



# Permitting for Communications Infrastructure

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Community Technology & Telecommunications Commission

June 14, 2017

# Purpose of Briefing

Permit Process by Department:

- Austin Transportation Department, R.O.W Management Division
- Development Services Department
- Austin Energy



# Permitting for Communications Infrastructure

## Current



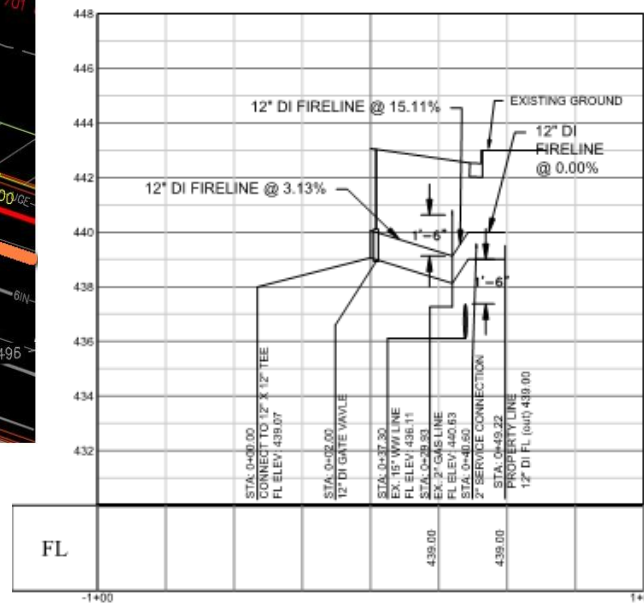
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# ATD-ROW Utility Coordination

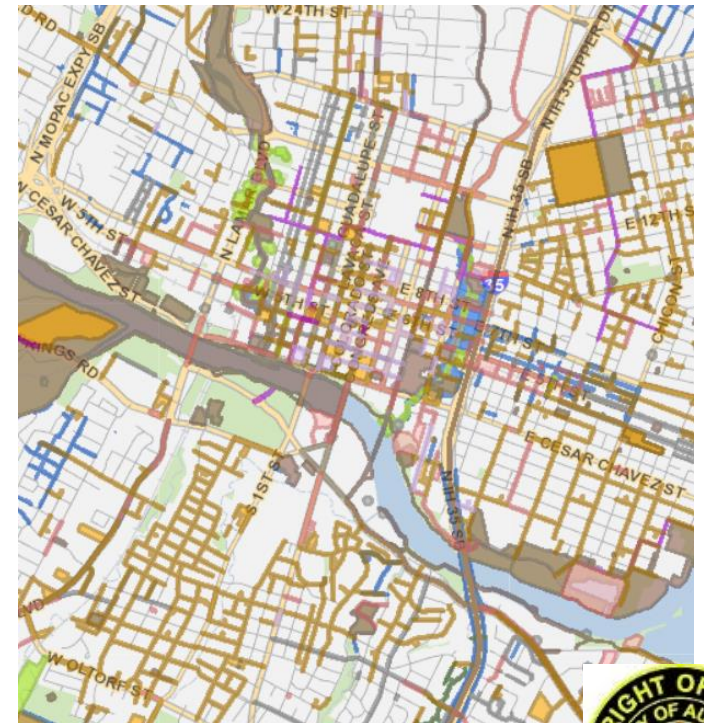
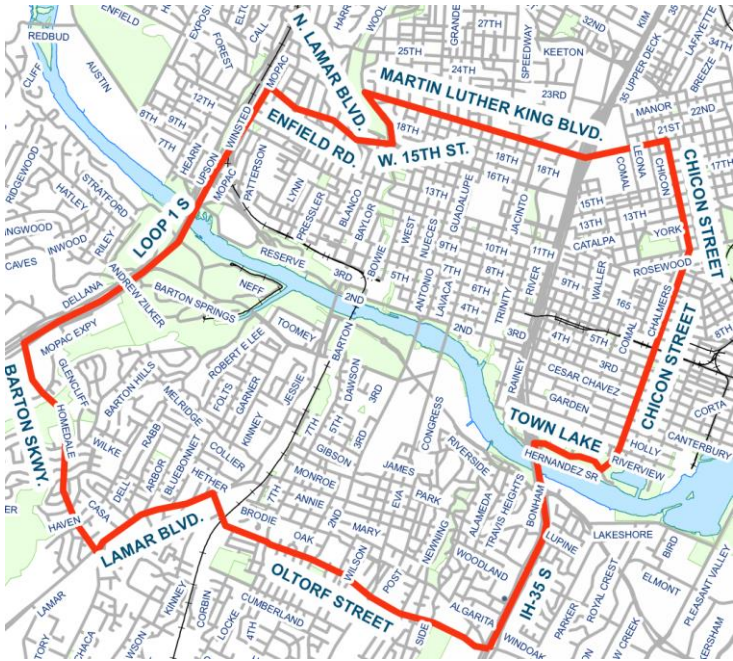
- Identify and resolve Utility conflicts
- Protect Existing Infrastructure
- Opportunity Identification – Joint Trenching, “Touch Once” policy
- City Code 14-11-165 & U.C.M. Section 3





# Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone (DAPCZ)

