



Fact sheet: Dig Once Policies

What is a dig once policy/ordinance?

Dig once policies are currently being adopted on the local level across the country. Dig once policies allow for the coordination between public works departments, public utility companies and internet service providers. Planned excavation/trenching projects in the public right of way is a coordination opportunity for the laying of broadband conduit simultaneously with these projects, reducing cost and reducing damage to public sidewalks and roadways. Dig once policies require that these coordination efforts take place. Implementing a dig once policy ensures the deployment of faster, more reliable broadband infrastructure.

The benefits of dig once policies

- Facilitates private communications network deployment and reduces construction costs by up to 90%.
- Reduces overall costs of all underground work in the public right of way, both utility and telecommunications related, for public and private parties.
- Protects newly and recently paved roads and sidewalks.
- Enhances uniformity of construction.
- Ensures efficient, non-duplicative placement of infrastructure in the public right of way.
- Cost savings to taxpayers and private companies.

How to develop a dig once policy

- Policies developed on the local level should not be one size fits all.
- Approaches may include:
 1. Require excavators to notify utilities and other relevant entities about projects and invite participation during permitting process.
 2. Require excavators to install conduit for future use (shadow conduit).
 3. Undertake longer-term processes, coordinating multi-year plans with excavators.
 4. Prioritize projects suitable for additional construction, based on a scoring mechanism.
 5. Develop a refined estimate of incremental costs during the design stage.
 6. Develop a standard engineering specification for dig-once conduit.
 7. Develop a procedure to systematically track and manage the construction and to create a repository of existing infrastructure.

Current cities/counties that have adopted dig once ordinances in our area

- Orland (Glenn County)