RULES OF HARRIS COUNTY AND THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES WITHIN HARRIS COUNTY AND HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RIGHTS OF WAY

AS

AMENDED: AUGUST 11, 2009
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

HARRIS COUNTY
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DESECTIONMENT
ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING DIVISION

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INDEX

SECTION 1 – AUTHORITY
SECTION 2 – JURISDICTION
SECTION 3 – PURPOSE
SECTION 4 – CONSTRUCTION OF RULES
SECTION 5 – DEFINITIONS
SECTION 6 – CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY
SECTION 7 – NOTICE
SECTION 8 – PROHIBITED ACTIVITY
SECTION 9 – CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS
SECTION 10 – VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
SECTION 11 – LIABILITY
SECTION 12 – VARIANCES
SECTION 13 – ENFORCEMENT
SECTION 14 – VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RULES
SECTION 15 – CONTEMPT OF COMMISSIONERS’ COURT
SECTION 16 – SEVERABILITY

ATTACHMENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees</th>
<th>Table I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonds</td>
<td>Table II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawings</td>
<td>Exhibit “A”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit “B”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Figure 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Figure 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RULES OF HARRIS COUNTY AND THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES WITHIN HARRIS COUNTY AND HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RIGHTS-OF-WAY

SECTION 1  AUTHORITY

These Rules are adopted by the Commissioners’ Court of Harris County, Texas pursuant to the authority granted to it by Section 2 of the Harris County Road Law Acts 1913, 33rd Legislature, Chapter 17, the Harris County Flood Control District Act, Acts of 1937, 45th Legislature, Chapter 360, and the Texas Water Code, Section 49.212, as amended, and other applicable law.

SECTION 2  JURISDICTION

These Rules apply to all laying, construction, maintenance or repair of facilities within Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way.

SECTION 3  PURPOSE

The purpose of these Rules is to protect the public, to maintain safe and efficient operating regulations, and to preserve and maintain the integrity of Harris County and Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way, during the laying, construction, maintenance and/or repair of facilities.

SECTION 4  CONSTRUCTION OF RULES

The Code Construction Act of Texas (Chapter 311 of the Texas Government Code) applies for the purpose of construing these Rules unless an alternative instruction,
definition, or application is contained herein. These Rules must be liberally construed to give affect to its purpose.

SECTION 5    DEFINITIONS

As used in these Rules, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

A. “County Engineer” means the County Engineer of Harris County, Texas or any employee authorized by said County Engineer to act on his or her behalf.

B. “Facility” means any pipeline, main, conduit, cable, utility line, pole line, sewer line, water line, outfall pipe or any other structure other than a driveway/culvert as outlined in the Regulations of Harris County, Texas, for the Construction of Driveways and/or Culverts on County Easements and Rights of Way. A turn lane and median cut are included in this definition. Not included in this definition are service taps from a mainline (water, sewer, gas or cable) serving a single-family residence.

C. “High Pressure Pipeline” means any pipeline designed to transport a liquid or gas at a pressure equal to or in excess of 60 pounds per square inch.

D. “Landscaping” means the placement of trees, shrubs, or plants for the purpose of beautification of an esplanade(s) or other portion(s) within a County right-of-way.

E. “Master-Planned Community” means a subdivision equal to or greater than 1,000 acres.
F. "Monument" means any sign displaying a subdivision name or other type of name usually placed at the entrance of a subdivision in Harris County Right of Way. This definition does not include signs on private property or traffic control signs. Message boards or electronic displays are prohibited.

G. "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, joint venture or other legal entity.

H. "Right-of-way" means the area covered by a Harris County road or drainage feature, or a Harris County Flood Control District drainage or flood control feature, regardless of whether it is dedicated to the public or is owned by Harris or the Harris County Flood Control District in fee or by easement.

I. "Right-of-way Corner Cut Back" means corner cut-backs of right-of-way at street intersections are necessary to provide sufficient public space for pedestrian sidewalk facilities and ramps (compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act – ADA and Texas Accessibility Standards-TAS), traffic control devices, street signs, street lighting, traffic signal equipment, and all surface encroachments which could prevent the future installation of such equipment within the cut-back area. Refer to the Geometric Design Guidelines for Subdivision Streets, Harris County and City of Houston.