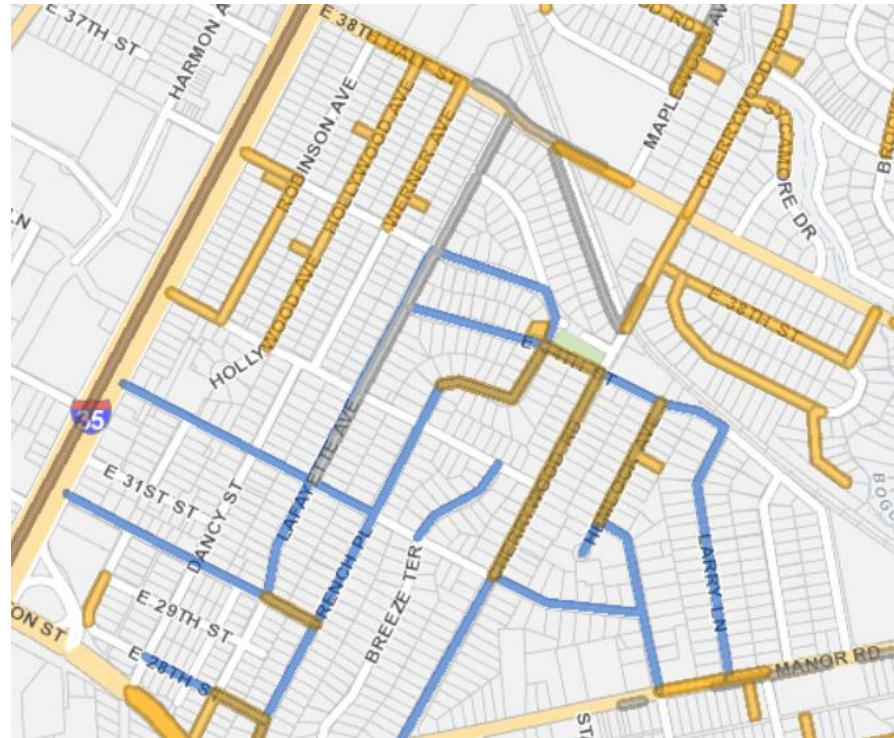
- Rough Boundaries-MOPAC to Chicon, MLK to Oltorf
- Monthly Coordination of Right of Way activities and Excavation Scheduling, and Traffic Management
- Time Submittal Restraints per City Code 14-11-167








# Temporary Use of Right of Way- Review and Permitting

- Development Permitting, Traffic Control, AULCC, and DAPCZ Approval Verification
- Utility/Project Compliance with City Codes, Standards, and Criteria Manuals
- Coordination of Right of Way activities
- Construction related -City Code 14-11-101 through 14-11-222, U.C.M.

