



MISS DIG and 21st Century Infrastructure Commission
Presented to the Transportation Subcommittee

A main concern of the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission is the increased attention to underground infrastructure improvement; consideration should be given for gathering data for proposed work and the design of new facilities. Likewise, the Commission must take into account the safety of those working in and around the existing infrastructure, as well as do their part to ensure safety for individuals working near the new infrastructure. As recently established by the governor with Executive Order No. 2016-1, there must be coordination of government agencies for replacement of infrastructure with road and bridge work. MISS DIG and PA 174 of 2013 provide a unique opportunity for this coordination and cooperation from design to construction; MISS DIG has already established communication between the excavating public, municipalities, and utility companies. MISS DIG is a not-for-profit Notification System whose members include all facility owners in the public right-of-way. Public Act 174 of 2013 is a tool the commission can utilize to further its goals. Section 6a of PA 174 describes the Design Program, including the design ticket and responses that can be used for utility coordination for upcoming infrastructure improvements. The Design Program offered by MISS DIG includes mandatory participation of facility owners; it can be used as an effective communication tool during upcoming road and bridge work to notify nearby facility owners, allowing for cooperation and collaboration on the upgrade of infrastructure in the area.

To protect the investment of new assets and increase public safety, PA 174 of 2013 requires new facilities be detectable. Section 7(8) states, "New facilities built after the effective date of this act shall be constructed in a manner that allows their detection when in use". The Michigan Damage Prevention Board Best Practice 2014-02, "Requirements for Detection of New Facilities for Purposes of Locating", describes acceptable methods for detecting facilities to include "Survey data, references to a USGS Coordinate system or direct survey grade GPS points, and recorded within the standards of professional care by a licensed surveyor at the time of construction, the data can be used to define the location of the facility through use of same method used to capture the data". The Best Practice is a result of MDOT's G.U.I.D.E. Program. G.U.I.D.E., Geospatial Utility Infrastructure Data Exchange, is collaborative effort of MDOT, MISS DIG and the Michigan Utility Coordination Committee. Once fully developed, G.U.I.D.E could be incorporated into the Design Ticket process, and could include MISS DIG housing the as-built drawings or data and sharing them with MISS DIG members. The MDPB Best Practices and the MDOT G.U.I.D.E. Program can be found on the MISS DIG Website.

MISS DIG is an active member in committees that discuss underground utility safety, and utility construction coordination both in Michigan and on the national level. MISS DIG is in the unique position of an open line of communication between facility owners, designers, excavators, and regulatory agencies. MISS DIG, with input from our members and affected stakeholders, can shape the future of underground utility coordination, with the force of PA 174 and enforcement by MPSC, if needed.