

Right of Way Program

City Council Presentation

COJ Team | January 12, 2026

https://www.joplinmo.org/

Overview



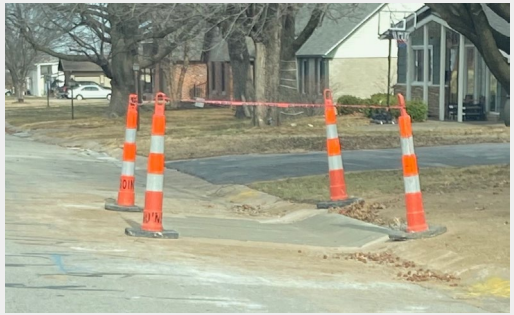
The Public Works Right of Way Team consists of the Right of Way Manager, two Right of Way Technicians and the Property Negotiator.

Right of Way staff are tasked with overseeing utility activities occurring in city right of way or on city owned property.

These activities include:

- Review applications for and approve excavation permits for utility installations and maintenance activities in right of way.
- Monitor work zones to insure proper traffic control and safety standards.
- Inspect restorations to ensure work completed complies with city standard specifications
- Document materials utilized for repairs for payment to utility repair contractor and invoicing to utility companies.
- New construction inspections of driveways, sidewalk, curb and gutter
- Review and approve right of way use agreement applications and issue permits.

Permitting Activity





Permits are issued for activity in City Right of Way.

The majority of permits are entered by utility companies into the Engineering Permit Portal.

A permit may include as many as three separate excavations: street, sidewalk, curb and gutter .

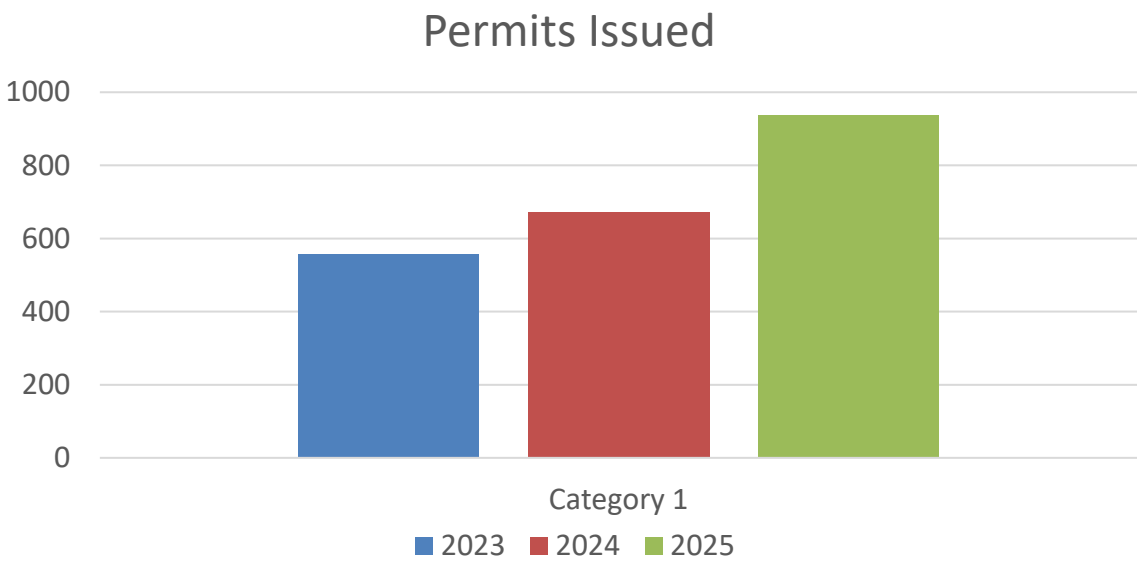
In addition to ongoing utility repairs and maintenance, four fiber companies have approved right of way use agreements and three providers are actively adding to their fiber networks.

