



## Florida League of Cities

# Center for Municipal Research & Innovation

## MiniSurvey Series – Underground Electric Utilities

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The Center for Municipal Research & Innovation conducted a survey of the 412 municipalities in Florida to determine the usage, policies and procedures for undergrounding of electric utilities in cities statewide. The survey was conducted electronically from February 28 – March 14, 2017 with a response rate of 36% or 147 cities.

### Key Take-Aways

Of municipalities who responded:

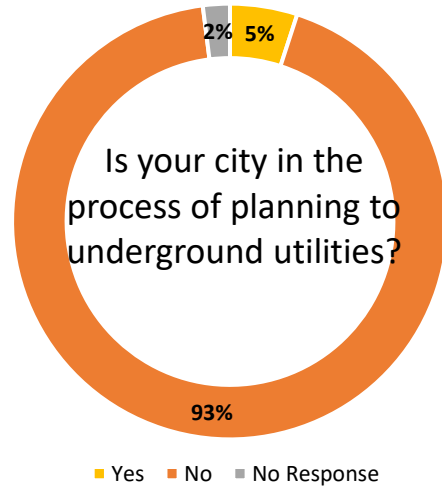
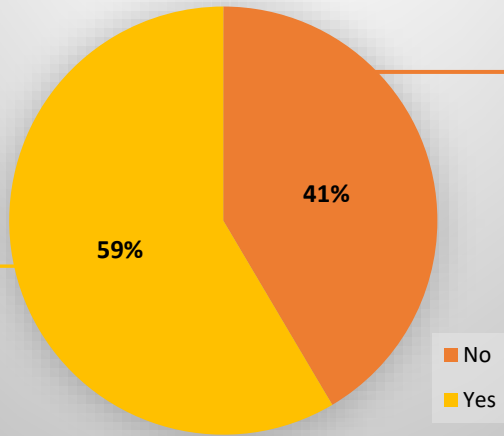
- **59% of cities have implemented underground electric utilities in all or a portion of the city.**
  - Nearly 50% of these cities require undergrounding as a condition of development.
  - More than half of the cities where undergrounding was done as a condition of development indicated that the condition is citywide.
  - In just under 30% of cities with underground utilities, undergrounding was done at the choice of the developer and/or as a retrofit to an area that previously had above-ground utilities.
  - When undergrounding is a retrofit, 38% of these cities pay for the process as dollars come available. Only 16% use bonding or special assessments as revenue streams.
- **60% of cities choose to underground their electric utilities for aesthetic purposes.**
  - More than a third of cities with underground electric utilities cited safety as reason.
  - Nearly a quarter of cities cited other motivating factors, including reliability and storm hardening.

Pages 2-3 of this report contain additional graphs of the data collected. Contact Research Analyst Liane Schrader at [lschrader@flcities.com](mailto:lschrader@flcities.com) for the survey questions or additional information.

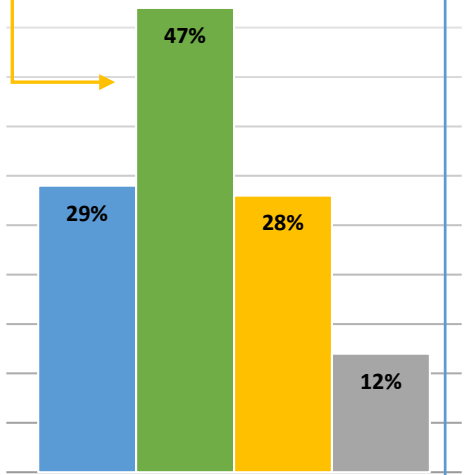
The FLC Center for Municipal Research & Innovation is the primary source of local government research and resources at the Florida League of Cities. The Center serves as a link between Florida's public policy researchers and municipal governments, bridging the gap between academics and public policy makers and administrators. More information on the Center can be found at [www.floridaleagueofcities.com/research](http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/research).

*\*Surveys are completed by members of each individual municipality and the FLC staff does not verify or cross-reference responses with other sources.*

