

# Memorandum

To: DEPUTY DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
DIVISION CHIEFS

Date: March 25, 2022

From: JANICE BENTON   
Chief  
Division of Design

Subject: **ACCOMMODATION OF WIRED BROADBAND FACILITIES WITHIN ACCESS-CONTROLLED STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT OF WAY**

This memorandum establishes the revised accommodation policy for wired broadband facility installations within the access-controlled State highway right-of-way. This memorandum supersedes the existing policy on accommodating wired broadband on an access-controlled highway in the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM) Chapter 17, Section 2, Article 2.

In 2017, Deputy Directive-116 established the policy to accommodate wired broadband facility encroachments within State highway right-of-way when there is a benefit to the public. The existing accommodation policy for wired broadband facility encroachments is in the PDPM Chapter 17.

In July 2021, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 156 directing the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to assist in the deployment of the State-owned Broadband Middle Mile Network within the State highway right-of-way in cooperation with the California Department of Technology and the California Public Utilities Commission. The Broadband Middle Mile Network will be the open-access middle-mile broadband infrastructure to enable last-mile connectivity throughout California, providing equitable access to high-speed broadband service to unserved and underserved communities.

In anticipation of the increased installations of wired broadband facilities within State highway right-of-way, a review of existing policies, procedures and best practices was completed. This memorandum implements the recommendations resulting from that review, as well as incorporating input from other divisions and Federal Highway Administration. The goal of the revised policy is to better accommodate wired broadband facilities to promote a more connected California, while preserving the safety and operations of the State Highway System.

Effective immediately, Attachment A is the new accommodation policy for wired broadband facilities for freeway and expressway facilities as defined under the Streets and Highway Code Division 1, Chapter 2, Article 2.

For conventional highways, wired broadband facilities are accommodated based on the existing guidelines in the Encroachment Permits Manual. As-builts of the constructed facilities and markings as described in Attachment A are required.

The Attachment A is effective until it is superseded by the appropriate guidance update or by a new policy memo. For any questions, please contact Tina Lucas, Chief, Office of Project Support, at <tina.lucas@dot.ca.gov>.

The guidance in Attachment B is effective until the Structure Utility Manual is published.

#### Attachments

- (1) Attachment A - WIRED BROADBAND FACILITY ACCOMMODATION IN ACCESS-CONTROLLED STATE HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
- (2) Attachment B - GUIDANCE FOR BROADBAND INSTALLATION ON BRIDGES

c: Design Management Board  
Traffic Operations Executive Board  
Paul Chung, Deputy Division Chief, Division of Design  
Srikanth Balasubramanian, Deputy Division Chief, Traffic Operations  
Dwarakeswar Penubolu, Chief, Office of Encroachment & Outdoor Advertising Permits  
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