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Hot Topic: The Relocation of City Utilities on a State Highway Project (2006)

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MTAS
**Municipal Technical
 Advisory Service**

*In cooperation with the
 Tennessee Municipal League*



November 15, 2006

THE RELOCATION OF CITY UTILITIES ON A STATE HIGHWAY PROJECT

Ron Darden, Municipal Management Consultant

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is now authorized to enter into agreements with cities to pay the costs of relocating water and sewer piping and appurtenances necessary for state highway projects. The specific regulations can be found in T.C.A. § 54-5-854.

Typically, TDOT provides the city with project drawings and requests that the city mark on them the approximate location of water and sewer mains and appurtenances and provide estimated costs and a schedule for relocating them. State statutes allow cities a maximum of 120 days to mark the drawings and develop a time schedule for relocation. The 120-day deadline is strictly enforced by TDOT. If your city does not meet the

deadline, it must bear the costs of relocating city utilities from the state rights-of-way. Some cities have already missed the deadline and will bear the entire cost.

MTAS recommends that cities establish a reliable method for receiving project drawings and notices in order to comply with the 120-day deadline. Refer the drawings to your consulting engineer, and do not file them away in a file cabinet. Failure to meet the deadline may unnecessarily cost your city millions of dollars in utility relocation expense.

For more information, contact your MTAS municipal management consultant.

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