



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

1:30 PM, Metroplex Conference Room

NCTCOG Offices, CPII

616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

Subcommittee members introduced themselves and answered why they are interested in Sustainable Public Right-of-Ways.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Roundtable Discussion with CrownCastle.** (30 minutes) The subcommittee invited CrownCastle to discuss challenges they face as infrastructure providers of 5G and small cells.

CrownCastle has 75,000 miles of fiber and 65,000 small cells across the country. CrownCastle has infrastructure in Dallas, Frisco, Lewisville and other cities in the region. The representatives explained that 5G will be deployed on the same infrastructure as small cells.

The subcommittee asked if there were any plans to bring small cells and 5G to underserved areas. Everyone has a cell phone and these areas should not be ignored. CrownCastle said that they build wherever their clients tell them to. Their clients are service providers like AT&T and Verizon. If the subcommittee wanted to talk to someone about getting service to underserved areas, then they should talk to the service providers. The best CrownCastle can do is offer a discounted rate for infrastructure based on bulk purchase by service providers.

The subcommittee also asked about health risks of communication infrastructure. The FCC has made standards based on microwave radiation from an early study, but technology has changed since then. CrownCastle said there has been more research done that shows the technology is still not dangerous. NCTCOG staff will follow up with CrownCastle to get the studies.

The subcommittee and CrownCastle discussed similar challenges they face on the ROW. Both find it hard to locate lines already in the ground. The problem comes from utility companies not providing data to cities. Cities require and ask for it but they don't get it. They also discussed redundant lines and going back to add lines. The subcommittee asked if private infrastructure providers could build two lines first so they have the capacity when they need it. CrownCastle said they will only build what is needed for the project they were contractor for.

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CrownCastle said it would be helpful if cities saved a communication corridor on the ROW. They also said it is helpful when cities have ordinances and preferred locations, so they know what the path of least resistance is.

3. **SPROW BMP Guidelines Document Development Process.** Group will discuss development and structure of a BMP Guidelines document.

The subcommittee looked at the results from the survey made by NCTCOG asking public works contacts to rank the topics by priority of what they want done first in the BMP Guideline. There were only 7 responses and there were too many options in the survey. The subcommittee asked NCTCOG staff to reorganize the survey by condensing topics. The subcommittee wants to review the survey before it is sent out again. The survey should be sent to the Public Works Council, and it was suggested to have Council members take it during the next meeting.

Without prioritized topics the subcommittee could not strategize on how to work on the BMP. A meeting was added for Dec. 10th to go over the survey results and make a plan for the BMP Guideline.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

4. **Roundtable Discussion.**

Frisco is presenting on small cells at the TPWA One-Day Educational Seminar November 14th. They are running into problems with understanding who is responsible for utility line damage when so many companies are working in one area. They also want to push for more storm drain education.

5. **Schedule for the Next Meeting.** The Subcommittee is scheduled to meet Tuesday December 10th at 2pm in the Regional Forum Room.
6. **Adjournment.**

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or agenda items, please contact Olivia Kale by phone at (817) 695-9213, or by email at okale@nctcog.org.

If you plan to attend this public meeting and you have a disability that requires special arrangements at the meeting, please contact Barbara Bradford by phone at (817) 695-9231 or by email at bbradford@nctcog.org, 72 hours in advance of the meeting. Reasonable accommodations will be made to assist your needs.