Permit Totals

2023 – 558

2024 – 671

2025 – 936

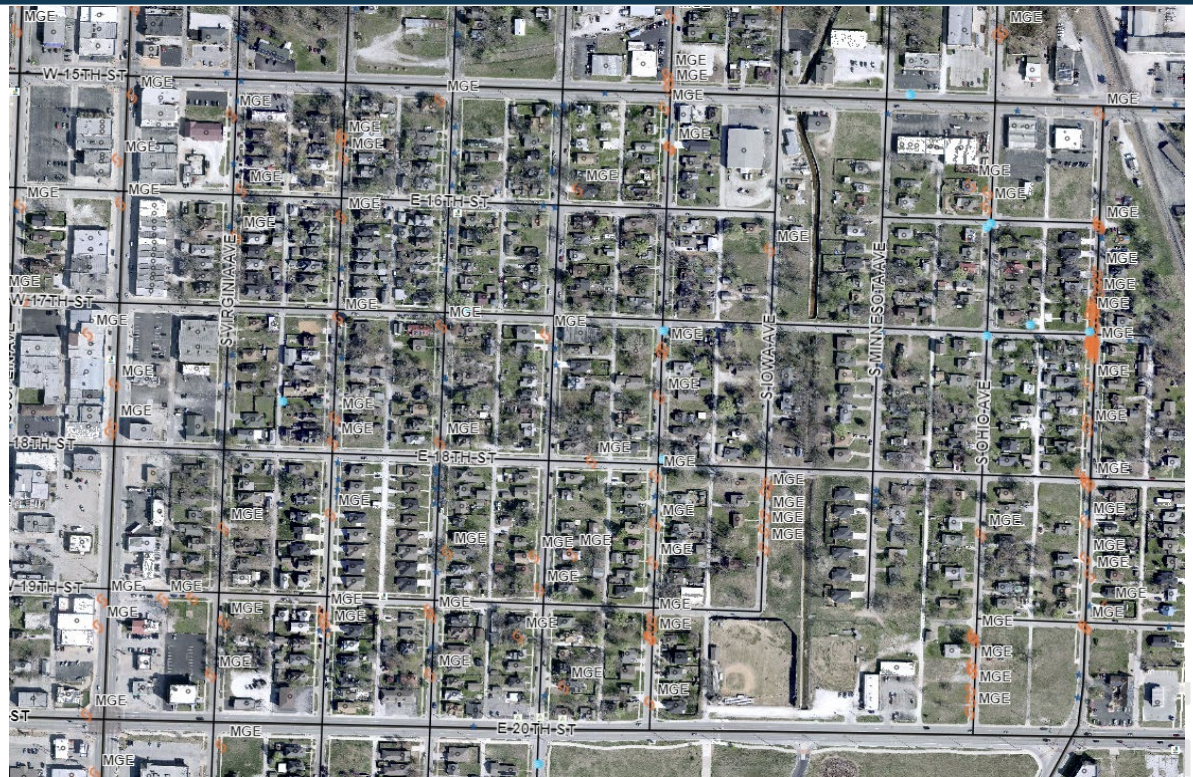


Permit Portal

Utility Companies are assigned user credentials by the city's IT Department

Permit applications are then entered by the specific utility company and added to the right of way map and index.

The portal allows for utility companies to enter permit applications from their office or remotely while on site.



Utility Company – Contractor Engagement



- We have had two Utility Summits at which time the City's requirements for permitting, traffic control, temporary patching and maintenance, as well as permanent repairs. The City requires permits for all work within the right-of-way inside the City of Joplin.
- The next Utility Summit is scheduled for early February 2026, at the meeting the utilities will be informed that the City will hold utilities responsible for following City ordinances and they will be penalized for failure to follow the City ordinances.
- We held a meeting with our permit portal users and our IT department to hear their issues utilizing our portal system. They were also able to share their ideas for future upgrades.
- The city will be hosting an IMSA Temp Traffic Control Work Zone Certification Class The training will concentrate on important features to promote the best practices to help ensure the safest work area when on or near an active roadway. We will be extending an invitation to attend the training to area utility companies and contractors.

Areas of focus





- We are currently working with utility companies on compliance with our abandoned facilities directives. We will be establishing a decommissioning and removal process for abandoned, damaged, or obsolete equipment
- We will continue to evaluate our current ordinances, agreements and policies to ensure that we following existing state and federal regulations.
- Reviewing options for initiating penalties for non-emergency work completed that is not scheduled or coordinated with city staff.
- Working with the city's IT department to improve our mapping and permit portal.
- Enforcing the highest quality of work in city right of way and evaluating penalties for failure to adhere to time restrictions and standards.

Repair Contract Updates



The Utility Cut Repair, On Call Infrastructure contract has been advertised for bid. Bid letting is scheduled for January 15, 2026.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held on January 5, 2026. Quality of work and timeliness of repairs was foremost on the agenda.

Contract should come before the City Council for approval in early February.

Questions?

