

## MOTION

On November 15, 2019, the City Council authorized the use of micro-trenching as a low-impact method of installing underground utilities. While micro-trenching provides companies with a less-invasive method of installing utilities, including fiber lines for high speed internet, additional methods of utility installation that could expedite deployment and lower costs for users continue to be developed and improved.

Like micro-trenching, horizontal directional drilling, also known as directional boring, is a method of installing underground utilities, which has been made simpler and more affordable by improving technologies and equipment. Directional boring is a trenchless method of utility installation in which a pit is excavated and an underground path is drilled for the placement of utility lines. Compared to the standard open trench excavation methods, which require making long cuts into roads in order to dig trenches for the installation of utility connections, these alternative methods minimize the area that must be cut into the road.

These newer methods of deploying telecommunication utilities have the potential to reduce utility installations' impacts on the City's system of sidewalks and roads, while also enabling businesses to deploy enhanced utilities at a fraction of the cost, allowing for higher speed connectivity for our residents.

The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) is the City's permitting agency that issues all permits for utility installations which require work within the public right-of-way and typically involve cutting into the City's roads, curbs, and sidewalks. BOE has been working to develop standards for newer methods of utility installations, including directional boring, which would allow for more cost-effective utility installations, while ensuring the integrity of our City's infrastructure.

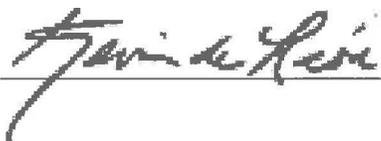
The City of Los Angeles should continue to encourage industry innovation that leads to less-invasive methods of utility deployment. As BOE continues to develop new standards for alternative utility installation methods, it is important that the Council be kept aware of their work in order to effect any City policy changes necessary for their implementation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be instructed to report to the City Council on the development of standards for directional boring and similar utility installation methods and to include recommendations if any code or policy changes are needed to facilitate the implementation and development of new City utility installation standards.

PRESENTED BY:

  
BOB BLUMENFIELD  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



MAR 16 2021

maj  
