

**City of Houston**

**Design Manual**

**Chapter 12**

**STREET CUT REQUIREMENTS**

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12.01 CHAPTER INCLUDES

- A. Criteria for street pavement cuts, excavation, backfill, and pavement restoration in Public Ways.
- B. This chapter applies to excavation under paved surfaces in Public Ways which have been improved for street, sidewalk, surface drainage, or related public transportation infrastructure.

12.02 References

- A. Refer to the list of references in Chapter 1, General Requirements.
- B. City of Houston Procedural Guidelines for Planning and Permitting of Excavations in Public Ways, latest revision.

12.03 DEFINITIONS

- A. Excavation – An activity that disturbs, alters, or penetrates any portion of the public way that has been improved for street, driveway, sidewalk, surface drainage, or related public transportation infrastructure purposes. The term includes but is not limited to cutting, tunneling, jacking and boring, backfilling, restoring, and repairing the public way. The term does not include a transportation improvement or maintenance of publicly owned utility systems, such as water and wastewater lines and facilities.
- B. Backfill – Excavation fill material that meets city specified quality requirements or the placement thereof.
- C. Facility – Any structure device or other thing whatsoever that may be installed or maintained in, or, within, under, over or above a public way by an excavation.
- D. Five – Year CIP – Street improvement projects included in a Capital Improvement Program by the City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, TxDOT, or other organization for construction.
- E. Hole – Excavation in the Public Way with the excavation having a length less than the width of the pavement.

- A. Patch – Method of pavement replacement that is temporary in nature. A patch consists of: (1) the compaction of the subbase and aggregate base, and (2) the replacement, in kind, of the existing pavement for a minimum of two feet beyond the edges of the excavation in all directions. A patch is full restoration only when the pavement is included in the City of Houston’s Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- B. Public Way – Any public street right-of-way located in the city, including the entire area between the boundary lines of every way (including but not limited to roads, streets, alleys, highways, boulevards, bridges tunnels, or similar thoroughfares), whether acquired by purchase, grant, or dedication and acceptance by the city or by the public that has been opened to use of the public for purpose of vehicular travel.
- C. Restoration – The process by which an excavated public way and surrounding area, including pavement and foundation, is returned to the same condition that existed before excavation.
- D. Trench – An excavation in the pavement with the excavation having length equal to or greater than the width of the pavement.

#### 12.04 DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Design project so that restoration returns public way to the same condition that existed prior excavation. Base minimum limits and methods required for restoration on City Standard Details.
- B. Comply with requirements of 6.08A, Open Cut Construction in Street Pavement, for all open-cut construction including excavation for auger or directional drilling insertion pits.
  - 1. Saw cut existing pavements along lines parallel to and perpendicular to traveled way center lines unless otherwise approved by the City Engineer.
  - 2. For concrete pavements, conform to requirements of Paragraphs 10.04, K., 5., 10., and 11.
- C. Prepare plan view drawings for all excavations that identify and locate existing underground facilities. The drawings, or verification statements, shall confirm that the underground facilities have been identified, located, and marked by the following organizations:
  - 1. Texas Underground Facility Notification Corporation,
  - 2. City of Houston Public Utilities (water and sewer), and
  - 3. City of Houston Traffic Signal Section.

- D. The City may require plan and profile drawings for complex projects or when the constructing agency has demonstrated previous non-compliance with underground facility location procedures.
- E. Plan view drawings shall show, at a minimum, the following information for the project area:
  - 1. Topographical features.
  - 2. Existing public and private utilities.
  - 3. Significant landscaping or other structures which might impact construction or construction related activities.
  - 4. Location and dimensions of proposed surface cuts.
  - 5. Location and depth of existing and proposed mains, cables, conduits, switches, and related equipment and facilities.
  - 6. Use baseline offsets from property lines, centerline of the public way, or curb lines; or a coordinate system acceptable to the City.
- F. Final drawings shall include a list City of Houston Standard Specifications and related standard details for excavation, bedding, backfilling, and pavement repair and resurfacing.

## 12.05 QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A. For projects which include conduits, duct banks or pipelines over 1", have final design drawings sealed, signed, and dated by the Professional Engineer responsible for development of the drawings.

END OF CHAPTER