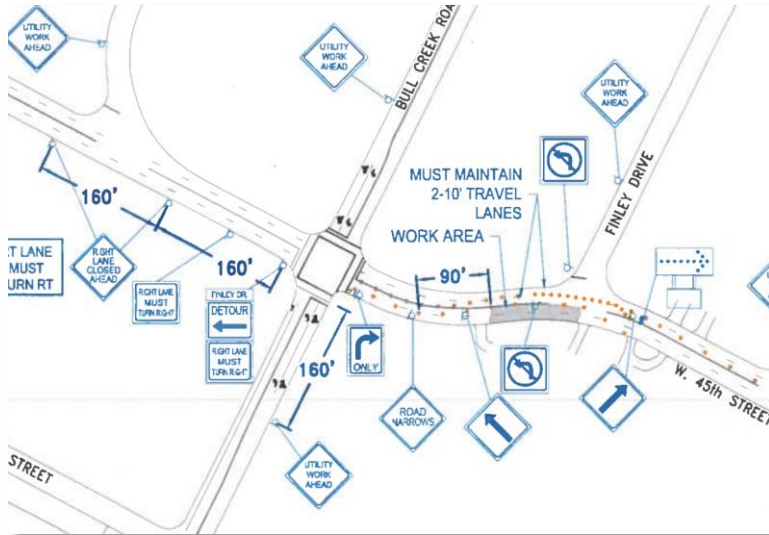


☒  Water ☒  Street Excavation Permit ☒  Roadway



# Traffic Control Review, Inspection, and Enforcement

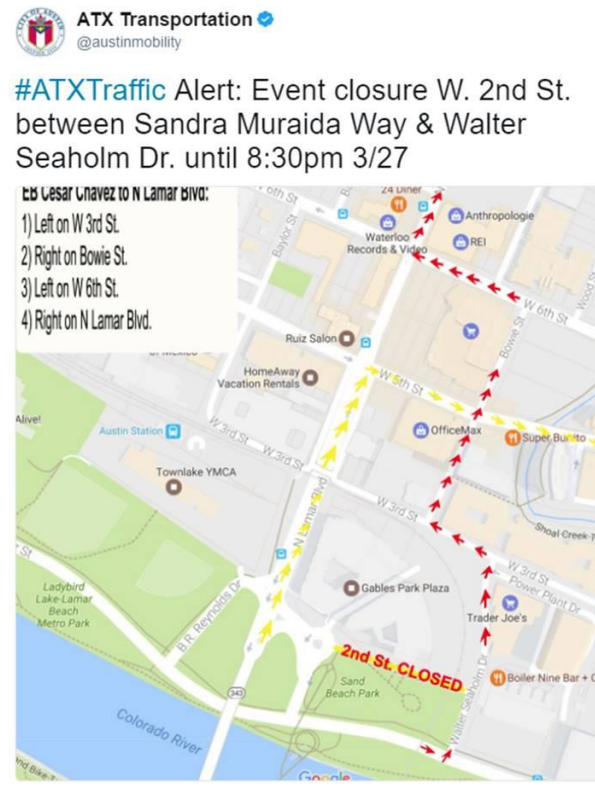
- Review to ensure Public Safety, Work Zone Safety and Traffic Management
- Construction Phasing and Planning Coordination between applicants, and participate with the Austin Center for Events (ACE)
- City Codes within 14-11 and Transportation Criteria Manual (TCM) Section 8, & City Standard Details Manual
- Texas Manual on Unified Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD)





# Closure Notification to City Departments, the Public, and First Responders

- 311 Notifications
- PIO and Media updates for the Public



# Austin's Development Permitting

## Major tenants of Austin's permitting process:

- Specialized permitting program for work by franchise holders in the ROW (General Permit)
- Provides opportunity for formalized conceptual / preliminary design review
- Provides coordinated permit process that encapsulates all required reviews with one submittal
- Coordinate construction activities with Austin's active event schedule
- Ensure adequate protection of the City's infrastructure
- Ensure construction activities are completed in compliance with the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4)
- Ensure compliance with the City's environmental code and criteria





# General Permit Program

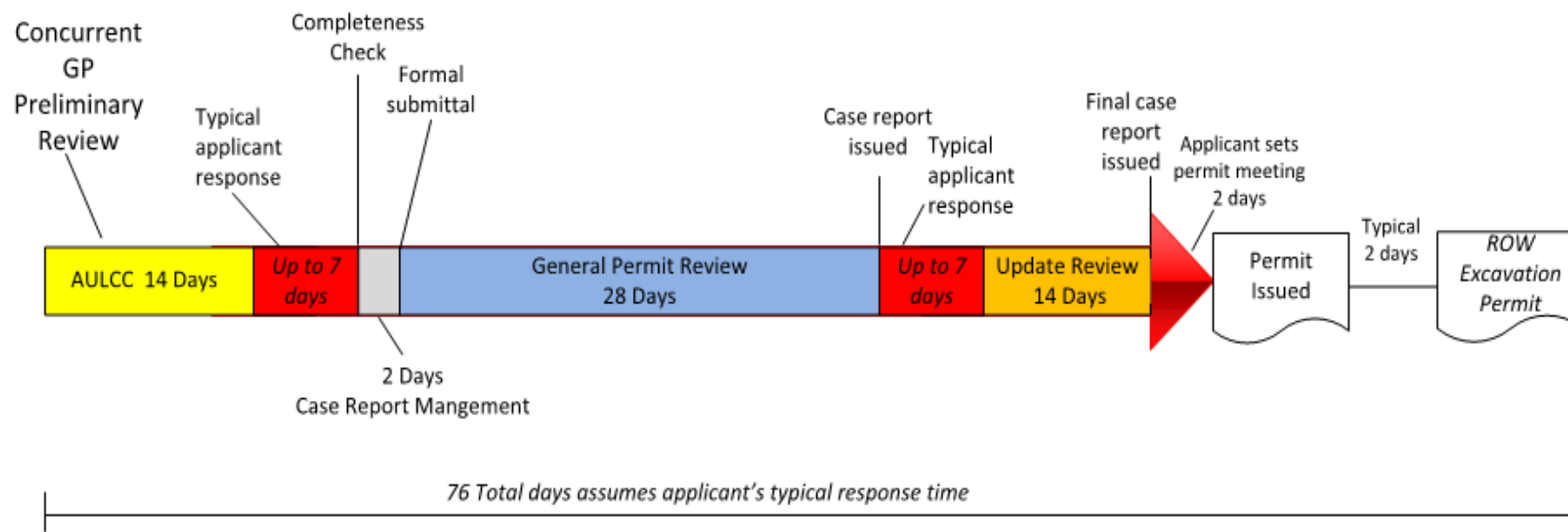
## Major tenants of the General Permit Program:

- General Permit review process customized specifically for infrastructure permitting in City right of ways
- Approved under authority provided in Chapter 25-5 of the Land Development Code
- General Permits are an administratively approved Site Development Permit
- Reviews incorporate all major disciplines including
  - Austin Water Utility
  - Austin Energy
  - Tree preservation and protection
  - Erosion control
  - Traffic Control and ROW Management
  - Environmental Regulations – Land Development Code 25-7 and 25-8

