



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
July 9th, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 5:344 PM

ROLL CALL: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Martinez

PRESENT: Council Members Gurumurthy, Heintz, and Martinez

STAFF LIAISON: Rob Petty, Chief Information Officer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motioned by: Member Heintz; Seconded by Member Martinez.
(Motion approved 3:0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of 06/25/2026

Motion to approve minutes of 06/25/2026 by Member Martinez; Seconded by Member Heintz. (Motion approved 3:0)

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Gurumurthy welcomed our guests from DTE.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DTE

- DTE presented an overview of power reliability in Novi since 2021, stating that the percentage of time with power improved from 99.85% in 2021 to 99.95% currently. A dip in 2023 was attributed to a major ice storm. 2026 has seen six significant storms, impacting reliability.
- Key uncontrollable causes of outages were mentioned, such as trees outside the right-of-way and animal intrusions.
- The committee expressed frustration that the high-level data does not reflect the experience of the residents who face repeated, frequent outages.
- A sustained outage (E. Le Bost area) on June 28, 2026, was caused by a tree falling on the line during a 65-mph wind gust. A discrepancy was noted: DTE's data showed a 5.4-hour outage, while the resident reported it lasted over 12 hours. A previous sustained outage in August 2023 requires further investigation. Neighbors reported several other outages from April to June 2026.
- Cranbrook Drive area: An outage affecting fewer than 10 customers during a catastrophic storm was caused by a blown fuse on a transformer, likely due to wind-blown debris. The equipment was new and in good condition.
- Wixom Road area: An equipment failure during switching after scheduled maintenance at the "Tahoe" substation caused a ~2-hour outage. The failed equipment was replaced.

- Novi Athletic Club: An outage was caused by a squirrel bypassing existing barriers on a cable pole. Crews restored power to the club within a couple of hours. An additional animal guard is planned for installation within three weeks.
- Members expressed concerns about the general reliability of equipment (transformers, circuits), recalling a discussion about an old transformer in one area. Equipment in one neighborhood was described as "incredibly old" but not scheduled for replacement. A request was made for a detailed report on the status and age of transformers and circuits in the affected neighborhood to rule out equipment issues.
- It was suggested that DTE provide follow-up communication to residents explaining the root cause of an outage after it is resolved.

2. GLWA

- The committee reviewed the weekly correspondence updates from GLWA.
- The road (14 Mile) is expected to open for east and westbound traffic during the week of August 3rd, 2026, with lawn and side area restoration to follow. The original completion target is in the fall.

3. Priority Waste

- The committee reviewed the Priority Waste Delayed Pickups Dashboard.

4. Broadband

- A report on fiber availability based on permits and field observations showed:

Single-family homes: 79% coverage (10,700 of 13,600)

Multi-unit condos: 20%

Apartment units: 53%

Manufactured homes: 21%

Combined city total: 59%

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

N/A

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Martinez; Seconded by Member Heintz. Approved 3:0 (7:28 PM)