J. "Utility" for the purposes of these Rules, utility and facility and infrastructures are interchangeable.
SECTION 6  CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

No person shall enter upon land acquired, claimed or maintained by Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District as right-of-way for the purpose of laying, construction, maintenance or repair of any facility involving the disturbance of the soil, until the County Engineer certifies that all requirements set forth in Section 7 have been met. All County projects are exempt from these regulations.

SECTION 7  NOTICE

The following must be submitted to comply with Section 6:

1. A completed Harris County Notification on the form prepared and provided by the Harris County Engineer;

2. Three (3) complete sets of drawings detailing the work to be completed. The drawings shall clearly show compliance with these Rules, including but not limited to those set forth in Section 10 (Vegetation Management), and compliance with all Federal and State Rules. Traffic control plans shall be submitted for turn lanes and other construction activity requiring a lane closure. Approval from the County Engineer must be shown on all drawings for the proposed construction of public utility lines (water, sewer, storm sewer and force mains) and other construction activity (turn lanes, median cuts) including traffic control plans prior to submittal for permitting;

3. A bond in the appropriate amount as outlined in Table II unless said bond is already on file with the County Engineer;

4. A fee in the amount outlined in Table I;
5. An Approval Certification from the Harris County Flood Control District on the drawings if proposed construction involves an encroachment or crossing of a Harris County Flood Control right-of-way. Aerial crossings shall be exempt from this requirement.

A person may enter upon land acquired, claimed or maintained by Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District to make immediate repairs to a facility where work must be completed to prevent damage to the Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way. However, notice in compliance with the provisions of this subsection must be given as practicable.

SECTION 8  PROHIBITED ACTIVITY

I.

No person shall lay, construct, maintain or repair facilities in such a manner as to interfere with the construction, maintenance or repair of any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way. In the event that any such facility interferes in any manner with the construction, maintenance or repair of any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way, the person in control of the facility shall alter the facility no later than thirty (30) days after notice from the County Engineer and bear the cost and expense of any change or alteration.

II.

No person shall lay, construct, maintain or repair facilities in such a manner as to interfere with the use of or obstruct any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control
District right-of-way. No landscaping higher than thirty (30) inches at mature growth and no monuments shall be placed in the right-of-way corner cut back.

III.

No person shall lay, construct, maintain, or repair facilities in such a manner as to constitute a danger or hazard of any kind to persons or vehicles using or maintaining any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way, or any public property located within the boundaries of the right-of-way.

IV.

The operation of construction or maintenance equipment on the traveled surface of any improved County road is prohibited unless the laying, construction, maintenance or repair of utilities cannot be accomplished by any other method. In such instances, the equipment shall use rubber tires on said traveled surfaces.

SECTION 9　CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

I.

All utilities that cross improved Harris County roads shall be either jacked, tunneled, bored or driven under the road for the full width of the improved portion of the road. Improved County roads, as used within this subsection, are defined as any road surfaced with a material other than dirt. The improved portion is considered as that portion of the road lying between the front slope of each ditch, or on curb and gutter sections, the area lying between the back of each curb.
All underground utilities, except high pressure pipelines, that cross Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way shall be installed at the greater of the three following depths:

a) at least four (4) feet below the crown of a County road;
b) two (2) feet below the bottom of the ditches on each side of a County road; or
c) five (5) feet below the ultimate channel depth of a Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way.

Such depth distances shall be measured from the top of such utilities to the bottom of the road ditch, crown of the road, or Harris County Flood Control right-of-way, as the case may be; unless by reason of proposed or anticipated changes in the grade of such Harris County or Harris County Flood Control right-of-way the County Engineer may determine that a greater depth is advisable.

On curb and gutter sections, all utilities that cross County roads shall be installed at a minimum of two (2) feet below the bottom of the slab at the gutters. Such depth distance shall be measured from the top of such utility to the bottom of the slab at the gutter. However, in particular instances where it is determined by the County Engineer that a greater depth is required, such utility shall be installed at the depth required by the County Engineer.

