



June 1, 2021

Attention UDI ER Members,

Local telecommunication companies have made changes recently to their processes that will affect their servicing of new developments in the greater Edmonton area. The changes include updates to their design and engineering topography, material delivery methods, and adjustments to both visible above ground and below ground equipment that is installed. They have also introduced a third-party contractor who is responsible for the delivery of engineered communication designs, approvals, onsite inspections and material specifications and procurement within the development streetscape.

In addition to changes within the communication companies' servicing models, clearance requirements specified by various municipal departments are now readily available and need to be enforced. Particularly in higher density neighborhoods, this limits available space and increases the potential for conflicts between deep utilities, surface improvements, landscaping, power furniture, lighting fixtures, gas lines, communications, and especially driveways. Development coordination facilitates a coordinated submission of the various utility engineered designs, but this has historically excluded communication companies. Communication networks impact the developed streetscape in a significant way, there is on average roughly 1 TELUS *ped* and 1 SHAW *ped* for every 10 lots (2 *ped*s/10 lots). These ultimately reside in a City owned right of way permanently, so it is necessary that the City should have an opportunity to review the proposed networks before installation.

Hired contractors completing designs on behalf of the communication companies are also seeking a formalized review and approval process for their facilities. While it is the opinion of the UDI Shallow Utilities Committee that communication design companies need to be held accountable for their respective network designs, they should also be given clear direction from industry on expectations for a formal review process with other stakeholders. There also needs to be clear direction of the drawing approval process by the authorized approving body, typically the Municipality. Inclusion of communication designs in Edmonton's *Eplan* development coordination is a great opportunity for further coordination between **all** facility owners within the City ROW. This will limit conflicts into the future and enable a consistent streetscape, even in higher density neighborhoods. It is encouraged that the development industry push for communication company accountability and participation in *Eplan*, as they continue to play an important role in community design and evolution.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kayla Carnovale'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kayla Carnovale
UDI ER Shallow Utilities Chair