

H. UTILITIES

As indicated in the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements, local governments, the development community, and the utility community are encouraged to coordinate and consolidate their interests as part of the initial development plan. All utility locations should be indicated on the plans. Utility lines should be located to minimize need for later adjustment and to permit servicing such lines with minimum interference to traffic or destruction of roadway surfaces.

a. Underground utilities

The Department allows the placement of underground utilities within the dedicated right of way of streets.

Underground utilities should normally be located outside of the travel lanes and desirably beyond the pavement. However, if the governing body has established adequate requirements for the design, location, and construction of underground utilities within the right-of-way of subdivision streets, including provisions that ensure adequate testing and inspection is performed to minimize future settlement, those requirements shall become the Department's requirements and govern unless those requirements conflict with a requirement of the Department.

When location of the utilities outside of the pavement area is not practical such as in high density developments incorporating the principles of new urbanism as described in [15.2-2223.1](#) of the Code of Virginia, such installations:*

- (1) Are acceptable within the parking area and the shoulders along the street.
- (2) May be acceptable beneath the travel lanes of the street when provisions are made to ensure adequate inspection and compaction tests and
 - (a) Longitudinal installations and manholes are located outside of the normal travel lanes, or
 - (b) Longitudinal installations and manholes are placed in the center of an undivided roadway out of the wheel path.

However, manholes shall not be placed in sidewalk, multiuse trail, or shared use path facilities within five feet of curb ramps or within driveway entrances.

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