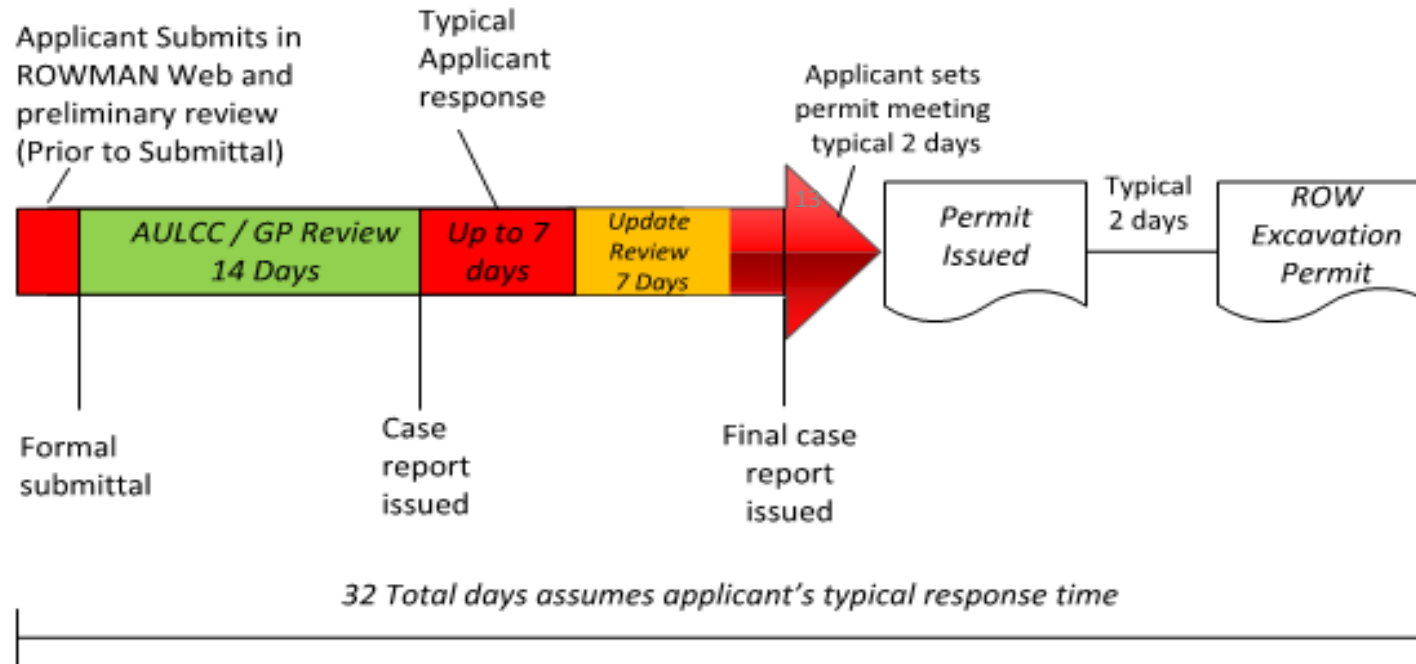




# AULCC / General Permit Process

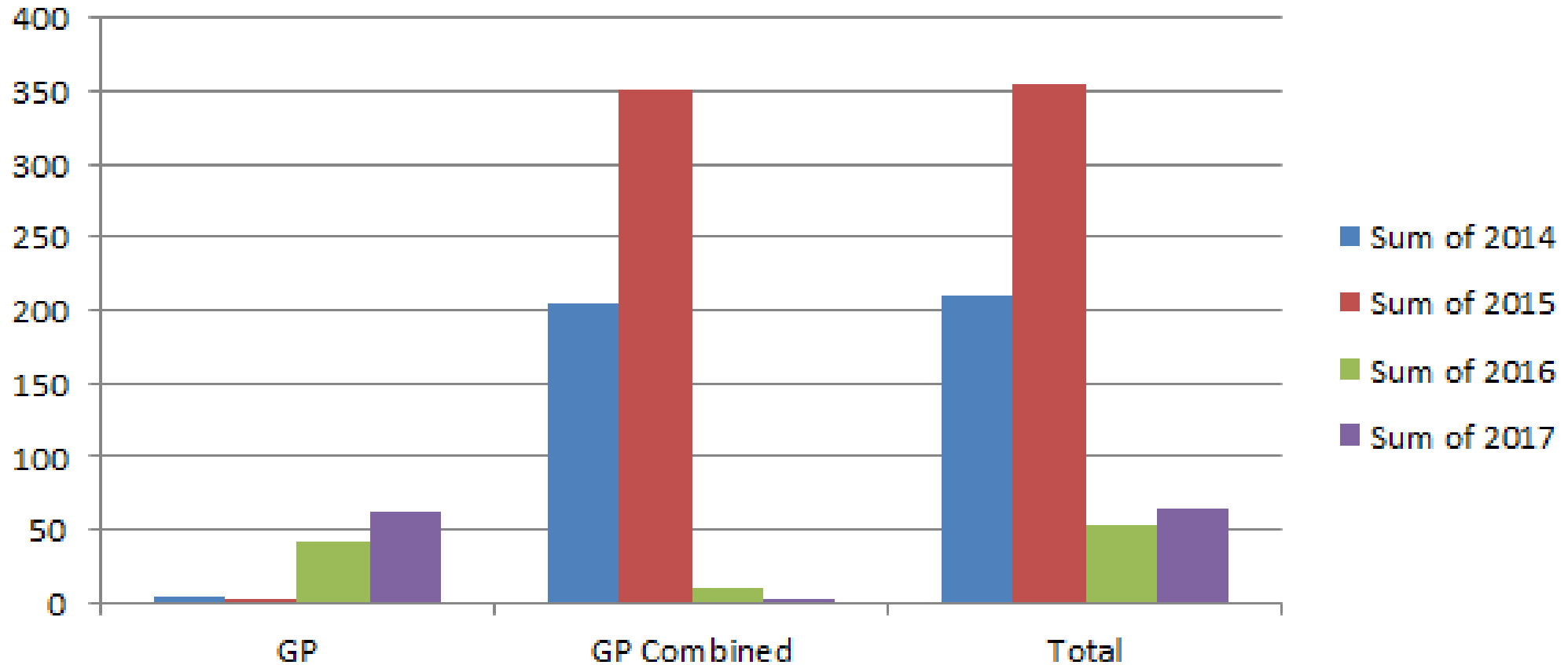


# General Permit Combined Process



# Development Permitting