II.

All utilities, except high-pressure pipelines, parallel to and within the right-of-way of any County road shall be laid, constructed, maintained and/or repaired at a distance of not less than four (4) feet from the edge of the road. The distance shall be calculated from the portion of the road considered as the normal traveling surface to the nearest side of
such utilities. All utilities shall be laid, constructed, maintained and repaired in the area considered as the front slope of the ditch where practical. These underground installations shall be at such depth so as to provide a minimum of two (2) feet of cover above the top of the buried structure.

On curb and gutter sections, all utilities paralleling the road should be a minimum four (4) feet behind back of curb.

Utilities shall not run parallel to Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way unless the construction and design is approved by the District. The District may require whatever measures are necessary, including the digging of weep holes in dirt piles, to protect its right-of-way.

All utilities constructed, maintained or repaired above any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way shall be a minimum of twenty (20) feet above the ground or as determined by the County Engineer.

III.

In all cases where dirt is piled along the side of a trench out for laying, construction, maintenance or repair of utilities parallel with a road, weep holes shall be dug through such piles of dirt in order that water may drain from the roadbed and shoulders to the road ditches or back slope interceptors, as appropriate. Weep holes shall be dug according to the following specifications:

a) at intervals not to exceed two hundred (200) feet along such parallel construction, and

at all swags or low places in the roadbed of such County road;

b) to a depth of six (6) inches below the shoulder of such County road and a width of twelve (12) inches; and
c) to the road ditch, or to such an elevation that the bottom of the weep holes will discharge their water into the road ditch.

The weep holes must be maintained free of obstruction until construction is completed and the trench backfilled, tamped and leveled true to the original grade. If weep holes have not been properly constructed or maintained, operations shall cease until same are corrected.

The contractor shall maintain storm water flow in its pre-existing condition.

IV.

High-pressure pipelines crossing roads shall be installed at the greater of the following depths: minimum of six (6) feet below the crown of the road, and a minimum of three (3) feet below the bottom of the roadside ditch. In curb and gutter streets, the pipeline shall be installed a minimum of two (2) feet under the bottom of the slab at the gutter. All measurements are from the top of the pipe and/or casing. All high-pressure pipelines must be cased and vented or have the equivalent protection in the design. Bore pits for high pressure pipeline installation shall be a minimum of thirty (30) feet from the nearest through traffic lane and not less than twenty (20) feet from the edge of the pavement. A professional engineer licensed to practice in the State of Texas must seal all high-pressure pipeline drawings submitted and certify that the drawings meet all Federal and State requirements and guidelines for the specific design. High pressure pipelines crossing Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and require approval of the District.

V.
If the installation of any utility requires a repose angle with respect to the edge of the traveling surface of the county road that exceeds 33 degrees, 41 minutes, 24 seconds (1\(\frac{1}{2}\): 1 slope), the owner and/or operator shall furnish the County Engineer with soil testing laboratory reports indicating if sheeting is required to safely preserve the road. The tests shall be at the sole expense of the owner or operator. If reports indicate sheeting is required at various areas or for the entire length of a trench, the owner and/or operator at no expense to Harris County shall install it.

Spacing for soil tests shall be at one thousand (1,000) feet intervals unless soil conditions indicate tests should be made at shorter intervals or as directed by the County Engineer.

VI.

Written notice shall be given to the County Engineer and the appropriate Commissioner’s Precinct at least forty-eight (48) hours before laying, constructing, maintaining or repairing any utility, in, under, across or along any County road which involves disturbance of the soil for inspection purposes. The same notice shall be given to the Harris County Flood Control District if working in, under, across or along any Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way.

In cases of emergency requiring immediate maintenance or repair of any utility, oral notice may be given to the County Engineer and the appropriate Commissioner’s Precinct or to the Harris County Flood Control District, as appropriate, prior to any maintenance and/or repair.
A copy of the County Engineer’s certification under Section 6 of these regulations must be on site at all times. Failure to follow these procedures may result in shut down of the work.

VII.

