



## **UCI Annual Meeting Utility Coordination and Relocation**

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State Utilities and Property Manager







## Authority for Utility Relocation Policies and Procedures

VDOT Utility Manual Of Instructions-  
Utility Relocation Policies and Procedures

VDOT, through the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), has been given the authority in Section 33.2-210 of the 1950 Code of Virginia, as amended, to make rules and regulations, which are not in conflict with the laws of the State, for the operation, maintenance, control and use of the State Highway Systems. These rules and regulations have the force and effect of law by virtue of the Code of Virginia.

Relevant Sections of Virginia State Code for cost responsibilities, mandatory utility representation at official project meetings

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 23 Section 645

Sub-Part A – Utility Relocations, Adjustments and Reimbursements

Sub-Part B – Accommodation of Utilities



## VDOT Utilities Organization

VDOT currently has project related Utility responsibilities distributed between Right of Way and Utilities Division (Scoping, Coordination, Authorization, Relocation, Reimbursement), Location and Design Division (In-Plan Utility Design) and the Construction Division (Inspection).

The Transportation Planning Division is responsible for utility accommodations within VDOT's right of way under the Land Use Permit Regulations in conjunction with the Districts Land Use Development Sections



## VDOT Utilities Organization

### Right of Way and Utilities Division – Utilities Section

Lori Snider  
State Right of Way and Utilities Director

Matt Reynolds  
State Utilities and Property Manager

Steve Heflin  
Utilities Relocations Program Manager

Brad Bowles  
Western Regional Utilities Manager

Mark Comer  
NorthEast Regional Utilities Manager

Mike Wilder  
SouthEast Regional Utilities Manager

William “Lindy” Turner  
Statewide Special Projects Utility Coordinator

## Utilities Section Objectives

1. To establish and follow standard procedures for the relocation and installation of utilities on VDOT construction projects;
2. To help utility owners accomplish their work in a safe manner with the least delay and minimum interference with VDOT contractors or other utilities;
3. To prevent service disruptions, damage to utility facilities, and hazardous conditions;
4. To ensure the proper performance, high quality, and timely accomplishment of utility work; and
5. To ensure correct and timely reimbursement of costs to each utility owner as required.

## Utility Coordination

**Best Practices: ( 3 C's)**

### **Coordination**

Involve and engage utility owners at the front end of a project and continuously, not when plans are nearing completion.

(Companies/owners have long range plans and budgets)

### **Cooperation**

Goal: Good project, reasonable costs, delivered in a timely manner

Increased number of utilities needs for access to public right of way

### **Communication**

Keep all informed of project status/changes...No surprises on either end!

Listening

Maintaining relationships

## Utility Coordination

Experienced /Qualified Utility Coordinator/Manager

Consistent Point of Contact for Utility coordination/relocation on projects

Provide achievable milestones for the utility activities that meet the overall project schedule

Use of S.U.E. ( Sub- surface Utility Engineering) – not “Miss Utility – VA811”

Utility Conflict/Relocation avoidance through design alternatives

Utility Relocation Inspection

Monthly ( or as appropriate for your program) status meetings with all utility owners

Discussing all projects/issues/plan or relocation status from owners

## Utility Issues??



## Utility Coordination

### Issues/Concerns:

Resources: utility owner engineering/field staff/contractors

Competition for resources

Timeframes for activities – splicing, windows of opportunity for cut-overs/outages, weather/time of year

Available right of way/easements

\*Plans on time, of quality, that do not change to provide to the utility owners with a reasonable schedule for all activities

## Utility Topics

Cost Responsibility for utility relocations:

Franchise Agreement

On/off existing Right of Way

Statutory Rights ( Municipal facilities, Interstate within City Limits)

Prior Rights

Right of Way Use Fee reimbursements (Telecommunications)

MAP-21 – “Buy America”

VDOT ( Joint Use) Utility Easement –vs DVP/Verizon easement?

When/Why?

# QUESTIONS?

