



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Technical Support
Utility Permits and Agreements Unit
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This letter is intended to provide guidelines for transmission line routing on or near Minnesota trunk highways. Please consider these factors when reviewing and planning new lines.

Clearance for existing structures

For all appurtenances within the right of way such as light standards, type-A traffic signs, Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) stations, etc., Mn/DOT will require a minimum vertical access zone of 10 feet plus an OSHA safety zone of 25 feet to allow for overhead maintenance of these structures. This 35 foot minimum vertical clearance is needed to accommodate boomed equipment.

Clear zone Requirements

Clear zone requirements must be met for any structure on Mn/DOT right of way.

Interchanges and separated grade crossings

Interchange areas are particularly important to keep clear of utilities due to bridge maintenance and construction requirements, increased presence of highway facilities, and traffic considerations. At ramped interchanges lateral crossings will be allowed at a minimum distance of 50 feet outside the interchange ramps. At interchanges with bridges over the highway, a safe distance for possible reconstruction or maintenance would need to be determined on a bridge by bridge basis. When bridges run parallel with the road, a minimum distance of 50 feet from the structures is required.

Conductor Movement Envelope a.k.a. “blow out” zone or area of influence

(The area that is affected by the sway of the line under wind and heat conditions)

Mn/DOT would prefer to keep all lines far enough from the right of way that this has no influence on the highway.

Crossings

As a general rule crossings are allowed. Mn/DOT prefers that they are perpendicular to the roadway.

Vegetation

Anywhere inside the right of way, whether vegetation exists or not, as a minimum requirement, vegetation must be allowed to attain a minimum height of 35 feet. A vegetation management plan must be worked out with each District.

Safety rest areas

Mn/DOT will not permit the physical location of utility lines or structures to encroach. The vegetation requirements remain in force at rest areas and may be of a more strict nature for aesthetic reasons.

Additional Factors

A Utility Permit from Mn/DOT is required for any line that would affect Mn/DOT right of way.

General placement for aerial lines is within the outer 5 feet of trunk highway right of way.

By Policy any utility placed within Mn/DOT trunk highway right of way by permit would be required to relocate at the owner's expense if future highway construction necessitated.

The entire Mn/DOT Utility Accommodation Policy is available at www.dot.state.mn.us/utility/files/pdf/appendix-b.pdf and needs to be adhered to.

For lines around rest areas contact the Safety Rest Area Program Manager at 651-366-4702.

For issues involving airports and their height clearances and restrictions contact Rick Braunig at 651-234-7230 or email at rick.braunig@state.mn.us.

Mn/DOT's main contact for Transmission Line Route Coordination is Stacy Kotch. I can be reached at 651-366-4635 or by email at Stacy.Kotch@state.mn.us.

Mn/DOT District contacts are:

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Sincerely,

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Line Coordinator