



# UTILITY PROJECT SCOPING & COORDINATION TECHNICAL COUNCIL

Jennifer McCleve, P.E.

Larry Ditty

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

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# INTRODUCTION

- On May 5, 2003, the full Subcommittee of Right of Way and Utilities voted to adopt an organization of councils.
- The councils were revised in 2013 and the Utility Project Scoping & Coordination Technical Council was created.

# OBJECTIVES

- The objectives of the Technical Council are to:
  - ✓ encourage and facilitate broader participation
  - ✓ allow people to meet to compare notes and share ideas for improvement
  - ✓ use the ideas to help the Subcommittee plan for future work efforts, research and conference programs
  - ✓ provide an annual report on current issues for the Subcommittee's Executive Board meeting in January on the council's discussions and activity.

# UTILITY PROJECT SCOPING & COORDINATION

The elements of utility project scoping and coordination with utility company stakeholders when developing and executing a project include, but not be all inclusive of, the following:

- How the project development process (planning and design) incorporates utility involvement.
- How the project execution process (construction) is impacted by utility involvement.
- How each process interacts and addresses utility matters.
- Involves existing utility infrastructure, proposed and relocations.
- The three C's are important factors

# TECHNICAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Members – The council includes 33 members from:
  - ❖ 22 DOTs personnel from 18 DOTs
  - ❖ the FHWA
  - ❖ 9 Consultants personnel from 6 Consulting Firms
  - ❖ 1 Academia

# ANNUAL REPORT REVIEWS

- Council Items
- Recommendations
- Appendix A: Member Contact List
- Appendix B: Survey Results

# COUNCIL ITEMS

- Quarterly Meetings
- Surveys
- Subcommittees
- Summary

# QUARTERLY MEETING

- Buy America
- Prior Rights
- Casing of Utilities
- Locating of Underground Utilities
- Utility Delays
- Utility Abandonment
- State Coordination Policies
- Website
- Utility Conflicts and Inspection Practices



# SURVEYS

- Prior Utility Property Rights
- Contractor Claims
- Abandonment of Underground Utility Facilities
- Utility Coordination Policies
- Buy America
- Subsurface Utility Engineering
- Delay Claims
- Utility Relocation Coordination Training
- Master Agreements

# SUBCOMMITTEES

- The Council will create subcommittees to do further research.
- So far, the council has created a group for SUE Scope of Work Standards. It consists of 9 members and they are working to create a standard scope of work for SUE.

# SUMMARY

- The report identifies recommendations for session topics for the annual meeting and for research topics.
- The council will continue to have quarterly meetings to compare notes, share ideas and use council subcommittees as needed.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Annual Meetings Session Topics
- Research Projects
- Other Recommendations

# ANNUAL MEETING SESSION TOPICS

- Delay Claims
- Prior Rights
- Alternative Bidding
- Best Practices
- Master Agreements
- Buy America

# RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)
- Buy America
- Utility Conflict
- Utility Inspection Practices
- Utility Coordination Best Practices for Design Build and Alternative Bidding
- Dig Law Revisions & Impacts
- Utility Impact Analysis and Subsurface Utility Engineering

# OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Council recommended that the Subcommittee develop a website for the Council to store documents.

# APPENDIX A: CONTACT LIST

- The member contact list is in the report as appendix A.
- It's also on the Technical Council's website (<http://rightofway.transportation.org/Pages/Home.aspx?siteid=61&pageid=952>)



# APPENDIX B: SURVEY RESULTS

- The survey results are in the report as appendix B.

# SUB-COUNCIL REPORT

- SUE Standard Scopes of Work
- NCHRP 20-5 - Proposed Research Needs Statement

# SUE

## STANDARD SCOPES OF WORK

- The purposes are:
  - to gather information about the Scopes of Services
  - to compile and consolidate common language, like thinking, like scope terminology

# RESEARCH NEEDS

- Title - Enhanced Utility System Mapping for utility risk mitigation; Challenges to State Transportation Departments in developing a Scope of Services.

# OBJECTIVE

- To create a scope of services with clear work tasks, universal terminology and well defined accuracy guidelines. Organize the scope without references to other standards (it should be a stand-alone document). Provide the suggested scope to States using enhanced utility mapping services and follow up for their comments, and try to build consensus on the issues stated above.

# SUMMARIES

## Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) Scoping Sub-Committee Scope of Service Summaries from:

- Florida Department of Transportation
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Maryland State Highway Administration
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- New Hampshire Department of Transportation
- New York State Department of Transportation
- South Carolina Department of Transportation
- Virginia Department of Transportation
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- City of Lenexa, KS (Submitted by Jim Anspach)
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Nebraska Department of Transportation
- Idaho Department of Transportation
- Ohio Department of Transportation, District 7

# SUB-COUNCIL REPORT DETAILS

Utility risk can be significantly mitigated by using proven best practice procedures for depicting existing utilities accurately on design and construction documents. A fully researched, comprehensive inventory of utilities, accurately geo-located, will identify potential utility problems early and aid in crafting resolutions.

Unfortunately there is inconsistent use of the enhanced utility mapping techniques on many projects. A carefully prepared Scope of Services document can do much to rectify these problems by helping DOT's to the request deliverables of useful accuracy at reasonable cost.

A need exists to clarify what services the DOTs are actually using (compared to the stated scope of service), and to produce an updated scope of service document which mirrors those requirements. A review of international practices should be conducted because utility related issues are not unique to the U.S. Utility mapping produced by combined geophysical methods

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

- **Discussion Topic: Subsurface Utility Engineering and Utility Infrastructure Mapping Scopes**
- Perception that Scope should concentrate on deliverables and work product reliability measures/meta data, not techniques and technologies used.
- **Call to Action: Open Discussion, Agree or Disagree ... Comments**



# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

- Notes: Subsurface Utility Engineering and Utility Infrastructure Mapping Scopes

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

## 2014 Revisited: Notes

- SUE
- Impacts of Dig Law Revisions
- Utility Coordination Training
- Alternative Bid Projects and Utility Coordination Best Practices

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

## 2013 Revisited: Notes

- Buy America
- Delay Claims
- Prior Rights
- SUE

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

## SHRP<sub>2</sub> Products:

- Round 6
  - R01B – Utility Locating Technologies
  - R15B – Identifying and Managing Utility Conflicts
- Round 5
  - R01A – 3D Utility Location data Repository
- Round 3
  - R15B – Identifying and Managing Utility Conflicts

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

## SHRP<sub>2</sub> Products:

- Implementation Successes
- Round 6 Products – application launch May 29, 2015

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

Open Discussion: Future Topics

# FUTURE TOPICS & RESEARCH AREAS

Open Discussion: Research Areas

# SUMMARY & QUESTIONS

- Questions and Comments?