

AUDIT SCOPE STATEMENT – June 26, 2023

Implementation of Utility Street Cut Restoration Standards

Background

The city spent over \$45 million dollars in fiscal year 2023 rebuilding and resurfacing city streets. Utility companies place or access utilities under city streets. This involves cutting a hole in the pavement and digging out fill material under the street (street cuts). City code requires utility companies to obtain a permit prior to making a street cut and then restore the street according to city standards. The Public Works Department inspects street cuts and street restorations.

In August of 2021, the City Council passed Ordinance 210692 to revise and improve the city's standards, design criteria, and requirements for street cut restorations. The revised standards:

- Increased the width of required pavement resurfacing depending on the age of the street.
- Combined areas of restoration when street cuts are close together.
- Increased the length of pavement overlay based on the percentage of street cuts and the age of the street.
- Added sealing of concrete pavement.

Why audit the Street Cut program?

Better street maintenance is a top priority for residents. Street cuts can decrease pavement smoothness and safety, cause pavement to degrade faster, and a shorter pavement lifespan increases city costs for resurfacing and rebuilding city streets. Assessing compliance with the recent changes in street cut restoration requirements can help identify areas for improvement early in their implementation to help ensure a longer useful life for city streets.

Audit objective

Our objective is to answer the following question:

- Are street cuts restored according to the new requirements in city code?

Audit methods

We will review city code and the Public Works Department's policies, procedures, and specifications to identify street restoration requirements. We will interview city staff to understand permit and inspection processes and data. We will also visually inspect a sample of street cuts that passed restoration inspections after March 13, 2022, and evaluate whether street restoration requirements are being followed.

Anticipated release date

We plan to issue the audit report in September 2023.



**KANSAS CITY
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Office of the City Auditor

Douglas Jones, CGAP, CIA, CRMA – City Auditor
21st Floor, City Hall, 414 E. 12th St.
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

816-513-3300

cityauditor@kcmo.org

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