Statistics

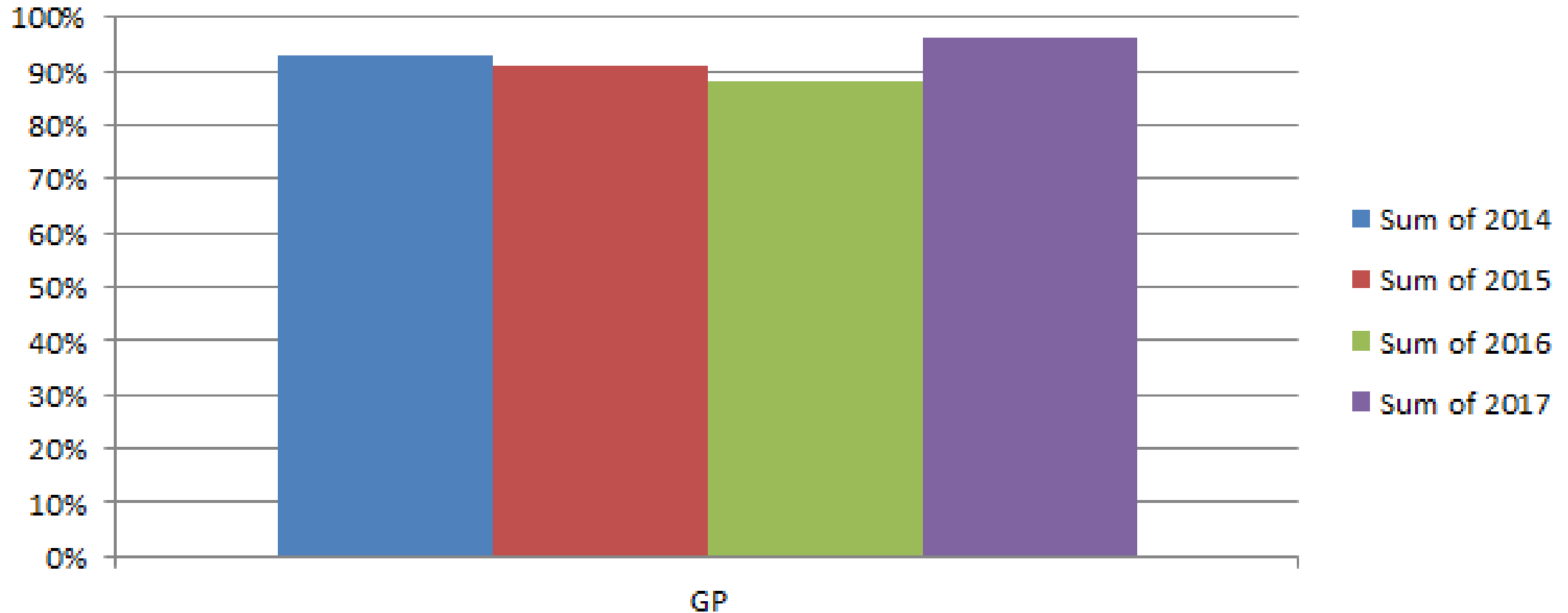
## Number of Permits Issued





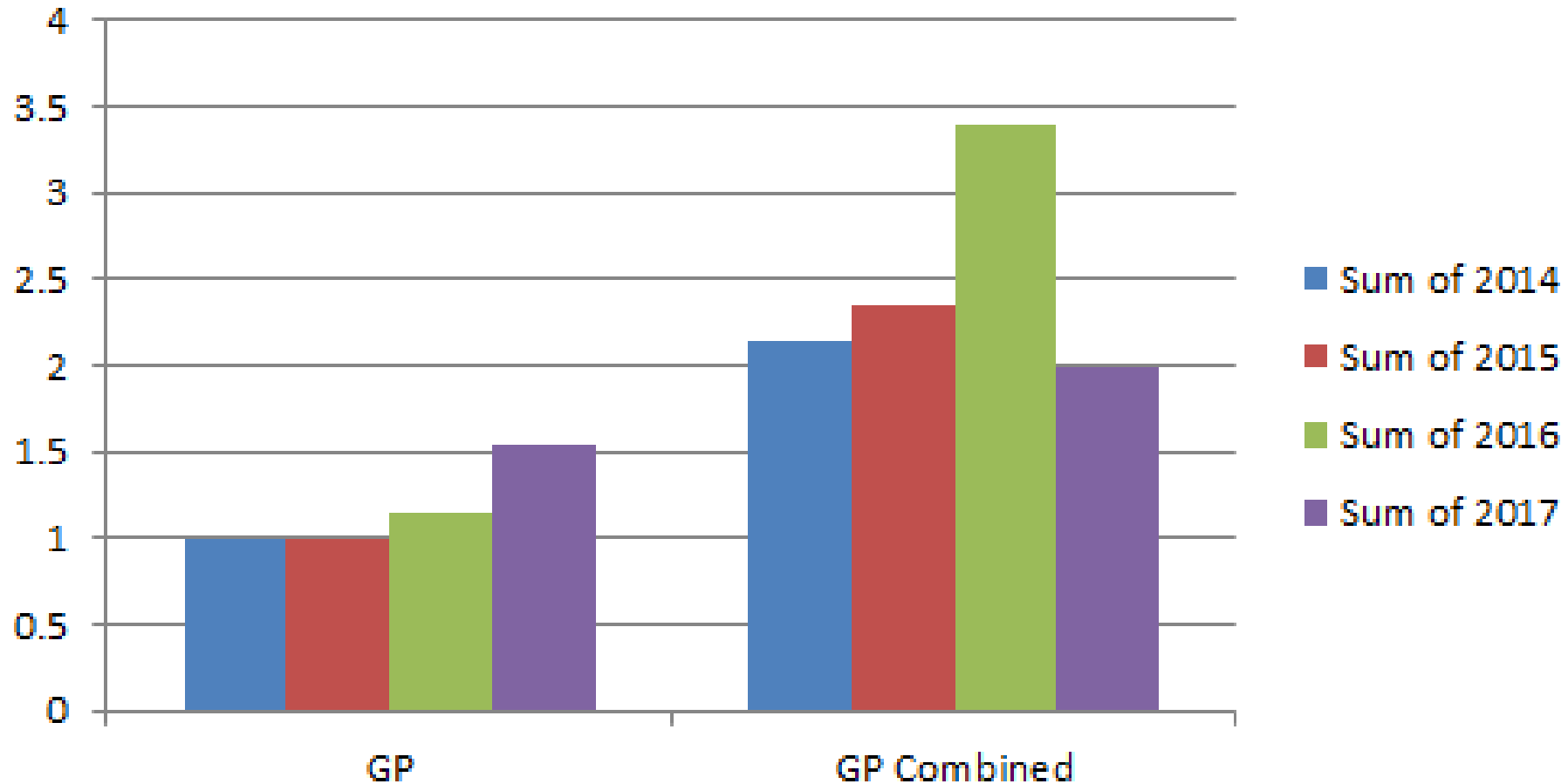
# Development Permitting Statistics

## Percent On Time Review



