



**Date:** February 27, 2017

**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager *PHW*

**From:** *CB* Craig A. Beck, Director of Public Works  
Bryan Sastokas, Director of Technology and Innovation /s/

**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council

**Subject:** **Dig Once Policy Update**

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The City Council requested the City Attorney, in coordination with the Technology and Innovation and Public Works Departments, to draft an ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code to require the installation of communications infrastructure in excavation projects in the public right-of-way where the City has determined that it is both financially feasible and consistent with the City's long-term goals of furthering economic opportunity through connectivity. This memorandum provides an update on this request.

### **Background**

In 2004, the City Council adopted an Ordinance amending the Long Beach Municipal Code (*Section 14.08.060*) to establish an excavation moratorium for all streets that had undergone reconstruction within the previous five years. The Ordinance only allows for excavation to occur on moratorium streets when the need is immediate for the general health, safety and welfare of the City; and, the City Council takes action to grant the excavation permit.

The excavation moratorium has helped protect recently repaired streets from damage, but it did not address the need for better coordination between City departments and outside agencies who typically perform street work. In the past, many of the capital planning efforts in the City were conducted with a singular focus, installing gas and water pipelines, and deploying network fiber. Moving forward, staff is supportive of the implementation of a "dig once" policy to improve coordination within the City organization and make it easier to engage outside organizations as well.

The dig once policy will include a Fiber Master Plan (FMP). Fiber optic infrastructures enable high-speed data communications needed to improve or deliver citywide technology services, including traffic control systems, utility systems, public safety systems, city operations, and smart city initiatives. Cities that have fiber optic infrastructures are better positioned to support economic development programs, to improve city services to businesses and customers, and to enable innovation in a constantly evolving community and economy.

Staff from the lead departments (Public Works, Technology and Innovation, Gas and Oil, and Water) are meeting monthly to discuss and coordinate upcoming projects. Additionally, staff is in the process of reviewing proposals for a Project Performance Management software system. This new tool will help provide a more robust oversight and coordination between various construction projects citywide. The goal is to bring a recommendation for the software system before the City Council the second quarter of 2017.

### **Next Steps**

The next steps in the development of the dig once policy and FMP include:

- Completing selection and contract process for a vendor to implement a Project Performance Management (PPM) software system. *Anticipated completion Second Quarter of 2017.*
- Technology and Innovation worked with Public Works to create an inventory of existing City fiber optic assets and are now in the process of entering it into the GIS database. *Anticipated completion Third Quarter of 2017.*
- Completing development of the FMP, which will identify locations where there are opportunities to align various street work with adding fiber network. *Anticipated completion Third Quarter of 2017.*
- Working with the City Attorney to amend the Long Beach Municipal Code (*Section 14*) to include a new requirement that the annual Capital Improvement Plan adopted by City Council include a description of the coordination efforts associated with planned work in the City's right-of-way (streets, alleys, sidewalks). This should include alignment between the departments of Gas and Oil, Public Works, Technology and Innovation, Water, and other outside utilities when feasible. *To be finalized after City Council adoption of the PPM and FMP.*

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Craig Beck, Director of Public Works, at (562) 570-6771.

CB:JC

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CITY CLERK (REF. FILE # 16-0393)