



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

1:30 PM, Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OTdhMGRIMGYtM2Q0NC00MTQyLTlkZjltYTkxZTM0Yzg1NmY1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222370af9a-6a25-4148-ae37-eafdba62b654%22%7d

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. Welcome and Introductions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The July 21st meeting summary is available online for review and provided as a handout at the meeting. Approval will be sought at this meeting.

[The Subcommittee approved the meeting summary.](#)

3. **Landscape Planning and Vegetation Maintenance BMPs.** The group will look at resources from across the region related to appropriate tree growth forms for different ROW situations and discuss what should be recommended in the BMP Guidebook. The BMP Guidebook will include pros and cons lists, bullet lists, pictures, and matrices depending on what information is gathered and desired.

a. Trees – form-based guide for planting in the ROW

i. Update from the Tree Subgroup on the Tree Matrix

[The Tree Subgroup changed the attribute “Recommended Soil Volume” to “Minimum Planting Space.” They thought this was a better term and is easier to measure. They also clarified that the “Maintenance Needs” attribute is for general comments on upkeep the tree will need to thrive.](#)

[This will not specify if tree roots are likely to cause damage to ROW infrastructure. Damage from roots is primarily due to the tree not having proper room, soil, or water. Tree roots will grow deeper to seek water from water leaks and roots will ruin infrastructure if they don’t have enough room.](#)

ii. Discuss BMPs

1. Review guidelines discussed at the last meeting

[The Subcommittee made edits to the following BMPs that were previously approved:](#)

- [Refer to your city’s code for the visibility triangle. If guidance from the city is not available refer to the Federal Highway](#)

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Association 3.3.1 Sight Distance:

https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwasa1108/ch3.cfm#:~:text=Figure%203.%20Sight%20Distance%20Triangles%20for%204-Leg%20Stop-controlled%20Intersections9.

- When possible, trees should be planted at a minimum of 5' away from underground utilities.
- It's best to not plant a tree directly under a utility line. When possible, plant trees outside the utility easement.

2. Discuss irrigation and maintenance BMPs

The Subcommittee approved the following BMPs:

- Private sector dry lines should be out of the ROW.
- There should be proper signage for irrigation, denoting situations such as reclaimed water.
- Tree spacing should be based on crown spread; see the Tree Matrix.
- Roads should have a 14' overhead clearance and sidewalks should have a 7' overhead clearance.
- The TCEQ Chapter 344 - Landscape irrigation 344.62 (g) says, "Irrigation systems shall not spray water over surfaces made of concrete, asphalt, brick, wood, stones set with mortar, or any other impervious material, such as, but not limited to, walls, fences, sidewalks, streets, etc."
<https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assets/public/legal/rules/rules/pdf/lib/344f.pdf>

b. Vegetation

i. Discuss BMPs

The Subcommittee agreed to create a shrub matrix like the tree matrix to help cities plant the right shrub for their situation. Jerry Cosgrove and Eric Wilhite volunteered to put the shrub matrix together. It will include attributes like height, distance from curb, drought tolerance, distance from median openings/median noses, and xeriscaping.

The group discussed creating a Milestone Checklist of who to get involved in the planning process and how early.

The subcommittee will also put together a table that shows how to plant near specific fixtures like fire hydrants, water valves, utility cabinets, etc.

The Subcommittee approved the following BMPs:

- There should be a minimum of a 1' mowstrip (concrete or brick paver) around curbs.
- Vegetation should be 30" or more above the nearest gutter line.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

4. Roundtable Discussion.



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Robert mentioned that the American Public Works Association (APWA) has a Utility and Public Right-of-Way (UPROW) Committee that may be of interest to some subcommittee members.

5. **Schedule for the Next Meeting.** There will be no September meeting to give the subgroups and NCTCOG staff time to compile the Guidebook. The next Subcommittee meeting will be October 20, 2020 at 1:30pm. The platform for the virtual meeting is Teams.
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.

DRAFT

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