointed time.~~

- ~~6.—The utility company will be required to field mark their facilities for the contractor, without reimbursement from the contractor, one time only.~~

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.150 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.090 Scenic Enhancement

- ~~1.—The controls specified in DCC 12.16.090 may apply only to active federal or federal aid highway projects, and those sections of County roads where federal or federal aid funds have been expended after October 1, 1969, for the construction or improvement of the road or related facilities or for the acquisition of rights of way, including highway beautification projects.~~
- ~~2.—No new utility installations are allowed within scenic strips, overlooks, rest areas, recreation areas, the County road rights of way adjacent thereto, or on County road rights of way passing through public parks and historic sites as described under section 138, Title 23, U.S.C., when such areas or rights of way were acquired or improved with federal highway or federal aid highway funds, except as follows:~~
 - ~~1.—Underground utility installations which do not require extensive removal or alteration of trees visible to the highway user or impair the visual quality of the area.~~
 - ~~2.—Aerial pole lines if it can be established that:~~
 - ~~1.—Other locations are not available or are extremely difficult and unreasonably costly or are less desirable from the standpoint of visual quality;~~
 - ~~2.—Underground installations are not technically feasible or are unreasonably costly;~~
 - ~~3.—The proposed installation will be made at a location and will employ suitable designs and materials which give the greatest weight to the visual qualities of the area being traversed. Suitable designs will include, but are not limited to, self-supporting, armless, single pole construction with vertical configuration of conductors and cable.~~
 - ~~3.—Utilities located on County road right of way on the side opposite the above described areas when the right of way is adjacent to rather than passing through such areas.~~
- ~~3.—The provisions of DCC 12.16.090 also apply to utility installations that are needed for road or highway purposes, such as highway lighting, service to a weigh station or rest or recreational area.~~

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.200 on 2/4/1976

12.16.100 Attachments To Structures

~~Attachment of pipelines, electric power or communication lines to structures should be avoided where it is feasible and reasonable to locate elsewhere, particularly in the case of timber structures which are subjected to frequent and extensive maintenance by replacement of various bridge components.~~

~~HISTORY~~

~~Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.300 on 2/4/1976~~

12.16.110 Attachments To Bridges; Loads

~~Attachment to bridges which are adequate to support the additional load and accommodate the utility without compromise of highway features, including reasonable ease of bridge maintenance, will be permitted with the following controls:~~

- ~~1.—If utility holes in crossbeams or other areas are provided, utilities shall occupy these areas.~~
- ~~2.—If there are no such provisions, the utility may be carried on suitable padded or coated rollers, saddles or hangers attached to the structure between the outside beams or girders in a location which will not affect the vertical clearance.~~
 - ~~1.—Hanger or roller attachment shall be by means of suitable inserts or clamps and shall not be bolted to or through the bridge floor.~~
 - ~~2.—Adequate provision for expansion or contraction shall be provided.~~
- ~~3.—Attachment to the exposed area along or below the parapet or railing is only permitted when it is not feasible to attach to an interior location. Exposed attachments will be allowed only on the downstream side of bridges. When appropriate pipe or conduit exposed to view shall be painted to blend with the structure.~~
- ~~4.—Pipes or conduits carried through concrete abutments shall be contained in sleeves and tightly sealed with mastic. When carried through timber bulkheads, the cut timber edges shall be treated with creosote or its equivalent and the bulkhead restored to the equivalent of its original condition by splicing.~~
- ~~5.—The utility shall be aligned outside the roadway at each end of the structure in as short a distance as operationally practical.~~
- ~~6.—Communication and electric power cable attachments shall be suitably insulated, grounded and carried in protective conduit from the point of exit from the ground to reentry.~~
- ~~7.—All pipe conduit and supporting hardware shall be protected against corrosion.~~
- ~~8.—Design is to be done by a Licensed Engineer and drawings will be submitted to the Road Department for approval prior to installation.~~

~~HISTORY~~

~~Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.300 on 2/4/1976~~

~~Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021~~

12.16.120 Variances; Generally

The controls outlined in DCC 12.16 are intended as guidelines. Variances by the Administrator may be granted for an individual permit when it can be shown such variation is economically justified and will not adversely affect the integrity of the County road, its maintenance, efficiency and the safety of the road user.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.500 on 2/4/1976

12.16.130 Variances; Residential And Business Areas

It is recognized that the controls outlined in DCC 12.16 cannot be logically applied to many sections of road functioning as city streets serving developed residential and business areas. On such sections, utility location and installation details will be determined on an individual basis taking into consideration utility systems, roadside development, minimum disruption of road and street facilities and traffic and other controlling factors.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.510 on 2/4/1976

12.16.140 Variances And Procedures

Requests for a variance involving sections of County road:

- 1.—Upon which federal aid highway funds have been expended after October 1, 1969, or are programmed for expenditure, must be in writing and contain supporting data in justification. They should be submitted through the Administrator for review and approval by the current Federal Highway Administration directives;
- 2.—Upon all other roads, may be approved by the Administrator.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.520 on 2/4/1976

12.16.150 Exhibit Map/Engineered Drawings; Contents

The exhibit map/engineered drawings should adequately detail the proposed facility to the satisfaction of the Administrator. The data may be presented by a set of plan/profile sheets stamped by a licensed engineer or in the case of a short simple crossing, by a rough sketch and description at the discretion of the Administrator. The exhibit map should include, but not be limited to, the following information set forth in DCC 12.16.160, 12.16.170 and 12.16.180.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.710 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.160 Exhibit Map; General Information

The exhibit map should disclose:

1. The section, township and range;
2. The County road name or names;
3. The name of the applicant.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.711 on 2/4/1976

12.16.170 Exhibit Map; Pipelines And Buried Cable

When a permit is sought for pipeline or buried cable, the exhibit map/engineered drawings should disclose:

1. Limits of longitudinal installation and distance from existing road centerline and rights of way line;
2. Location and angle of crossings of the County road;
3. Type and size of the pipe or cable;
4. Design or test pressure and maximum operating pressure for pressure pipelines;
5. Type and size of conduit or casing pipe, location and lengths to be used;
6. Minimum depth of burial under roadway and outside roadway area;
7. Method of installation for crossings;
8. Location and attachments details if to be carried upon County road, bridge or structure.

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.712 on 2/4/1976

Amended by Ord. 2020-005 §1 on 1/1/2021

12.16.180 Exhibit Map; Aerial Pole Lines

When a permit is sought for aerial pole lines, and the exhibit map has not been waived, the exhibit map should disclose:

1. Limits of longitudinal installation and location and angle of crossing;
2. Location of poles or related ground-mounted appurtenances in relation to road centerline and right of way line;
3. Minimum vertical clearance over roadway. (See DCC 12.16.070(G).)

HISTORY

Adopted by Ord. 203-7 §4.713 on 2/4/1976