

Comprehensive Policy Plan
"Utilities"

Policy Letter 507: Cost-Effective Utility Services

BACKGROUND:

Gas, electricity, cable television, and telephone service providers throughout Fargo respond to requests for service in the most direct and feasible manner possible. Land use development in Fargo is diverse and ever changing, but methods or practices that enhance the siting of cost-effective utility services are needed:

- 1) New residential, commercial, and industrial development should only be allowed when required public facilities and services are available or are provided through other mechanisms prior to or concurrent with development.
- 2) Joint use utility corridors should be encouraged, provided that such joint use is consistent with limitations prescribed by applicable law and prudent utility practice.
- 3) Jurisdictional coordination should be encouraged to continue to resolve any potential conflicts between public facility providers with established utility service within the City limits and newly-annexed areas.

Additional cost-effective methods may be identified through continued coordination between utility providers, the customers, and the City of Fargo. The highest levels of services can be achieved from utility providers while still providing these services at the lowest possible rates.

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Fargo should adopt land use development methods or practices that maximize the cost-effectiveness of providing utility services while still maintaining the highest possible levels of service and safety.

CONCLUSION:

Various diverse and complex land use development plans are frequently proposed. Solutions for allowing these proposals are at times delayed due to financial limitations. By the City taking the lead in encouraging methods or practices to provide cost-effective utility services, cost can be less of a restricting factor in land use development.

Methods to provide cost-effective utility services play a key role in the direction of land use development in Fargo. Utility providers will continue to respond to all service requests, but with further assistance from the City, these services may be provided at a lower cost for all parties.

*See also Policy 601 & 205