

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



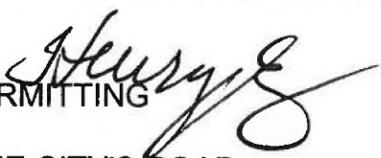
HENRY ENG, FAICP
DIRECTOR

DAVID K. TANOUE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 15, 2008

ENGINEERING AND POLICY MEMORANDUM NO. CEB-1-08

TO: ENGINEERS, DEVELOPERS, UTILITY COMPANIES, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, CONTRACTORS, AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: HENRY ENG, FAICP, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING 

SUBJECT: MINIMUM UTILITY DEPTHS WITHIN THE CITY'S ROAD RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Background and Definition

Generally, the usual practice is to have utilities and their laterals constructed at reasonable minimum depths following industry standards.

Unfortunately, there have been instances where utilities and laterals were damaged, because they were buried (probably intentionally) too shallow. Traffic disruptions, project delays, extra costs, disruptions to service, time-consuming repairs, and complaints resulted.

This memorandum addresses this problem by establishing minimum utility depths within the City's right-of-way.

In this memorandum, "utilities" shall mean all facilities located underground within the City's road right-of-way and shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

Cable television lines	Landscape irrigation lines
Computer and electronic information lines	Military communication lines
Data transmission lines	Sewer and sewer force main lines
Drain lines and box culverts	Street lights
Electric lines	Traffic signal lines
Fiber optic lines	Telephone lines
Gas lines	Water lines
Internet lines	Oil, gas and fuel lines
Telecommunication lines	Chilled/cold water lines

Policy

Effective March 31, 2008 the Department of Planning and Permitting shall require that all utilities and their service laterals within the road right-of-way comply with the following **minimum depths**:

For New Streets

Under the pavement areas..... 36 inches
Under the sidewalk, curb and gutter areas...18 Inches

For Existing Streets (see Note 1)

Under existing pavement areas.....36 inches
Under existing sidewalk, curb and gutter areas....18 inches

Notes

1. For existing pavement areas, the director of DPP may approve a minimum depth between 24 and 36 inches, based on site conditions. In addition, only in exceptional cases, the director of DPP may approve minimum depths of less than 24 inches for pavement areas, and 18 inches for sidewalk, curb, and gutter areas (such as, irrigation lines in sidewalk and raised median areas and storm drain connections to curbs).
2. The minimum depths are to be determined from the top of the utility (pipe, conduit, concrete duct, or cable) to the finished grades of the roadway section or the finished grade of the sidewalk, curb and gutter area.

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3. For the case where "sidewalk area" is unimproved, the minimum depth may be measured from the top of the existing finished grade.
4. This policy shall also apply to privately-owned, City-maintained road rights-of-way.

Contact

Should there be any questions, please call the Civil Engineering Branch at 768-8102.

HE:ky

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cc: Managing Director
SDD Division Chief
Subdivision Branch
Traffic Review Branch
Wastewater Branch
Project Review Section
Permitting and Inspection Section
Building Division
Customer Service Office