

From: Robert Crusan [mailto:rcrusan@windstream.net]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 4:32 PM
To: Dave Nichols
Subject: Ford City

Dave,

As per our earlier discussion, based upon the limitations present in the Ford City project, it seems unlikely that any of the trees can be adequately and safely preserved. Due to the necessary 12-foot depth required, horizontal boring will not be a viable option. The size of the pits that would have to be excavated to place the boring machine would have to be enormous. In addition to being very costly, paved surfaces and space constraints would likely prohibit the excavation of a pit of the size needed in most locations.

Regarding trenching, the minimum distance from the trunk for a root cut to reduce the possibility of root failures depends on many things. The age, condition, crown size, and rooting characteristics of the tree, soil type and location of root cuts in relation to a lean and/or slope are some of the items that are considered. In general, the **minimum** recommended distance from the trunk for a root cut is three times the stem diameter (measured at 4.5 feet above ground). Cuts this close to the stem will definitely impact tree health but generally (not always) will not substantially increase the risk of failure. This is assuming that the tree is healthy and has no other root defects or other conditions that would predispose the tree to failure.

Considering these recommendations, trenching beneath the sidewalk is not a viable option if you want to preserve the trees. When roots are cut close to the trunk, it greatly increases the probability of root failure, which could result in the tree falling over with the potential to cause property damage and/or personal injury.

I hope this information is helpful. If you require anything further, please contact me and I will respond as soon as possible.

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