



Gold Shovel Standard®

Prevent. Empower. Protect.

Municipal and Public Adoption of Gold Shovel Standard

A Gold Shovel Standard Community is a geographic area or region where partnerships happen that reduce risk of damages to buried assets found there, preventing life-threatening damages. Networks traversing Gold Shovel Standard Communities are expected to be at reduced risk from line strikes.

In Gold Shovel Standard Communities, excavation work is reserved for those demonstrating excellence in caution around buried infrastructure. In a Gold Shovel Standard Community, permits and right-of-way grants for projects with excavation are typically reserved for those demonstrating caution.

Most municipalities can take the initial steps towards full Gold Shovel Standard implementation with little difficulty, regardless of whether they operate under federal or state statutes, or under city ordinances derived from the city's charter and city council. Listed below are six ways that a municipality might embrace Gold Shovel Standard.

Permits

Permits are generally required when tapping sewer and water for construction (or for a whole host of other construction activities that include excavation). It is a reasonable step to ask homeowners or developers to hire GSS Certified plumbers or contractors as part of the permitting process. Even if not a strict requirement, it is possible to send homeowners and developers an impactful message by supplying a list of certified companies and asking them to select from that collection of certified companies, or ask them to ask firms they select to become GSS Certified. Frequently, this step is as simple as adding the following question to a permit application: "if excavation is involved, will you be using a Gold Shovel Standard Certified contractor? Yes / No"

Franchise Rights Within City Streets

There are lots of requests for infrastructure installation within municipal territories, and in many cases the city can often architect both the terms of those franchise rights or their renewal. Most cities may grant franchises to entities seeking to furnish light, water, power, heat, transportation or communication services in the city to allow use of city streets for such purposes. Many cities are experiencing a lot of fiber companies competing in a concerted effort to install fiber. While high speed fiber installation is usually a good and desirable thing for city residents, that effort to install it has also been associated with a lot of careless behavior, all too often sacrificing safety for speed. Cities can, and should, apply Gold Shovel Standard requirements as part of the franchise rights associated with permission to install utilities.



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Take a Leadership Role With Internal Crews

Many municipal partners take a leadership role in demonstrating their commitment to public and workforce safety by having their own internal crews Gold Shovel Standard certified. GSS assists municipal partners in obtaining certification, providing the necessary consulting at no cost to the city.

Requiring Prime Contractors With the City To Be Compliant as Part of a Bid Solicitation

In most municipal situations, the legal requirements surrounding open, fair and transparent tenders necessitate thoughtfulness about requiring bidders for municipal projects to be certified (in anything, including GSS). Depending on the structure of the municipality, any pre-bid requirements are frequently set by the City Council, and adjustments to those pre-bid requirements may need City Council involvement. In some jurisdictions, pre-bid requirements are very challenging to implement. In other circumstances, engineering specifications could require Gold Shovel Standard compliance, with little difficulty. The program would typically work with the City Attorney to make sure the city steers clear of any conflicts with statute, depending on the contracting method chosen, and whether insertion of requirements is part of the engineering specification, or as part of a bidders' requirement.

City's Prime Contractors Require Certification of Subs

Generally speaking, a city contracts with its prime vendor, and a separate contract extends between the city's prime and any of the prime's sub-contractors. In most cases, it is wholly acceptable within statute for a city to require that subcontractors of its prime be compliant with a variety of stipulations. A requirement for a city's prime vendor to use GSS certified subcontractors is a contract between the prime and sub -- not between a city and the prime -- and can be easily implemented.

Emergency Suppliers List

A city is often allowed to directly select vendors for emergency work (and sometimes for work that falls below a specific dollar threshold), without a bid solicitation and the statutes that apply to those solicitations. That emergency bidders list almost always includes the same entities that respond to bid solicitations. The municipality is often quite able to create conditions as a pre-requisite for being part of an emergency bidders list.



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Gold Shovel Standard works to *Prevent* life-threatening damages, *Empower* field teams to operate safely, and *Protect* excavation crews and the public.

Get more information by visiting
www.GoldShovelStandard.org