Excavated spaces shall be properly backfilled as soon as possible. Properly backfilled means filled in such a manner that the compacted density is equal to or greater than that of the surrounding undisturbed soil. All backfill materials shall be free from large (greater than three [3] inches) or frozen lumps, wood or other extraneous material. The backfill shall be placed in uniform layers not to exceed ten (10) inches in depth (uncompacted measurement), and each layer shall be compacted. Dry backfill material shall be wetted uniformly and shall be compacted by means of mechanical rampers or rammers, except that the use of compaction equipment of the type generally used in compacted embankments will be permitted on those portions that are accessible to such equipment. The County Engineer may specify alternative backfill materials and methods on certain projects if deemed necessary. The backfilling shall be to the satisfaction of the County Engineer and the appropriate Commissioner’s Precinct, or the Harris County Flood Control District, as appropriate.

VIII.

Any pole line parallel to a county road shall be constructed with poles set no further than one (1) foot from the right-of-way line. Any deviation must have the written approval of the County Engineer.

IX.
All overhead road crossings shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the applicable provisions of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC).

X.

Except in cases of emergency, all maintenance or repair on utilities that lie within the Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way and which require disturbance of the soil, shall not be performed until the County Engineer certifies that all the requirements in Section 7 are met.

XI.

All underground road crossings shall be clearly and permanently marked, on each side of the right-of-way, with warning signs indicating owner and type of installation, where practical. Pipelines carrying water and domestic sewage are exempt from this requirement.

XII.

Monuments may be located at the main entrance to a subdivision and at secondary entrances. They must be within the boundaries of the subdivision/development they identify. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as restricting such authority as the County may have to remove or require the removal of any sign within the right-of-way, whether or not constructed or maintained in conformance with these regulations. One monument per allowed location is authorized within the median in subdivisions platted and recorded after January 1, 2005. Signs located on fences or fence-type walls may be allowed with no more than two signs per entrance. Monument signs will not be
located in the median if walls signs are used. Walls signs are not authorized if a median sign is approved. (Refer to Regulations of On-Premise Signs in the Area of Municipal Extraterritorial Jurisdiction in Harris County for wall sign permits). No free standing monument signs are allowed in the right-of-way corner cut back.

The maximum message area size is seventy-five (75) square feet. The size is measured by boxing in the subdivision name lettering and any associated symbols. The maximum monument height above top of curb is twelve (12) feet unless restricted by proximity to curb. See Figure 1 for proximity to curb requirements.

The monument shall be positioned such that it does not interfere with traffic visibility. Refer to the American Association of State and Highway Officials (AASHTO) for traffic visibility design criteria.

Monuments shall not be placed in the right-of-way corner cut back.

Monuments within master-planned communities may vary from these requirements provided they do not exceed the equivalent amount of signage and are approved by the County Engineer.

Monuments may be considered on medians of major thoroughfares provided that they meet all the requirements of these regulations and that the requestor dedicated the right-of-way and constructed the road.

From the nose of the esplanade maintain three-hundred-fifty (350) to four-hundred (400) feet of sight distance, based on three and one-half (3 ½) foot height of driver’s eye and thirty-five to forty (35-40) M.P.H. posted or actual vehicle speed. Along the entire esplanade, the edge of monument must be six (6) feet or greater from the inside edge of curb. No monuments with a height greater than three (3) feet measured from top of curb for (refer to figure 2):
1) thirty-five (35) feet from nose to esplanade and a ten (10) foot clearance on each side; or
2) fifty (50) feet from nose of esplanade and a nine (9) foot clearance on each side; or
3) one-hundred (100) feet from nose of esplanade and a seven (7) foot clearance on each side.

Monuments containing lights which are not effectively shielded as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled way from which the monument is primarily viewed and which are of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of the driver of any motor vehicle, or which otherwise interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle, are prohibited.

XIII. Any damage to any Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way, or structures on or in the right-of-way shall be repaired immediately and restored to the condition that existed before the damage took place. All repair or restoration shall be at the sole cost and expense of the owner or operator of such facility.