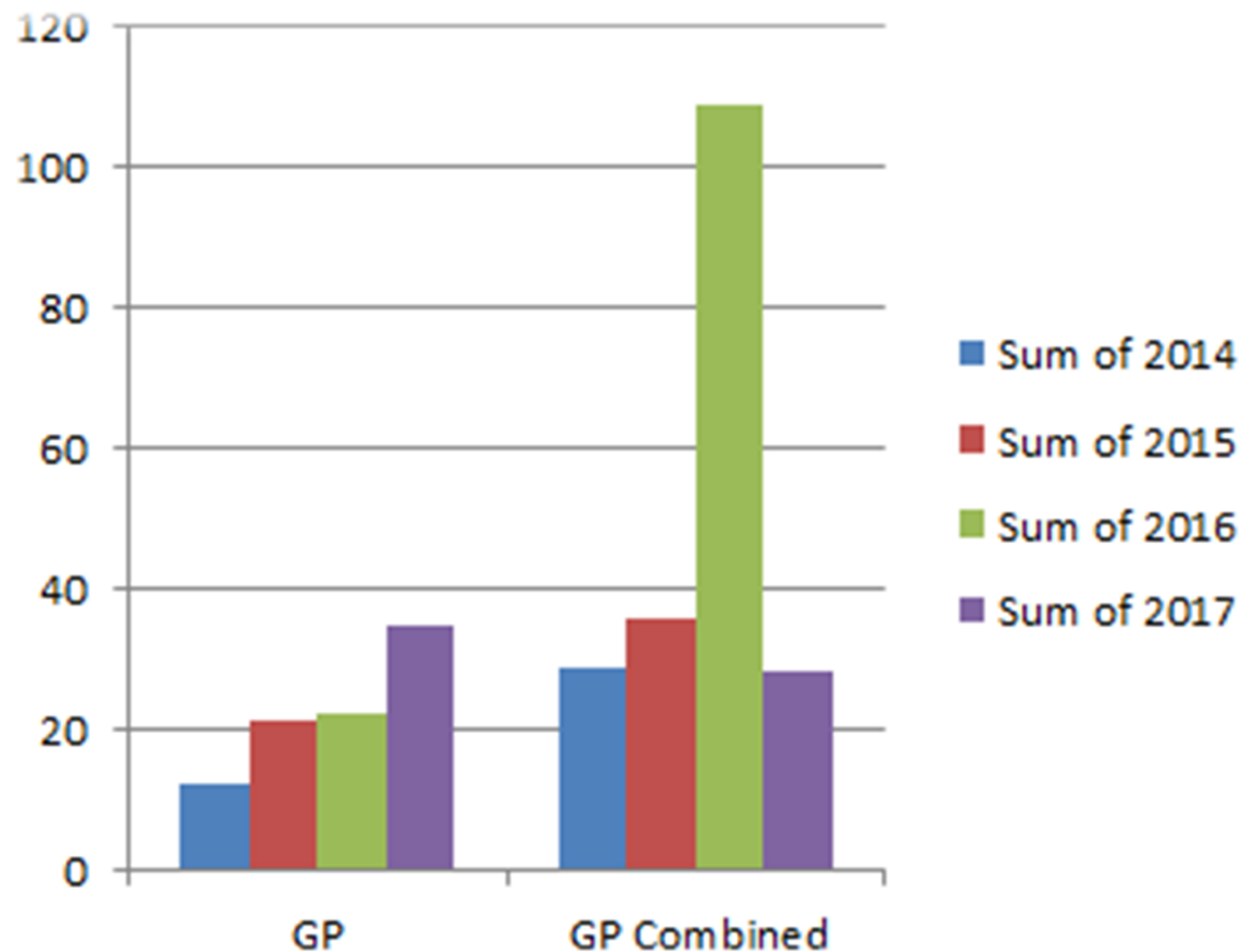
# Development Permitting Statistics

## Average Number of Update Cycles



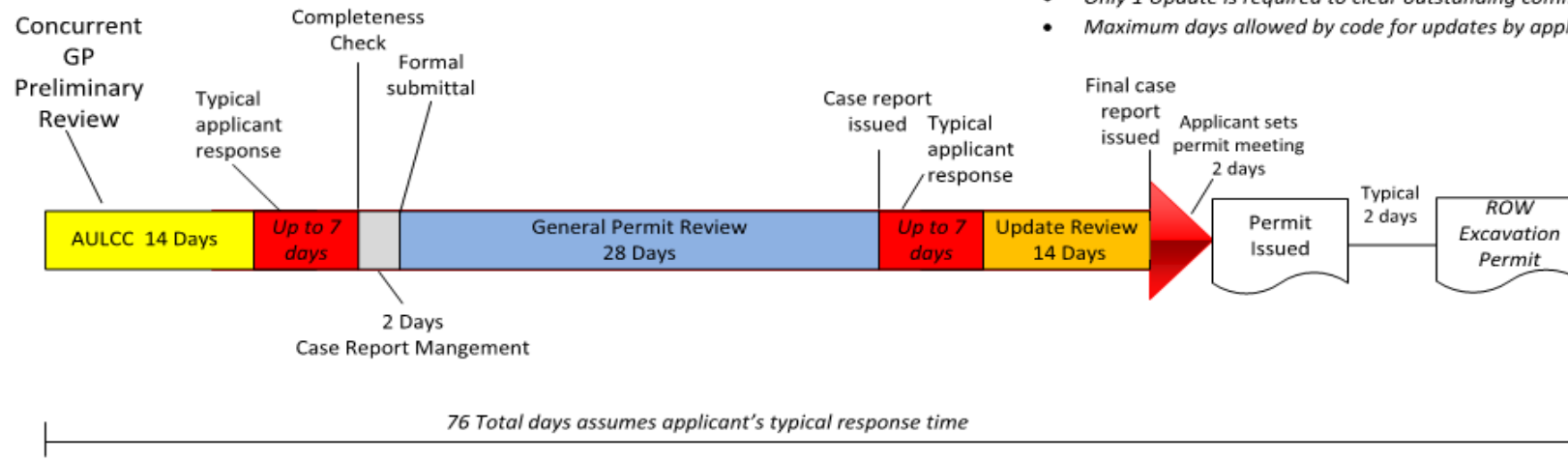
# Development Permitting