



# **TARABA STATE RIGHT OF WAY GUIDELINES, 2025**

## **Ministry of Rural and Urban Development**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Government of Taraba State is committed to facilitating the deployment of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure to support economic growth, digital inclusion, innovation, public service delivery and investment within the State.

These Guidelines provide administrative guidance for the implementation of the Taraba State Right of Way Regulation, 2024 and establish a transparent framework for processing applications relating to the installation, laying, placement, maintenance and operation of telecommunications and network infrastructure on public land within Taraba State.

The Guidelines are intended to promote efficient infrastructure deployment while safeguarding public assets, ensuring public safety, preserving road integrity and protecting the environment.

### **2. LEGAL BASIS**

These Guidelines are issued pursuant to the provisions of the Taraba State Right of Way Regulation, 2024 and shall be read together with all applicable federal and state laws governing telecommunications infrastructure, urban development, road management and environmental protection.

### **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of these Guidelines are to:

- a. Facilitate timely deployment of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure;
- b. Promote uniformity and transparency in Right of Way administration;
- c. Establish clear application requirements and approval procedures;
- d. Protect public roads and infrastructure from avoidable damage;
- e. Encourage infrastructure sharing and coordinated utility deployment;

f. Promote investment and improve access to digital services throughout Taraba State.

#### **4. SCOPE**

These Guidelines apply to all applications for the installation, laying, placement, operation, maintenance, relocation or replacement of network facilities on, through, under or across public land within Taraba State.

The Guidelines shall apply to telecommunications operators, infrastructure companies and other licensed entities authorized to deploy network facilities under applicable laws.

#### **5. RESPONSIBLE AGENCY**

The Ministry of Rural and Urban Development shall serve as the designated authority responsible for the administration, processing, approval and monitoring of Right of Way applications within Taraba State.

All applications shall be submitted to the Ministry.

#### **6. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Applications may be submitted by:

- a. Licensed telecommunications operators;
- b. Licensed infrastructure companies;
- c. Entities authorized under applicable laws to deploy telecommunications infrastructure;
- d. Any other person or organization approved by the competent regulatory authority to deploy network facilities.

#### **7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants shall submit a complete application package containing:

##### **Administrative Information**

- Name of applicant;
- Name and designation of contact person;
- Physical address;

- Telephone number;
- Electronic mail address.

### **Technical Information**

- Proposed route alignment;
- Network layout and installation plans;
- Starting and end points of the proposed deployment;
- Side of road where applicable;
- Total route length in metres;
- Trench dimensions;
- Number of ducts;
- Duct specifications;
- Cable specifications;
- Engineering drawings;
- Junction and crossing details;
- Construction methodology;
- Excavation and reinstatement methodology;
- Project implementation schedule.

### **Environmental Documentation**

Where applicable, an Environmental Impact Assessment Report or other environmental documentation required by law shall accompany the application.

## **8. APPLICATION REVIEW**

The Ministry shall review all submissions to determine completeness and compliance with applicable requirements.

Applicants may be requested to provide additional information where necessary to facilitate technical assessment.

## **9. SITE INSPECTION**

Where necessary, the Ministry may conduct physical inspections, route verification exercises or joint measurements before determination of an application.

Applicants shall cooperate fully with authorized officers during inspections.

## **10. FEES AND CHARGES**

The applicable Right of Way fee shall not exceed:

**₦145 per linear metre for the laying of ducts and cables.**

No Ministry, Department or Agency of Taraba State shall impose or collect any additional fee relating to the installation, laying, placement or maintenance of network facilities beyond those authorized under the applicable Right of Way framework.

## **11. APPROVAL TIMELINES**

The Ministry shall endeavor to process complete applications within the timelines established under the applicable Right of Way framework.

Applications that satisfy all requirements shall be processed and determined within twenty-one (21) working days.

## **12. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL**

An application may be refused where:

- a. Required information is not provided;
- b. Applicable fees remain unpaid;
- c. The relevant regulatory authority objects to the proposed deployment;
- d. The proposed infrastructure may compromise public safety or infrastructure integrity;
- e. Existing infrastructure is available and can reasonably accommodate the proposed deployment through shared use arrangements.

Where an application is refused, the Ministry shall communicate the reasons for the decision in writing.

## **13. INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING**

Applicants may be encouraged to utilize existing ducts, conduits and associated infrastructure where such facilities are available and technically suitable.

The Ministry may require the installation of additional ducts to facilitate future infrastructure sharing and reduce repeated road excavation activities.

#### **14. OBLIGATIONS OF APPROVED APPLICANTS**

Every approved applicant shall:

- a. Carry out works in accordance with approved plans;
- b. Observe applicable engineering and safety standards;
- c. Protect public infrastructure and utilities;
- d. Minimize disruption to road users and adjoining properties;
- e. Restore affected areas upon completion of works;
- f. Submit "As-Laid" drawings upon completion of deployment;
- g. Obtain and submit applicable completion certificates;
- h. Relocate facilities where required during road rehabilitation or reconstruction projects.

#### **15. ROAD REINSTATEMENT**

Any road, drain, sidewalk or public infrastructure affected by deployment activities shall be restored to its original condition.

Reinstatement works shall be completed within the timelines prescribed by applicable regulations and approval conditions.

#### **16. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

Failure to comply with applicable approval conditions, technical standards or reinstatement obligations may result in:

- a. Administrative sanctions;
- b. Suspension of approvals;
- c. Revocation of approvals;
- d. Any other enforcement action permitted by law.

## **17. REVIEW OF GUIDELINES**

These Guidelines may be reviewed periodically to reflect changes in law, technology, policy or administrative requirements.

## **18. EFFECTIVE DATE**

These Guidelines shall take effect upon approval by the Ministry of Rural and Urban Development and shall remain in force until amended or replaced.

**Ministry of Rural and Urban Development**

**Government of Taraba State**