

Utility Activities Requiring Access Approval

(Electronic Submittal of the Access Request Checklist)

When Access Approval is Required on Interstate Routes*

Work area ingress or egress from mainline or ramps **

Temporary lane reductions or closures on mainline or ramps, other than rolling slowdowns **

Removal/replacement of right of way fencing

A permanent access break with installation of a gate for maintenance **

When Access Approval is Required on Non-Interstate Limited Access Routes

Work area ingress or egress from mainline or ramps

Temporary lane reductions or closures on mainline or ramps, other than rolling slowdowns

Removal/replacement of right of way fencing

A permanent access break with installation of a gate for maintenance

* If any part of the work area falls within the limits of an interstate route's right of way plan.

(I-5, I-82, I-90, I-182, I-205, I-405, or I-705)

** Requires filling out the Environmental worksheet on the Access Request Checklist and needs FHWA approval.

Notes:

Rolling slowdowns do not require access approval, but do require Region Traffic Office approval. Rolling slowdowns on interstate routes require notifying FHWA (through HQ Utilities) at least a week prior to the slowdown.

Underground utility crossings where no ground is disturbed within limited access right of way do not require temporary access breaks. Any associated monitoring within right of way constitutes a "work area". Refer to the list of activities above to determine if access approval is needed for monitoring.

Overhead utility crossings do not require a temporary access break. Overhead lines removed or installed under rolling slowdowns do not require access approval.

A permanent access break with a gate requires a right of way plan revision.

Important - Any traffic control that reduces lanes on mainline or ramps will require access approval, unless part of a rolling slowdown. (even if the utility work area is on a city street but traffic control reduces a lane on a ramp)

And of course, any utility installation requiring FHWA approval will also need access approval.

The list of activities described above serves as basic guidelines for determining if access approval is needed. For other activities not covered under these basic guidelines, please contact the Highway Access Control and Hearings office.