



North Central Texas Council of Governments

SUMMARY

Sustainable Public Rights-of-Way Subcommittee

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

1:30 PM, Microsoft Teams

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODVjNjkzZWltZjhkMy00ZTFkLWJhNGltOTcwNWJkMDkyZmU2%40thread.v2/0?content=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%222f5e7ebc-22b0-4fbe-934c-aabddb4e29b1%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22cab28b78-d671-4384-9c8e-6035f7c46b7d%22%7d

Or call in (audio only)

+1 903-508-4574, 775612663# United States, Tyler

Phone Conference ID: 775 612 663#

Co-Chair: Robert Woodbury, City of Cedar Hill

Co-Chair: Misty Christian, Kimley-Horn

1. Welcome and Introductions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. **Meeting Summary.** The March 30th meeting summary is available online for review. Approval will be sought at this meeting.

The Subcommittee approved the March 30th meeting summary.

3. **Utilities Planning.** The Subcommittee will hear a presentation from Atmos Energy to better understand the private utility business. Then they will discuss utility BMPs for the Utility Coordination chapter.

Jan Rugg, Coordinating Manager of Public Affairs, Mid-Tex Division with Atmos Energy Corporation, gave a presentation on their business model and communication strategies on utility projects. As a regulated utility their business model revolves around safety. They work to communicate early with cities to replace aging infrastructure and main service lines.

Atmos tries to have representatives at all annual, quarterly, and monthly meetings in their service area. These meetings help foster relationships between the cities and Atmos staff. They understand that early communication with cities helps design and complete projects. They appreciate it when cities call them during early stages of planning a project. If Atmos has a map or Google Earth image of the project area they can plan to replace aging lines while the city works in that area or see if there is a potential conflict. Atmos representatives said the best communication strategy is personal sit-down meetings to discuss the project.

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Atmos said that it is never too early to start communicating on a project. Cities need to start the conversation for their projects but Atmos will do everything to keep the relationship and communication open. Natalie Quinn with Atmos also mentioned that if cities have unusual ordinances, especially with trees, it's important to tell Atmos as soon as possible.

Omar Campos with Atmos explained their project timeline to help cities understand their process. As soon as Atmos gets project information they start internal conversations to see if they have future projects in that area or if there are potential problems. At 30% they are having internal conversations. At 60% they survey the project area and have a forecasted construction schedule. At 90% Atmos gets the okay from the city on their design, gets permits, and starts construction. Throughout the entire process Atmos stays in close communication with the city.

Jan mentioned that city permitting holds them to the community standards. However, this can become arduous for things like fencing because it will take so long for Atmos to get protection around their facilities. Atmos would like to be treated as the expert on safety for their facilities.

Omar said that one of their best practices is releasing maps upon request. Atmos can't give the type of material, but cities can reach out to a specialist like Omar to find out. Atmos also can't release the depth of main lines because they can't guarantee the depth after development and settling.

Jan asked the cities what Atmos should do if they see an excavator digging where there hasn't been a locate or other problem. The representative from the City of Addison said they should call the public works department.

Omar ended by saying when in doubt, give us a call. Project specialists are here to help.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

4. Roundtable Discussion.

Radwan with the City of Dallas said that he can get ROW specialist and Public Works staff involved in this conversation for the future.

5. Schedule for the Next Meeting. The next Subcommittee meeting is May 18, 2021 at 1:30pm through 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.



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Attendance

Virtual meeting through Microsoft Teams

Colby Masterson (Cleburne)
Radwan Dalu (City of Dallas)
Omar Campos (Atmos)
Eric Wilhite (Pacheco Koch)
Jan Rugg (Atmos)
Shawn Cheairs (Addison)
Sydnee Steelman (NCTCOG)
Peter Vahala (PBW)
Robert Woodbury (Cedar Hill)
Natalie Quinn (Atmos)
Edith Marvin (NCTCOG)
Dalton Dickson (NCTCOG)
Mia Brown (NCTCOG)
Olivia Kale (NCTCOG)

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