Statistics

## Average Length of Review (Days)





# AULCC/General Permit Process



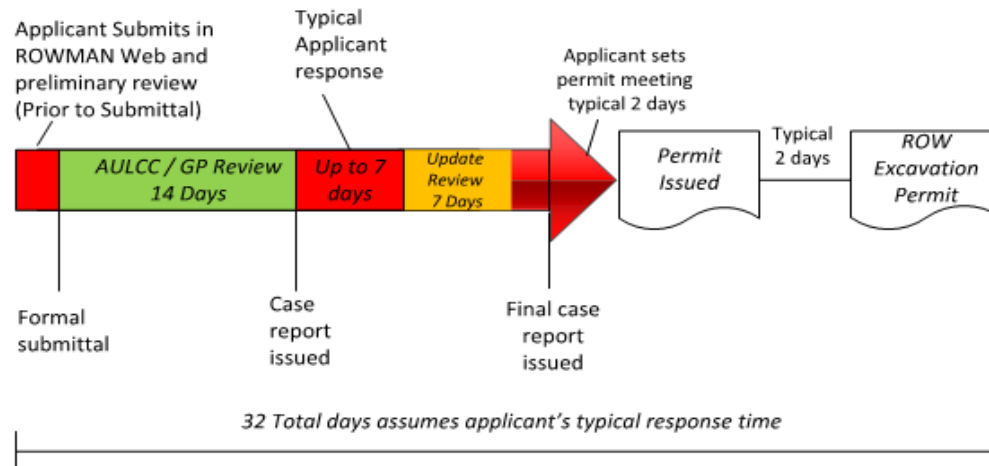
## Proposed Combined AULCC and General Permit Process Timeline

