

Date: April 7, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



From: Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works



Lea D. Eriksen, Director of Technology and Innovation



For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Update on Dig Once Policy

On May 3, 2016, the City Council requested the City Attorney, in coordination with the Technology and Innovation (TI) and Public Works (PW) Departments, to draft an ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) to require the installation of communications infrastructure in excavation projects in the public right-of-way (PROW) where the City has determined that it is both financially feasible and consistent with the City's long-term goals of furthering economic opportunity through connectivity.

An initial [update](#) was provided to the City Council in February 2017. Coordination between City departments and outside organizations has remained a priority, minimizing public right-of-way impacts and costs to develop fiber infrastructure. Significant progress on implementing the dig once policy has been made and is outlined below along with anticipated next steps.

Update and Next Steps

The following is a progress summary as well as next steps in implementing the dig once policy:

- Project Portfolio Management (PPM)

A contract was awarded to Arcadis to develop the first phase of the project portfolio management (PPM) system. Multiple City departments, including Long Beach Airport, Long Beach Water (Water), Long Beach Energy Resources (ER), TI and PW, collaborated on the development and rollout of the software. This software system allows for long-term planning and coordination of capital improvement program (CIP) projects across departments, allowing for transparency and facilitates communication where overlaps exist. Early coordination among project managers minimizes the number of excavations and impacts to the PROW. The first phase has been developed, tested, and pilot projects are now being managed through the PPM system. Projects continue to be input into the PPM software.

Lessons learned from the pilot projects will be refined. City inspectors will begin utilizing the software in the field. Options will be explored to integrate the plan check and permitting projects into the PPM software. The integration between the PPM and MUNIS will move forward. Reporting requirements will be reviewed, and solutions determined to better utilize the PPM software.

- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

To effectively communicate the voluminous projects to multiple stakeholders, a robust interface between the PPM and GIS is necessary. This interface allows projects to be visually overlaid and displayed on maps. Key data can then be easily understood and show whether there may be conflicts or potential construction coordination. The first phase of integration is complete allowing projects, once input in the PPM, to be mapped. For future projects, the PPM will alert the GIS professional in each department to map out new project locations or modify them as needed.

Integration between PPM and GIS will continue. Mapping layers and visual communication components will be explored and evaluated. Coordination among partner departments and utility providers will continue to ensure the latest data is input into GIS.

- Fiber Inventory

A preliminary inventory of the City's fiber assets is complete and field validation is ongoing.

To maintain a secure digital network, the data will not be entered into a publicly available GIS platform, but is available via a shared database application that is available to City Departments.

- Citywide Fiber Network Infrastructure Initiative

In November 2017, a high-level assessment and recommendation to interconnect City buildings and establish a Citywide fiber backbone was provided. In June 2018, staff awarded a contract to The Broadband Group (TBG) to evaluate public-private partnership opportunities, and to develop implementation approaches for the Citywide Fiber Network Infrastructure, including coordinating construction plans and opportunities with PW and other lead departments. An update was provided to the City Council in February 2021 on the progress of the Citywide Fiber Network Infrastructure Initiative.

This initiative will proceed in parallel with the proposed implementation of a Citywide Dig Once Policy, as budget allows and as strategic partnerships are developed.

- Key Partnerships

Partnerships with multiple stakeholders are necessary for any policy to be effective. In June 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between PW, Water, and ER providing clarity and ensuring ongoing collaboration across departments. In addition, a partnership agreement was executed between the City and Verizon. The City's Fiber Network Plan (FNP) was overlaid on the Verizon fiber optic master plan and it was determined that there are eight miles of consistent conduit paths. In conjunction with the Verizon excavation, where overlap exists, conduits are being installed for City use in developing the FNP. Regular coordination meetings have been established and are in place with multiple utility providers.

While coordination between numerous stakeholders is already underway, the new virtual workplace allows for more flexibility in terms of ongoing partnerships. With the hiring of a new Assistant City Engineer, quarterly meetings dedicated to dig once policy will recommence with all affected stakeholders. This provides a platform to review all anticipated work within the PROW and combines efforts to the maximum extent feasible.

- Pavement Management Plan (PMP)

Public Works is currently assembling a five-year PMP based on the street networks pavement condition index (PCI) and accepted industry standards. The PMP provides clarity on upcoming capital improvements and is an important tool for facilitating discussions across stakeholder groups. Understanding the City's paving plan and long-term roadway maintenance strategy will allow City departments and utility providers to align their respective infrastructure improvements with the City's paving efforts.

Roadway projects within the five-year plan will be input into the PPM and will move forward after the City's budget and CIP are adopted.

Given the above status and next steps, staff do not recommend an amendment to the LBMC (*Section 14*) at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Eric Lopez, Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-6771.

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