



Permit Streamlining Report and Model Ordinance

April 26, 2024

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History of the Permit Streamlining Project

- **SoCal Transformation**
 - Established in 2020
 - Involves Public, Private, Non-Profit Sectors
 - Topics: Infrastructure, Adoption, Legislation, Funding and **Permitting**
- **SCAG and SANDAG tasked with solving permitting issues**
- **SANDAG – Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce (ReDIT)**
 - Launched in **February 2022**
- **State of California – Local Permitting Playbook**
 - Completed in **August of 2022**
- **SCAG – Permit Streamlining Report and Ordinance**
 - Kicked-off in **December of 2022**

Outreach

- Regional Digital Infrastructure Taskforce (ReDIT)
- Interviews with ISPs
- Interviews with Local Jurisdictions

10 core problems identified

1. Permit Fees
2. Extra Fees
3. Inclusive Zoning Practices
4. Public and utility facilities
5. Dedicated Staff
6. Broadband Permit Processors for Small Jurisdictions
7. Enhanced utility mapping
8. Online Permit Applications
9. Prioritize Administrative and Ministerial Reviews
10. Standardized Broadband Ordinance

List of Best Practices and Recommended Solutions

- **Prescriptive (Applied by other Jurisdictions)**

- Traditional Fiber Deployment
- Micro trenching
- Aerial Fiber
- Small Cell Densification
- Macro New Site Build

- **Administrative (Recommended)**

- Cross Coordination Between Neighboring Local Jurisdictions
- Formation of Joint Powers Authority
- Hiring staff or consultant, leveraging COGs
- Inclusive Zoning Practices
- Permit Fees

Model Ordinance

- Bulk of core problems are resolved in the ordinance
 - 7 out of the 10 issues have been resolved
 - 3 outstanding issues **cannot be resolved** in an ordinance
 - Universal Permit Fees
 - Broadband Permit Processors in Regional Authority
 - Enhanced Utility Mapping
- **3 main chapters**
 - Chapter 1 – Traditional Wireless Facilities Permitting
 - Chapter 2 – Small Wireless Facilities in the Public Rights of Way
 - Chapter 3 – Underground and Aerial Fiber Development

Design Standards, Flowchart, Application Checklist

- Ordinance provides **clear design standards** for:
 - Wireless and wirelines installation
 - Micro trenching
 - Drilling
 - Boring
 - This includes sample schematics for Micro trenching
- Clear visual representation/flow chart for permit process
- Application checklist to **guide** staff and developer

Core problems resolved by the Ordinance

- The model ordinance
- Administrative Review Process
- Exclusion of Extra Fees
- Elimination of Restrictive Zoning
- Utilization of Public and Utility Facilities
- Dedicated Staff for Permit Review
- Online Permit Applications with Batch Processing
- **Readers can refer to the designated page and section numbers to navigate directly to the proposed solutions addressing the fundamental issues.**

Next Steps

- Soft Release (still Final) – End of May
- Final Release – June to August
- Board Presentation
 - SANDAG – June or July 2024
 - SCAG – August 2024
- Addendum?
 - Resolve 3 remaining issues
 - Address CEQA
- Outreach
 - **The Grand Tour***
 - Conferences (i.e, APA)



THANK YOU!

For more information, please visit:

Broadband Planning: scag.ca.gov/broadband

Or Contact Roland Ok, Planning Supervisor: ok@scag.ca.gov