

PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGROUND UTILITY INSTALLATION ON OR WITHIN COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY

1. **Generally.** No underground utility installation may be performed on, inside, within, or underneath a Walker County Right-of-Way (“the ROW”) without a permit. Before any underground utility installation work may begin within the ROW, the responsible entity or individual must submit permit application to Walker County Engineering Department, located at 198 Biddle Drive, Jasper, Alabama 35503.
2. **Application Requirements.** To be considered for approval, all underground utility installation permit applications must include:
 - a. at least one complete set of drawings showing all proposed utility installation location(s) affecting the ROW; and
 - b. a letter of request to locate subject utility within the ROW.
3. **Placement.** All utilities are to be placed parallel with the road and no more than five-feet inside the ROW, which is to be measured from the side of the ROW situated furthest from the roadway. On occasion, pre-existing adverse conditions (such as incompatible terrain or topography) do not allow for the installation of underground utilities at this prescribed location. Before any installation work may deviate from the permitted, prescribed location, the responsible entity or individual must apply to amend their permit and all amendments must be approved by the Walker County Engineering Department.
4. **Depth.** All underground fiber optic, power, sewer, and gas utilities within ROW shall be buried with no less than 42 inches of cover. All other underground utilities within ROW shall be buried with no less than 36 inches of cover.
5. **Excavation & Backfill.** All excavations within the right-of-way and not under paving shall be backfilled by tamping in 6” layers or by puddling. All surplus materials shall be removed from the right-of-way and the excavations finished flush with adjoining ground.
6. **Sodding Replacement.** Where sodding is disturbed on improved roads by excavation or backfilling operations, such areas shall be replaced with mulch sodding on all slopes of 5% or less. All slopes over 5% shall be replaced with block sodding.
7. **Boring, Jacking, & Tunneling.** All pipe lines and/or cables or any buried utilities crossing under existing paved roads and cross roads, limited to within the ROW, shall be bored, jacked or tunneled and encased. Boring, jacking or tunneling and casing shall be done as shown by the drawing attached.
8. **Open-Cutting & Additional Requirements.** Where it is evident that boring is impractical due to rock or other obstructions, the Walker County Engineer, after notification of such problems, may grant permission to open cut the paving. Such permission will be granted on a case-by-case basis and in writing.

When open cutting is expressly allowed, the following conditions shall be met:

- (a) No materials removed from the excavation are to be placed back in the cut; and
 - (b) Cut shall be backfilled with aggregate, such as 8910, or with #6, #5 stone to within 6 inches and then filled with cold mix asphalt to the top of cut; and
 - (c) One-half of the traveled portion of the paving must be open to traffic; and
 - (d) Open cutting of pavement shall be done as shown in "Attachment A," included below.
9. Walker County is not responsible for any damages that may occur to a utility as a result of our routine right of way and roadway maintenance activities. The purpose of these provisions are to help mitigate the risk of damage to underground utilities with the regulation of installation practices and procedures. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please call Walker County Engineer Glenn Peek at (205)265-3898. Your cooperation regarding this matter is greatly appreciated.