

# STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT GUIDE

## CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA



**Public Works Department  
Engineering Services Division  
300 Sixth Street  
(605) 394-4154**

This document provides guidance on the current standards for the management of public and private Right-of-Way issues.

The City of Rapid City regulates all work in the Right-of-Way and on public property within the City of Rapid City jurisdictional limits through the City of Rapid City Municipal Codes.

The city **REQUIRES A PERMIT FOR ANY WORK** performed in the street of Right-of-Way, including:

- **planting of trees, shrubs or vegetation**
- **installation of landscape materials, timbers, rocks, planters, or permanent irrigation systems**
- **construction or alteration of any street, sidewalk, curb and gutter, or driveway approach**
- **installation of a mailbox or mailbox support**
- **installation or construction of utility lines or services**

Approved permits shall be upon forms furnished by the City Engineering Division.

**Possessing a City building permit DOES NOT grant permission to work within the public Right-of-Way.**

Work performed without an approved permit or work not in compliance with Code may be required to be removed at the expense of the abutting property owner. The City may elect to remove such illegal work and charge the property owner a fee for removal, or may require the property owner to remove the illegal work.

### **INSPECTION**

The City will furnish an inspector, whose duties shall be to check placement and alignment, to check materials, and to see that the work is completed in accordance with the City of Rapid City Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction, current edition (Standard Specifications).

City inspection is provided Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Work done without an inspection is subject to removal to the extent necessary to establish that it meets Code.

## **GENERAL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

### **1. APPROACHES**

All approaches constructed, relocated, widened, or altered in any way shall be in compliance with the following conditions:

In residential areas, the approach openings **shall not be less than 12 feet and no more than 30 feet wide**, exclusive of the curb tapers.

In commercial and industrial areas, the approach width **shall not be less than 16 feet and no more than 28 feet wide**, exclusive of the curb tapers or radius returns.

Those properties with frontage on two streets shall be limited to one approach along the less-traveled street.

**Existing approach locations and/or approach widths under a prior land use may be invalid under a new land use or a change in traffic volume.** The City Engineering Division may require the relocation, revision, or elimination of existing approaches under such conditions.

No approach shall be located so as to present a hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic or to interfere with intersecting sidewalks or to invite or compel illegal or unsafe vehicular movements.

No approach shall be located within 5 feet of an existing utility or within 5 feet of an adjacent property line.

The location of approaches to properties on opposite sides of the roadway shall be coordinated so they do not interfere with each other. Approaches will be located directly opposite each other whenever possible. The person doing the construction or alteration work (Contractor) shall maintain adequate traffic control in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The Contractor shall remove all debris, dirt, or other construction materials immediately upon completion of the work and shall hold the City free from any damages incurred by his operation.

## 2. LANDSCAPING

- **No tree or shrub shall be planted** or allowed to grow **within 3 feet of the back of the curb** or where **there is less than 8 feet between the curb and sidewalk**.
- No tree or shrub shall be planted within **10 feet of a utility without approval by the Public Works Director**.
- **No tree or shrub shall be planted or allowed to grow so driver line of sight or so any traffic sign or signal is obscured**. This includes appropriate intersection and driveway sight distance triangles.
- Any tree, shrub, or landscaping that is determined by the Rapid City Engineering Division to obscure the vision of a vehicle traveling on the street of alley **shall be trimmed or removed at the cost of the abutting property owner**.
- **No plant deemed noxious or unacceptable by the Superintendent of Parks shall be planted** within the Right-of-Way.
- **Permanent irrigation systems** may be installed by the abutting property owner at his cost. **A PERMIT IS REQUIRED**. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, repair, replace, or relocate such systems at this own cost.
- Permanent irrigation systems shall be constructed so that the irrigation water is directed onto the vegetated parkway and not onto the street or sidewalk.
- No underground irrigation mains shall be constructed parallel to underground utilities facilities within **5 feet (1.5m)** of the utility.

## 3. STRUCTURES

- **No mailbox shall be installed that does not meet current US Postal Regulations**. Masonry, steel, wooden, or other non-breakaway mailbox support structures that constitutes an **endangerment** or obstruction to the public using the Right-of-Way will not be permitted.
- **No sign, utility pole, box, or other such structure shall be installed** within 25' from point of intersection or where there is less than current desirable **clear zone** separation between the back of the curb and the near edge of the sign, utility pole, box, or other such structure.

- The person (Contractor) doing the construction or alteration shall **maintain the premises in a safe manner**. They shall provide adequate barricades, signing, and lighting in conformance with the City's Standard Specifications. Debris, dirt, or other construction materials shall be removed immediately upon completion of the work. The City shall be held free from any damages incurred by this operation.
- **No fence, wall, ramp, stairs, sign, or other such structure** shall be constructed within the Right-of-Way.

## 4. UTILITIES

Utility mains, services, and facilities shall be located within the **corridors**, both horizontal and vertical, allotted for such utility. Wandering or deviation from the allotted corridor or permitted alignment will not be allowed. Utilities that deviate from the allotted or permitted corridor shall be removed or replaced if a conflict should ever arise.

## 5. SIDEWALK REPAIR & REPLACEMENT

The adjacent property owner is responsible for the maintenance and repair of sidewalks in the Right-of-Way. Badly deteriorated or spalled sidewalks or sidewalks with cracks, holes, projections, or depressions are potential hazards.

Cracks, projections, or depressions  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch or greater are considered candidates for replacement. Sidewalks with depressions that collect water/ice in the winter are also hazards and shall be replaced or reconstructed.

The City will require all such repairs to public sidewalks be made and may elect to notify the adjacent property owner to make the necessary repairs or may elect to cause the repairs to be made and charge the property owner a fee.

