

Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee / Florida Department of Transportation  
Working Groups – NexGen Plans Non-Standing Subcommittee  
DRAFT Summary of Needs Letter

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April X, 2024

X  
Florida Department of Transportation  
X  
Tallahassee, Florida x

X,

This letter serves to provide you follow-up on the Florida Utilities Coordination Committee (FUCC) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the NexGen Working Groups. As you are aware, the plans and their detail play a pivotal role in providing a comprehensive plan view of the project, highlighting the precise location of existing, proposed and relocated utilities. The need for certain information to be provided in certain ways is indispensable for the proper identification of potential conflicts to the multitude of utilities within the FDOT's right-of-way that could substantially impacted by the project. This approach is crucial for optimizing coordination efforts effectively and the need for an agreeable format is outlined in the FDOT's Utility Accommodation Manual in Section 5.1.2.

As agreed upon, FUCC and FDOT has established three (3) workings groups: Large Format Plans / Utility Adjustment Sheets, Drainage and Roadway Cross Sections and Permitting. These working groups have been working together for the last three (3) months to identify the critical needs from industry to ensure the industry has the information they to appropriately need to review the FDOT's plans and, in turn, provide a response. Through the course of each of these meetings, the working groups have met, brainstormed, discussed concerns and ideas, and work to determine the root needs in working groups' topic.

One of the most overwhelming concerns is the approaching deadline of the sunsetting of the 11" x 17" format at the end of 2024. During these working groups meetings, it has come up that the FDOT is looking at this deadline and is reviewing pushing this out further as it reviews feedback from not only the Utility Industry, but also other facets of industry. We strongly request that additional time to be given to not only to afford the FDOT time to review and address the concerns presented herein, but also, to give the utility industry the appropriate time to prepare for the changes presented by the model-centric approach that has not previously been afforded to them.

The following outlines the Summary of Needs from each working group and are listed herein for reference:

**GROUP # 1 - LARGE FORMAT PLANS / UTILITY ADJUSTMENT SHEETS**

- Utility Adjustment Sheets to be provided at the 11" x 17" format as standard for utility coordination purposes
- Information provided on the Utility Information Sheet follows the minimum information as shown on the 2024 FDM Exhibit 923-1
- FDM Exhibit 923-1 should include an example of a proposed line with labeling
- Updated language in FDM 923.2, Second Paragraph, Second Sentence: Other proposed design elements should also be shown **that impact utilities, such as overhead sign or mast arms.**
- Consider providing an FDM Exhibit 923-2 of a Base Utility Adjustment Sheet with base information showing what should be included on the sheet prior to utility coordination activities

**GROUP #2 - DRAINAGE AND ROADWAY CROSS SECTIONS**

- Display the utilities in the Drainage Profiles (similar to the old Drainage Structure Sections) in addition to the Utility Conflict Nodes
  - This would allow UAOs to evaluate offset distances to their pipe
- VVH / Test Holes in Drainage Profile
  - Adjust utilities shown in profile based on the test hole data and labeling the test hole information
- Expanded Use of the drainage structure sections and guidance when required
- Ensure that the Final Plans Delivery Process to Utilities Includes the separate Cross Section File/PDF that is no longer included in the Roadway Plans
- With expanded use of the iTWINS model to view the 3D models, there will be training available via YouTube videos on how to navigate system and turn layers on and off. This will be critical to help guide the industry in viewing the model.

**GROUP #3 - PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS**

- Resolution of the Large Format and Drainage/Roadway Cross Section Groups concerns

It is our understanding that the FDOT will take the aforementioned needs for further consideration within the Department for review on how they can be addressed or incorporated into standards (if applicable) or, if there is an accommodation made, is it permanent or is there a timeframe associated to the accommodation. The results of your internal discussions would be sent back and/or presented back to the FUCC to be shared with membership.

We appreciate your partnership in this effort to work towards a set of plans that continues work towards the goals of the FDOT, but also enhances the efficiency of coordination efforts, contributing to the overall success of our projects. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining the highest standards.

Sincerely,

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