



Work in the Public Way

Almost all construction projects involve work in the public right-of-way. For example, new buildings need sewer and water connections to city utility mains. Parking lots need driveway access to city streets. Before building these utility connections and driveways, in fact, before doing any work in a public right-of-way, you must obtain a **permit** for that work from the City.

Sometimes, a developer or contractor will simply want to use public right-of-way for storage of materials or to park a construction trailer. Use of the public way for these more passive purposes also requires a City permit.

Right-of-way permits are required to ensure that work is done to City specifications, to ensure that City facilities are protected, and to ensure that multiple activities are coordinated. Permits for some proposed uses of the public way can be issued immediately after an application is submitted and the fee is paid. In most cases, however, plan approval and the issuance of a permit will take approximately 10 working days. During this time various public works agencies such as Forestry and Water Works review the plans.

Permit fees vary according to the type of permit needed, the amount of right-of-way to be used, and the length of time the permit is valid. In general, the more

public right-of-way used and the longer its use, the higher the permit fee. The City's **public way permit fee structure** is designed to discourage usage of large areas for extended periods of time.

In addition to the standard permit fee, the City may charge for the cost of preliminary work it has to do to prepare the site. For example, a new driveway may require relocation of a City street light. The City will move the light and charge the applicant for the cost of doing so.

Contractors and citizens who wish to do work in the public right-of-way should call the permit office at 286-8480 prior to filing an application. Detailed information about permit requirements for the specific work proposed will be provided.

QUICK FACTS

Application Fee: Varies considerably depending on length of time and size of area affected

Related Fees: Charges for removed or relocated City facilities

Final Approval Given By: Development Center permit desk, in consultation with the Department of Public Works

Typical Review & Approval Time: 1 – 10 days

For More Information Call: 286-8480
