221 Utilities

221.1 General

Identify necessary utility work (e.g., installation, removal, relocation, de-energizing, deactivation, or adjustment of utilities) that is required to construct the project. Obtain agreements or orders to schedule the identified work. Assist the Department with Utility Agency/Owner (UAO) coordination throughout the design process.

Utility work is necessary where:

(1) Working room is needed for construction

(2) Clearances are needed to comply with Department requirements

(3) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (***29 CFR Part 1926***) restricts crane operations

(4) National Electric Safety Code (NESC), or other regulations are violated.

(5) Construction equipment may damage utilities

(6) Utilities are within areas of excavation.

When evaluating the use of design features that reduce or avoid utility conflicts, consider savings in construction time and the total associated savings for the FDOT project and the utilities.

Additional guidance for accommodating utilities within Department R/W are given in the AASHTO publications ***A Guide for Accommodating Utilities within Highway Right-of-Way*** and ***A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*** and in the TRB publication ***Policies for Accommodation of Utilities on Highway Rights-of-Way***.

221.2 Utility Work Schedules and Agreements

Certify the project in accordance with ***Utility Work Agreements and Certification Process (Topic No. 710-010-050)***. With assistance from the District Utilities Office and the Office of General Counsel, obtain the following:

- ***Utility Work Schedules (Form 710-010-05)***
- Relocation agreements
- Required payments to or by the Department for utility work

When an agreement cannot be obtained, coordinate with the District Utilities Office and the Office of General Counsel to pursue any needed order to relocate.

Modification for Non-Conventional Projects:
Delete ***FDM 221.2*** above and see RFP for requirements.

221.3 Subsurface Utility Locates

Coordinate with the District Utility Office to determine the locations and quality levels needed. Quality levels are defined in Section 3.6 of the ***Survey and Mapping Handbook***. The UAOs may be requested to provide locate information as required by Section 5.2 of the ***2017 Utility Accommodation Manual***.

Obtain quality level “QL A” locate information when proposed construction operations are within 3’ of utilities and verified information is needed to make confident design decisions. The decision to proceed to construction without obtaining quality level “QL A” locate information must be further coordinated with district construction personnel and the UAO.