



Agenda Item Report

Legislative Board: City Council
Date: April 7, 2026
Contact: Angela Kennedy, Director
Agenda Item ID / Number: 2026-339- / J.2

ITEM TITLE: Public hearing, deliberation and possible action to consider an Ordinance on first and final reading and to adopt said Ordinance amending Chapter 18 of the Code of Ordinances to amend Article 18.04 Right-of-Way Management to include Section 18.04.117 Microtrenching Standards (Development Services Director / City Engineer Angela Kennedy, P.E., CFM) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This ordinance approves an amendment to Article 18.04 Right-of-Regulations related to microtrenching standards and permit use of this construction method within the City of Buda right-of-way. Microtrenching is construction activity used to install underground broadband internet networks, involving placing conduits and fiber optic cables in a shallow slot trench under existing roadway pavement.

2. BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The City has received increasing interest from broadband providers in using “microtrenching” to install fiber optic facilities within existing paved streets and other City rights of way. Microtrenching is a construction technique that installs conduit and fiber in a narrow, shallow cut in the pavement, which can significantly accelerate the deployment of high-speed internet service and reduce surface disruption compared to traditional open-cut trenching. In recent years, this method has been promoted across Texas and nationally as a way to expand broadband access more quickly in developed areas while minimizing traffic impacts and construction duration. Several Texas cities and peer jurisdictions have responded by adopting specific standards for microtrenching, including limits on where it may be used, minimum depths and widths, approved backfill materials, and restoration requirements. Establishing clear local standards up front provides consistency for providers, helps protect the City’s investment in its streets, and supports state and federal broadband goals by giving industry a predictable path to use this construction method.

3. ANALYSIS

These microtrenching regulations apply to any proposed microtrenching work in City Right-of-Way. Code of Ordinances Section 18.04.117 Microtrenching include dimensional installation requirements, detail asphalt repair requirements, list areas where microtrenching is not permitted, and references the adopted Microtrenching Standard Installation Detail that includes much more detailed construction standards. These are included in Exhibits A and B of the ordinance. These standards are intended to balance the benefits of faster broadband deployment with the City’s responsibility to safeguard public infrastructure, maintain safe and smooth streets, and manage the right of way in an orderly and equitable manner.

4. FINANCIAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

5. STRATEGIC PLAN/GOALS

EXCEPTIONAL CITY SERVICES

6. STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

Become a more business-friendly City government - regulations, codes and processes

7. PROS AND CONS

Pro: Microtrenching standards in the right-of-way can significantly speed broadband deployment and reduce surface disruption. It also lowers the cost of construction and supports the city's Strategic Plan priority of ensuring expanded broadband access.

Cons: Concerns about pavement integrity, shallow-depth damage, and long-term maintenance responsibilities. Strict standards address these concerns.

8. ALTERNATIVES

City Council may make the following motions:

- Approve as submitted
- Approve with modifications
- Approve with conditions
- Table
- Deny

9. REQUESTED ACTION / SUGGESTED MOTION / RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the ordinance as presented.

Attachments:

[Ordinance - Amending Code of Ord. for Microtrenching Standards \(03.30.26\).pdf](#)

[Exhibit A Section 18.04.117 Microtrenching.docx](#)

[Exhibit B Buda Micro Trenching Detail.pdf](#)