SECTION 10          VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

No utilities shall be laid, constructed, maintained or repaired in such a manner as to destroy, damage or remove any landscaping within the Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District rights-of-way unless prior approval has been received. To obtain approval, the drawings required in Section 7 must clearly show any existing landscaping
and any proposed modifications. Failure to follow this procedure may result in job shut
down at the discretion of the County Engineer. Any damaged or removed landscaping
must be replaced with an equivalent amount, size and quality at a location designated by
the County Engineer. Proper ground cover (turf grass) must be replaced when any
significant areas are disturbed and the ground cover removed.

If landscaping is proposed in the right-of-way, the minimum requirements must
be followed. Refer to Section 13 of Regulations of Harris County, Texas for the Approval
and Acceptance of Infrastructure for landscaping on private property.

At the nose of the esplanade, maintain three-hundred fifty (350) to four-hundred
(400) feet of sight distance, based on three and one-half (3 ½) foot height of driver’s eye
and thirty-five to forty (35-40) M.P.H. posted or actual vehicle speed. No plantings or
monuments with a height greater than three (3) feet measured from top of curb for
(refer to figure 2):

1) thirty-five (35) feet from nose to esplanade and a ten (10) foot
clearance on each side; or

2) fifty (50) feet from nose of esplanade and a nine (9) foot clearance on
each side; or

3) one-hundred (100) feet from nose of esplanade and a seven (7) foot
clearance on each side.

Trees or bushes should not be located within twenty-four (24) feet of any existing
and/or proposed traffic signal pole or controller, regulatory or warning signs, or other
traffic control devices. No tree or shrub plantings exceeding one and one-half (1 ½) feet
in height will be allowed within one-hundred -fifty (150) feet of a school crossing.

Along entire esplanade:
(1) Centerline of tree trunk must be six (6) feet or greater from the inside edge of curb.

(2) Tree branches shall be trimmed and maintained to a minimum of twenty-four (24) inches from inside of curb to a height of fifteen (15) feet from top of curb and in accordance with ANSI standards A-300 (American National Standards for Tree Care Operations.)

(3) No trees or plantings allowed within ten (10) feet of a fire hydrant. The fire hydrant should not be hidden from view from the street by vegetation or structures.

(4) Irrigation systems shall be positioned and directed so they do not spray upon the roadway or upon vehicles using the roadway systems.

(5) No landscaping shall be placed so as to interfere with the visibility triangle.

For specimen trees twelve (12) inch caliper and larger, the engineer will provide a tree removal and replacement plan with the construction plans. Auger or tunnel construction methods under selected specimen trees must be used to the extent practicable. Replacement trees should generally have a minimum diameter of three (3) inch caliper as established by the American Association of Nurserymen. Trees twelve (12) inches and larger should be replaced with smaller trees being no less than three (3) inch caliper and totaling the equivalent caliper diameter of the removed tree.

Replacement of trees should generally be the same type as the removed tree, unless directed otherwise by the County Engineer or appropriate Precinct designee during the plan review. Specimen trees located in the right-of-way and adjacent to the contractor's
work area are to be fenced with four (4)-foot high orange safety fencing. The limits of the fencing will be coordinated with a landscape professional and the appropriate Precinct designee and approved during plan review. Specimen trees smaller than twelve (12) inches will be transplanted within the County’s right-of-way as directed by the County Engineer or the appropriate Precinct designee during the plan review.

The engineer will utilize a Landscape Professional when necessary for the preparation of the tree removal and replacement plan. A Landscape Professional is defined to be an Urban Forester, licensed Landscape Architect, Certified Arborist or similar qualified professional.

SECTION 11 LIABILITY

The owner of any facility shall save and hold harmless Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District against any and all liability that arises or may arise from any activity the owner, its agents, servants, employees, and contractors may conduct on the premises.

SECTION 12 VARIANCES

The Harris County Public Infrastructure Department may approve a request for variance to these requirements based on sound engineering practice. Individuals requesting a variance shall do so in writing stating the provision(s) they want to vary from and why they need the requested variance. They must also explain how they will provide equivalent measures to the provision from which they wish to vary or why the requirement in the regulations is not applicable to their project.
SECTION 13  ENFORCEMENT

It is a violation of these Rules if a person fails to follow any of the above listed provisions. Entry upon Harris County or Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way is expressly conditioned upon compliance with these Rules and accurate representation to the County Engineer concerning the activity to be undertaken on Harris County of Harris County Flood Control District right-of-way. A violation of these Rules constitutes a Class C misdemeanor and the County Engineer may seek to obtain enforcement of said Rules in the appropriate Justice of the Peace Court. Additionally, the County Engineer may refer violations of these Rules to the County Attorney for injunctive relief and/or a civil penalty.

