



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

1:30 PM, UberConference

<https://www.uberconference.com/nctcogenv>

Or call in at 817-953-6828

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. Welcome and Introductions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The June 16th 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. Concept for the North Central Texas Form Based Tree Matrix

1. Approve the Matrix

[The Subcommittee approved the Tree Matrix with the edit of removing overhang because it's the same as crown spread.](#)

2. Create a subgroup to fill in the Matrix

[Jeremy and Michelle volunteered to fill in the Tree Matrix in a subgroup. Matt had volunteered at the last meeting.](#)

- ii. Discuss BMPs

1. Start with guidelines discussed at the last meeting

[The Subcommittee approved the following BMPs:](#)

[Median Planting](#)

- If a median is under 12 feet wide, trees should be planted in a straight line down the middle of the median. If a median is greater than 12 feet wide, trees should be planted offset down the median.

- Plant trees in the median if the median is a minimum of 8' wide

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- Consider drainage goals when building medians at a higher or lower grade

Irrigation Considerations

- Cities should reference existing city water conservation plans to ensure compliance before planning irrigation along the ROW

Tree Spacing

- Trees should be planted a minimum of 4' away from the curb
- Root barriers can be used as long as the soil volume is adequately maintained for the species
- Trees planted near intersections and major driveways should be out of the visibility triangle

Maintenance

- Recommended that cities establish who maintains parkway or landscape easement

Utility Coordination

- Trees should be planted at a 5'-10' minimum away from underground utility lines
- Cities should check with the utility provider for tree recommendations. If they don't have recommendations, use the following:
 - If a tree's mature height is 20' or below then it can be planted within 20' of an overhead utility line.
 - If a tree's mature height is greater than 20' it should be planted at least 20' away.

2. Begin discussing irrigation and maintenance BMPs

The Subcommittee discussed creating a BMP for where maintenance trucks should park so they don't block traffic, especially on small roads with a median. They mentioned having trees trimmed so there is clearance off the road and trucks won't hit them. The location of the irrigation controller should also be where it doesn't get hit by vehicles and is out of the visibility triangle. Someone also suggested that drip or subsurface irrigation should be used for landscape and drip or bubbler irrigation should be used for trees to prevent spray into traffic and water waste.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

4. Roundtable Discussion.

Haywood with the City of Denton presented the Urban Forest Master Plan with City Council in June and will bring it back in August. They are hoping to build a full urban forestry program for the city. Carol with the Native Plants Society of Texas saw a rewilding presentation by Sloans that might be interesting to this group.

5. Schedule for the Next Meeting.

The next Subcommittee meeting is August 18, 2020 at 1:30pm via Microsoft 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.