## Cities with Underground Electric Utilities

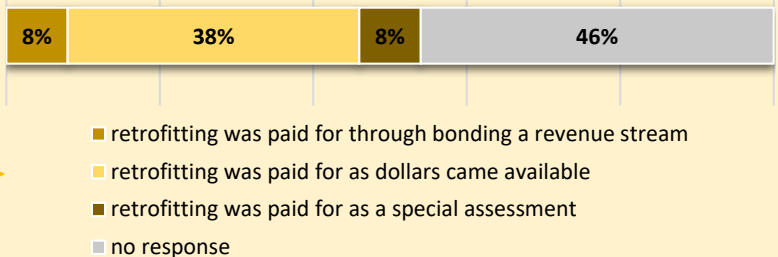
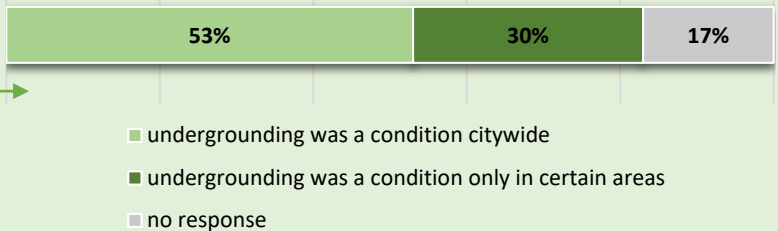
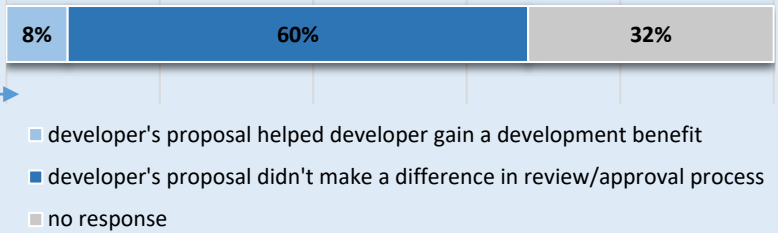


### Where undergrounding of electric utilities was done, was it...

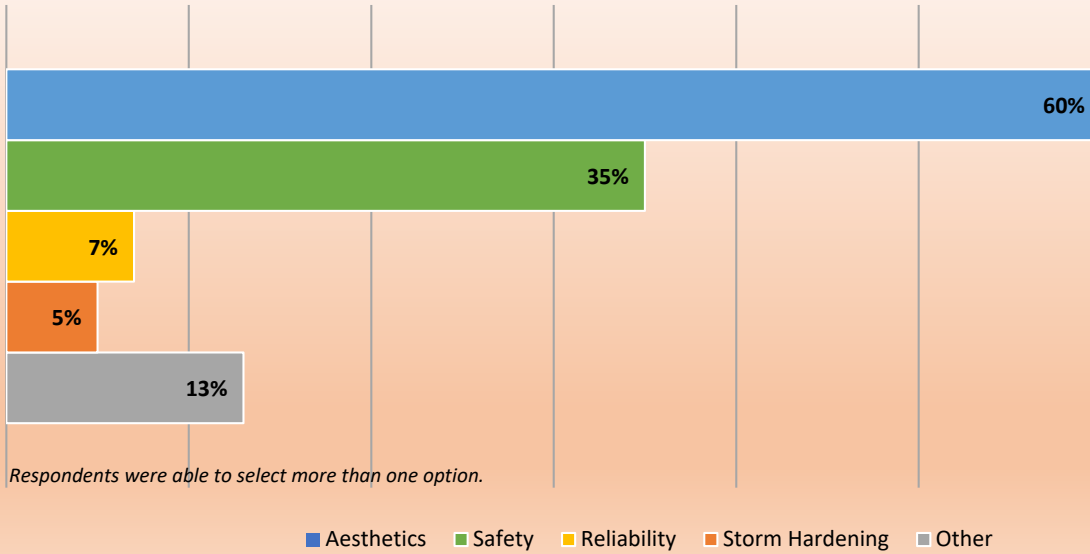


- At the choice of the developer
- As a condition of development
- As a retrofit to an area that previously had above-ground utilities
- Other

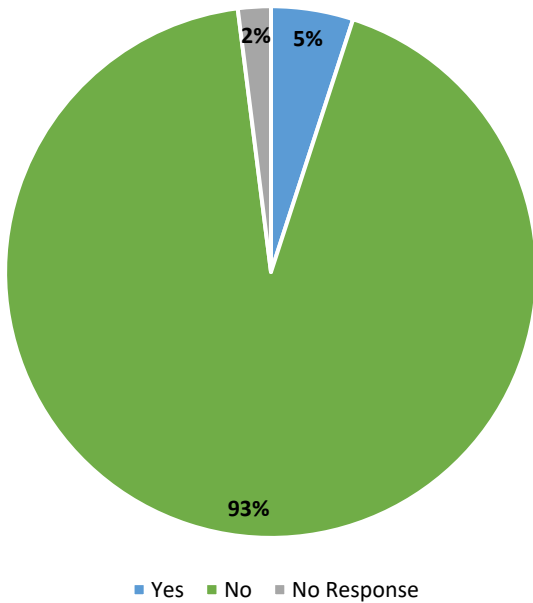
Respondents were able to select more than one option.



### Why did your city choose to underground its electric utilities?



### If your city has not undergrounded its electric utilities, is your city in the process of planning to do so?



### Does your city currently have a policy regarding undergrounding electric utilities?

