



# CITY OF CIBOLO

Planning & Engineering Department

## "City of Choice"

TO: Planning & Engineering Department Contractors

SUBJECT: Plumbing Installation/Repairs Requiring Tunneling

DATE: April 22, 2021

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This information is intended to clarify the safety provisions regarding under-slab plumbing installations/repairs that may require tunneling to accomplish plumbing drain line repairs, replacements or re-routes.

The Planning & Engineering Department performs inspections of plumbing installation / repairs beneath residential and commercial existing slabs and buildings. It is imperative that these inspections be performed in a safe environment. Because of safety concerns, the following minimum safety measures were established for tunnel inspections of plumbing drain line repairs, re-routes, and replacements beneath residential and commercial slabs and buildings. These requirements are based on the minimum OSHA safety measures referenced as follows:

- OSHA Safety Handbook, page 11
- OSHA CPR Title 29, Part 1910.146
- OSHA CPR Title 29, Part 1926.800

A summary of these previous and current requirements are as follows:

1. The tunnel and entry to the tunnel shall be of adequate size to allow the inspector to perform a thorough and safe inspection.
2. The tunnel entrance shall be provided with a ladder.
3. The tunnel shall be provided with adequate lighting.
4. Fans shall be in place to provide adequate ventilation.
5. Moisture barriers on tunnel floor (i.e. plastic cover) shall be provided, minimum 6 mil thickness.
6. All necessary Electrical equipment shall be connected through Ground Fault circuit protection.

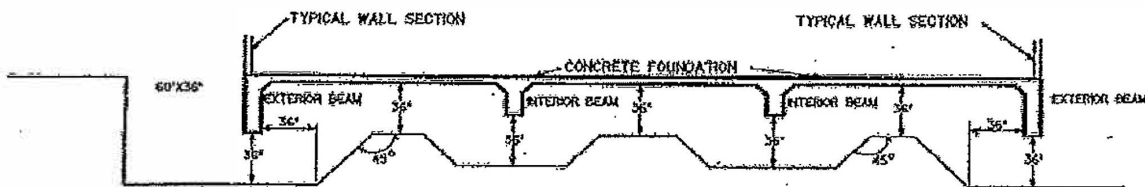
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Plumbing contractor projects that require the use of these tunnel jobs shall meet or exceed the requirements listed in the diagram.

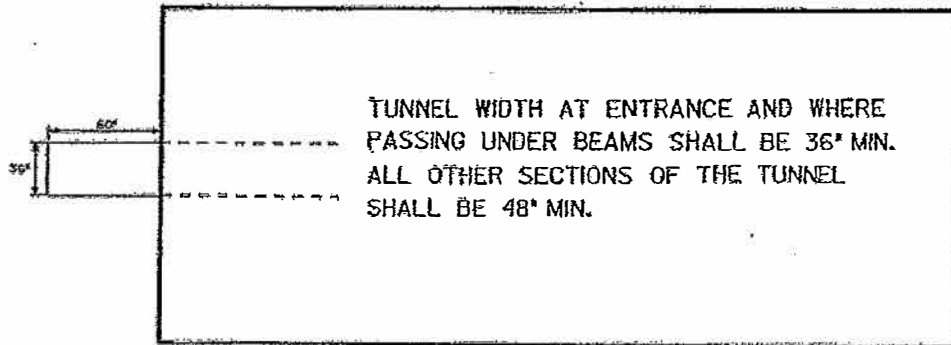
Tunnels that have a minimum of 5 feet of head room below the slab (not the beams) can remain 3 feet wide throughout the tunnel; otherwise the tunnel shall remain 4 feet wide and only reduce to 3 feet wide under the beams. Any or other obstructions in or crossing the tunnel shall also be require to be excavated to 36" of clearance below or above or 36" to 48" of clearance to the side of the obstruction to provide proper clearances for access.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information bulletin please feel free to contact Joe Williams, Senior Inspector at (210) 658-4175.

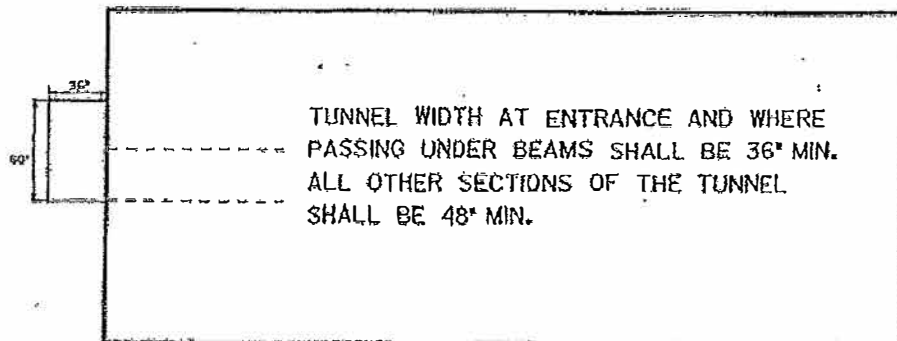
## FOUNDATION VIEW SECTION



### SIDE VIEW



### TOP VIEW



### TOP VIEW