### Assumptions:

- AULCC Review and General Permit Review is concurrent.
- No Utility or City Project Conflicts during review
- Only 1 Update is required to clear outstanding comments

### Conditions:

- This timeline is for Overall Project Plans only, and not for projects located within the DAPCZ or on arterial roadways
- Provided that conditions for the Overall Project Plan are met, a PE seal is only required on the Overall Project Plan (representative of a "design area") and not on individual plan sets



# Austin Energy – Pole attachment permit process

## **Third-party communications infrastructure on Austin Energy's poles**

- The Austin Energy Infrastructure Asset Management Group (IAM) manages communications infrastructure on Austin Energy's poles
- Currently, there are approximately 400,000 third-party wireline communication attachments on Austin Energy's poles
- Over 11,000 new pole attachment applications were filed in 2016
- IAM processes pole attachment applications and provides site walk-outs and engineering assistance to pole attachment customers

## **IAM pole attachment process:**

- Applications and supporting documents are submitted via a web form located on the Austin Energy website
- Average turn-around time for pole applications is 12 days
- Application requires submittal of pole information that includes:
  - Identification of existing pole attachments
  - Clearances between existing attachments and energized equipment and lines
  - Vertical clearances (clearances above walkways, roads, highways and railways)
  - Pole loading analysis on poles with 5 attachments or more



# Austin Energy – Pole attachment permit process

## **Austin Energy is developing new standards for wireless attachments**

- Wireless attachments will be allowed on distribution and street light poles in the right of way
- Small cell attachments will require metered electric service
- Many poles are fully subscribed - limiting the available space for small cell installations
- Wireless attachments will be required to meet Austin Energy's safety, reliability and engineering standards

## **Austin Energy's infrastructure and right of way management goals**

- Maintain the reliability and integrity of the electric system and of individual units of utility infrastructure
- Maintain Austin Energy's access to its poles and lines
- Attachments must be compliant with generally applicable engineering principles
- Take steps to ensure that attachments do not present a safety hazard to Austin Energy's utility workers, communication workers or the general public





# Austin Utility Location and Coordination Committee - AULCC

## Goal:

to minimize utility hits during excavation, and avoid delays to excavation projects utility conflicts. The Committee seats City Utility Departments, Franchised Utility Owners, and other Right of Way Stake Holders.

Additionally, the AULCC identifies opportunities for projects to combine efforts to minimalize disruption to public/private infrastructure, and allows opportunities for combining efforts to lessen public inconvenience.

## The AULCC Process:

Required for Developmental Permits (Site Plan/General Permits/Excavations) within the Right of Way in the Downtown Austin Project Coordination Zone (DAPCZ), or excavations that are 300 linear feet or greater (or 3,000 square feet of affected area) within the full purpose COA jurisdiction.

Utility Owners given at least 2 weeks to review per the Utilities Criteria Manual (UCM) Section 3

If conflicts or opportunities exist, Project Owner and Utility Owners are given the opportunity to discuss and resolve any objections.

An AULCC COMPLETENESS LETTER is issued once all conflicts are resolved to the satisfaction of the Utility Owners.



# Right OF Way Permitting

## ■ Temporary Use of Right of Way (construction, no excavation)

- **§ 14-11-131 - PERMIT REQUIRED-** Unless a person obtains a temporary use of right-of-way permit from the city manager, a person may not: block, direct, impede, or reroute pedestrian and vehicular traffic; or place a barricade or other traffic control device in a right-of-way
- Must submit no later than 9 business days before intended use of ROW per City Code 14-11-132
- An application can be denied, approved, or additional information can be requested by the 9<sup>th</sup> day.
- An application can be denied if the proposed traffic control plan does not meet the TMUTCD, or a City Standard. In these cases, a Traffic Control Plan must be engineered to meet the conditions of the existing Right of Way by a Professional Engineer Licensed in the State of Texas.

## ■ Excavation Permitting

- **§ 14-11-185 - REVIEW OF APPLICATION-**In reviewing an application for a permit, the director shall consider the following:
  - the size of surface and subsurface area to be affected, considering the type of excavation the applicant proposes;
  - the period of time the applicant proposes to occupy the area;
  - the safety of the pedestrian and vehicular traffic in and adjacent to the occupied area; and
  - the traffic congestion and the vehicular parking requirements at the location.
- The director shall make a determination under this section within two city business days after receipt of an application.
- All applications must meet other criteria as required by City Code. All work other than “routine work” requires a plan, or approval, through another form of review. (Building Permit, Site Plan, Site Plan Exemption, General Permit, AULCC, Subdivision)
- Routine Work is defined by § 14-11-161 – DEFINITIONS - (21) ROUTINE WORK means an excavation project of 300 linear feet or less.

