



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

---

TECHNICAL MANUAL

# Utilities Manual

M 22-87.11

February 2025

**Engineering and Regional Operations**  
Development Division, Design Office

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information**

This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the WSDOT Diversity/ADA Affairs team at [wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov) or by calling toll free: 855-362-4ADA (4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

## **Title VI Notice to Public**

It is Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) policy to ensure no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at 360-705-7082 or 509-324-6018.

To get the latest information on individual WSDOT publications, sign up for email updates at:  
 [www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/publications/manuals)

# Contents

---

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Utility Accommodation</b> . . . . .	<b>1-1</b>
100	Administration and General Information . . . . .	1-1
100.01	Utility Accommodation Program Purpose . . . . .	1-1
100.02	Types of Utility Accommodation Documents . . . . .	1-2
100.03	Installation Categories . . . . .	1-4
100.04	Utility Classification Criteria . . . . .	1-10
100.05	Accommodation Documents: Management and Administration . .	1-12
100.06	Approval Authority . . . . .	1-13
100.07	Accommodation Process and Procedure . . . . .	1-15
110	General Requirements . . . . .	1-20
110.01	Accommodation Application Requirements . . . . .	1-20
110.02	Franchise Consolidation and Franchise Renewal Process and Requirements . . . . .	1-22
110.03	Fees and Reimbursable Accounts . . . . .	1-27
110.04	Sureties . . . . .	1-29
110.05	Local, State, or Federal Agencies . . . . .	1-33
120	Specific Installation Requirements . . . . .	1-35
120.01	Hearings . . . . .	1-35
120.02	City Streets as Part of State Highways . . . . .	1-35
120.03	Annexations and Route Jurisdiction Transfers . . . . .	1-36
120.04	Pipelines . . . . .	1-38
120.05	Storm Drainage and Hydraulics . . . . .	1-47
120.06	Open Cuts and Trenching . . . . .	1-49
120.07	Bridges and Structures . . . . .	1-54
120.08	Scenic Classification Policy . . . . .	1-62
120.09	Control Zone . . . . .	1-65
120.10	Joint-Use and Future-Use Utilities . . . . .	1-66
120.11	Access Control . . . . .	1-67
120.12	Environmental Considerations . . . . .	1-68
120.13	Utility Maintenance . . . . .	1-70
120.14	Variances: Types, Treatment, and Approval . . . . .	1-70
120.15	Casing, Conduit, Innerduct, and Encasement . . . . .	1-75
130	Post-Approval Administration . . . . .	1-79
130.01	Addenda to Approved Accommodation Documents . . . . .	1-79
130.02	Extension of Installation Time . . . . .	1-83
130.03	As-Builts: Record Drawings . . . . .	1-84
130.04	Penalties . . . . .	1-84
130.05	Utility Transfer of Ownership – Acceptance of Assignment . . . . .	1-85
130.06	Abandoned, Deactivated, or Disconnected Utilities . . . . .	1-87
130.07	Undocumented Utility Installations . . . . .	1-88
130.08	Turnback Areas and Construction Permits . . . . .	1-89
130.09	Compliance Reviews . . . . .	1-91

<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Utility Agreements</b> . . . . .	2-1
	200.01 General . . . . .	2-1
	200.02 Utility Property Rights . . . . .	2-3
	200.03 Preliminary Engineering Agreements . . . . .	2-6
	200.04 Construction Agreements . . . . .	2-14
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Railroads</b> . . . . .	3-1
	300.01 General . . . . .	3-1
	300.02 Responsibilities . . . . .	3-1
	300.03 Railroad Requirements . . . . .	3-2
	300.04 Railroad Crossings . . . . .	3-4
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Intentionally Omitted</b> . . . . .	4-1
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Government Agencies: State, Federal, Tribal, and Other Entities</b> . . . . .	5-1
	500.01 General . . . . .	5-1
	500.02 State Agencies . . . . .	5-1
	500.03 Federal Agencies . . . . .	5-2
	500.04 Tribal Authorities . . . . .	5-8
	500.05 Railroad Companies . . . . .	5-9
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Project Delivery and Utility Relocation</b> . . . . .	6-1
	600.01 General . . . . .	6-1
	600.02 Schedules, Goals, and Strategies . . . . .	6-3
	600.03 Early Utility Identification . . . . .	6-3
	600.04 Coordination, Cooperation, and Communication . . . . .	6-3
	600.05 Roles and Responsibilities . . . . .	6-5
	600.06 Cost Responsibility and Recovery . . . . .	6-6
	600.07 Coordination Milestones . . . . .	6-8
	600.08 Project Initiation: Project Design Notification . . . . .	6-8
	600.09 Geometric Review (30%) . . . . .	6-8
	600.10 Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) . . . . .	6-14
	600.11 Preliminary Engineering Agreements . . . . .	6-22
	600.12 General Plans Review (60%) . . . . .	6-22
	600.13 Preliminary Contract Review (90%) . . . . .	6-26
	600.14 Preadvertisement . . . . .	6-27
	600.15 Design/Construction Utility Relocation Facilitation . . . . .	6-27
	600.16 Project Award and Construction . . . . .	6-28
	600.17 Developer Projects and Utility Relocation . . . . .	6-29

<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Inspection</b> .....	7-1
	700.01 General .....	7-1
	700.02 Jurisdiction and Authority .....	7-2
	700.03 Traffic Control and Safety .....	7-4
	700.04 Buried Facilities .....	7-6
	700.05 Aboveground Facilities .....	7-7
	700.06 Bridge Attachments .....	7-7
	700.07 Environmental Requirements .....	7-8
	700.08 Communication With Others .....	7-9
	700.09 Documentation .....	7-11
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Reimbursement</b> .....	8-1
	800.01 General .....	8-1
	800.02 Utility Accommodation Reimbursement Policy .....	8-1
<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Control Zone Guidelines</b> .....	9-1
	900.01 General .....	9-1
	900.02 Clear Zone vs. Control Zone .....	9-1
	900.03 Control Zone Objective .....	9-2
	900.04 Definitions .....	9-2
	900.05 Application .....	9-2
	900.06 Control Zone Distance .....	9-3
	900.07 Recovery Area .....	9-10
	900.08 Supplemental Utility Design Information .....	9-11
	900.09 Project Applications .....	9-13
	900.10 Completing the Utility Object Relocation Record .....	9-14
	900.11 Variance .....	9-15
	900.12 Variance Request for Location I Objects .....	9-16
	900.13 Variance Request for Location II Objects .....	9-16
 <b>Appendices</b>		
	Appendix A Glossary .....	A-1
	Appendix B Utility Forms and Documents .....	B-1
	Appendix C Policy Guidance .....	C-1
	Appendix D RCW and WAC References .....	D-1

**This page was intentionally left blank.**



This page was intentionally left blank.