SECTION 14  VIOLATION OF CONDITIONS OF RULES

Any person having knowledge of a violation of these Rules may file a complaint with Commissioners’ Court. If the County Engineer or another County or District official files the complaint, the County Attorney will prosecute the complaint.

SECTION 15  CONTEMPT OF COMMISSIONERS’ COURT

Any person found violating these Rules constitutes contempt of Commissioners’ Court. Commissioners’ Court may punish contempt by fine or imprisonment in accord with the provisions of Section 81.024 of the Texas Local Government Code, as amended. Any person authorized by the County Engineer to lay, construct, maintain, or repair facilities within Harris County does so on the representation to Commissioners’ Court that he will comply with these Rules and other County Regulations. Violations of such representations constitute contempt of Commissioners’ Court. If Commissioners’ Court
finds the defendant guilty of contempt, it will enter such Orders consistent with general law necessary to enforce and protect its jurisdiction over the matter, and to uphold the integrity of these Rules. Such Orders are enforceable by civil or criminal contempt. Procedures for contempt proceedings before Commissioners’ Court will be consistent with procedures in actions before other courts in this State for enforcement of Court Orders, and for the protection of the jurisdiction of Courts by the process of contempt.

SECTION 16  SEVERABILITY

If any provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of these Rules might otherwise be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, it should be construed as being limited in scope and apply to only those circumstances to which it can legally apply. To the extent that any provision or part thereof is still found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect it shall not affect any other provision.
# RULES OF HARRIS COUNTY AND THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES

WITHIN HARRIS COUNTY AND HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RIGHTS-OF-WAY

## TABLE 1 - FEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES WITHOUT STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduit installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitor well installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipeline installation without statutory authorization</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turn Lane or Median Crossing</td>
<td>$150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outfall to HCFCD ROW</td>
<td>$150.00 Per Outfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hike and Bike Trail/Sidewalk</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditch extensions</td>
<td>$1.00/Linear Foot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>$150.00 Per Bridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Irrigation per Right of Way installation</td>
<td>$0.25/Linear Foot $150.00 Per Crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monumentation sign</td>
<td>$150.00 Per Sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES WITH STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION</strong>:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspection Fee</td>
<td>No fee No Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No fees are assessed to owners of these facilities</td>
<td>No fee No Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FACILITIES DEFINED AS COMMON CARRIER PIPELINES:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Owners of facilities herein described as high pressure lines, having statutory authorization are assessed an annual fee of $10 for each crossing of the County roads now in existence or that may be made in the future and $10 per parallel mile or fraction thereof.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The proceeds of such fee(s) are to be applied to defray the expense of the County Engineer, his employees and contractors, in making inspections of new construction across, under or along the County roads, to determine that all safety requirements have been met in such new pipeline construction and the making of periodic inspections of the present condition in which such pipelines are being maintained in, under, along or across such public roads.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Does not apply to Harris County Flood Control rights-of-way.
August 4, 2014

Commissioner Court
Administration Building
Houston, TX 77002

RE: Recommendation that the fee set forth in the Rules of Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District for the Construction of Facilities within Harris County and Harris County Flood Control District Rights of Way, Table 1 – Fees, be reduced from $1.00 per linear foot to $0.50 per linear foot for the Houston Parks Board’s Bayou Greenways Initiative, which includes hike and bike trails and sidewalks.

Dear Court Members:

Recommendation that fee set forth in the Rules of Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District for the Construction of Facilities within Harris County and Harris County Flood Control District Rights of Way, Table 1 – Fees, be reduced from $1.00 per linear foot to $0.50 per linear foot for the Houston Parks Board’s (HPB) Bayou Greenways Initiative which includes hike and bike trails and sidewalks.

