



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
August 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conf. Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER 5:35 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

PRESENT: Council Members Heintz, Smith, and Thomas

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motioned by: Member Smith; Seconded by Thomas. (Motion approved 3:0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes of 06/30/2025 by Member Smith; Second by Member Thomas. (Motion approved 3:0)

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Thomas

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DTE presentation and discussion.
 - a. The City-DTE Reliability Meeting discussed DTE Energy's efforts to improve reliability and investment in the Novi area.
 - i. DTE was represented by Daniel Mahoney and Derrick Sanborn.
 - b. Dan Mahoney led the presentation that included the following topics.
 - i. Reliability, Performance, and Outage Analysis
 1. Dan explained the industry standard for best-in-class availability of the electric distribution grid, which is 99.97% of the time. DTE's current performance is highlighted, with 99.99% of customers having power at any given time.
 2. The impact of significant weather events in 2023, including an ice storm and a snowstorm, was discussed.
 - ii. Geographic Scope and System Performance
 1. Chairperson Thomas inquired about the performance of the Novi grid compared to the surrounding municipalities. Comparisons were made with other municipalities, such as Ann Arbor, to show the performance of the Novi grid.
 - iii. Four-Point Plan to Improve Reliability
 1. Dan introduces the Four-Point Plan to improve electrical reliability, focusing on automation, pull top maintenance, converting the distribution grid, and streetlighting.

2. Pole top maintenance involves updating infrastructure to make it is more resilient to weather.
- iv. Challenges and Opportunities in Grid Improvement
 1. Chairperson Thomas asks about the timeline for achieving 100% automation of the Novi grid. Derek explained the national standard and the challenges of achieving 100% automation, citing the cost and size of the equipment as key factors.
- v. Community Engagement and Transparency
 1. Chairperson Thomas suggests adding a page to the city's website to provide information on DTE's reliability efforts. The discussion included the potential for sharing data on grid performance and improvements.
- vi. Operational Metrics and Performance Improvement
 1. Derek presents operational metrics, including safety, duration, and customer minutes without power.
- vii. Coordination with City Plans and Future Projects
 1. Chairperson Thomas asks about the potential for coordinating with the city's long-term capital plans. Derek explains the challenges and opportunities for aligning DTE's construction plans with the city's infrastructure projects. The discussion includes the potential for using a state-wide online portal to host asset maps and improve coordination.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Chairperson Thomas expresses interest in having DTE join regular meetings to discuss ongoing projects and improvements. The importance of sharing data and updates with the community is reiterated. The discussion included potential pilot programs and opportunities for collaboration with the city.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Broadband survey
 - a. The broadband survey questions have been provided to the Director of Communication. She will work with our contact at FlashVote to produce a survey that will come back to the committee for review.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Smith; Seconded by Member Thomas.
Approved 3:0 (6:55 PM)