The Houston Parks Board (HPB) has requested a reduction to the fee to obtain a right-of-way (ROW) notification permit based on total linear footage of hike and bike trails they will be constructing within HCFCD ROW.

Identified as the Bayou Greenways Initiative, the HPB has funding and plans to build approximately 70 miles of hike and bike trails within the next 7 years, with the majority planned inside HCFCD ROW. The current fee of $1.00 per linear foot for Hike and Bike Trail/Sidewalk is set forth in Table I – Fees of the Rules of Harris County and the Harris County Flood Control District for the Construction of Facilities within Harris County and Harris County Flood Control District Rights of Way.

These fees are in place to offset the cost incurred for the approval and acceptance process for a proposed facility to be constructed in Harris County or HCFCD ROW. Considering the fact that trails are solely linear projects and redundant in many ways, the $1.00 per linear foot fee for the notification/permit can easily exceed the cost incurred for review, approval and acceptance of these projects.

It is therefore recommended that the fee for these HPB hike and bike trail projects be reduced from $1.00 per linear foot to $0.50 per linear foot, which is considered sufficient to cover the cost of review, approval, and acceptance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Michael D. Talbott, P.E.
Director

MDT: DTM: cg

081214 AGENDA HPB FEE REDUCTION.DOCX
RULES OF HARRIS COUNTY AND THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES WITHIN HARRIS COUNTY AND HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT RIGHTS-OF-WAY

TABLE II - BONDS

BOND AMOUNT

- $5,000.00 Per Road Crossing
- $8.00 Per Linear Foot, other than irrigation
- $2.00 per foot for irrigation line installation in Right of Way
- $5,000.00 per Drainage Outfall into a District Easement

Bond amounts for construction activity (median cuts, turn lanes, ditch extensions, bridge, etc.) are 75% of the construction cost.

TYPE OF BONDS

One of the following bonds payable to Harris County shall accompany such application as described in Section 3: A bond with two good and sufficient personal sureties, a corporate surety bond or a personal bond, if acceptable to the Commissioners’ Court of Harris County, Texas, acting in its sole discretion upon proof being furnished to the satisfaction of said Court as to the financial responsibility of such individual or entity desiring to make such crossing and/or crossings, for each crossing of such facility over a County road or Flood Control District right-of-way or for each one mile or part of one mile such facility runs parallel with and within the boundaries of such County road or Flood Control District right-of-way.

In the event the construction of one continuous facility is to be made in, over, across and along several County road or Flood Control District rights-of-way, one such bond covering all construction of such facility in, under, across or along the several County road or Flood Control District rights-of-way affected by such continuous facility construction.

One perpetual bond, executed solely by such individual or entity, if acceptable to the Commissioners’ Court of Harris County, Texas, acting in its sole discretion, upon proof being furnished to the satisfaction of said Court as to the financial responsibility of such individual or entity; such perpetual bond to cover all facilities thereafter laid across or along any County road or Flood Control District rights-of-way in Harris County, Texas under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner’s Court of Harris County, Texas

The amount and terms of each of the above bonds shall be determined by the schedule above or the County Engineer of Harris County, Texas and each of the above bonds shall be conditioned on the utility or utilities covered thereby being constructed, maintained and repaired so as to comply with the herein established minimum requirements and conditions for such laying, constructing, maintaining and repairing of such utility or utilities in, under, across and along such County road or Flood Control District rights-of-way.

BOND FORMS

All bond forms are to be promulgated by the County Engineer of Harris County, Texas.
FIGURE 1

MAXIMUM SIGN HEIGHT

SIGN HEIGHT SHALL NOT EXCEED A PROJECTED 45 DEGREE ANGLE FROM THE EDGE OF CLOSEST CURB OR 12 FEET WHICH EVER IS LESS.

FIGURE 2

SIGN/VEGETATION SET BACK IN MEDIAN FROM NOSE OF ESPLANADE

APPLIES TO SIGN/VEGETATION EXCEEDING 3 FEET IN HEIGHT MEASURED FROM TOP OF CURB