



CITY OF NOVI
Public Utilities & Technology Committee Meeting
March 19th, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Novi Depot Conference Room | Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER: 4:35 PM (Meeting relocated to Novi Special Conference Room)

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of 02/19/2026

Motion to approve minutes of 02/19/2026 by Member Heintz; Second by Member Martinez. (Motion approved 3:0)

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Gurumurthy introduced our speakers from DTE, Elizabeth Vogel and Derrick Sanborn. She also introduced Jody Caldwell from Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. DTE

- The meeting aimed to understand the December 2025 power outage, its cause, and the number of customers affected, questioning if other Novi areas are similarly vulnerable.
- DTE was asked to provide an overview of Novi's infrastructure and address pre-submitted questions.
- A resident shared they had toured Novi, marked potential outage risks (trees/poles), and contacted DTE.
- DTE presented reliability data showing Novi's power availability at 99.97% for 2025, exceeding the "best in class" benchmark.
- The average outage per customer in Novi for the year is 143 minutes.
- DTE invested approximately \$12 million in strategic work in Novi over the past five years, with lower current spending due to the city's high reliability.
- The online DTE Power Improvement Map details ongoing work, including tree trimming, grid rebuilding, and smart technology installations.
- Tree trimming is on a five-year cycle for distribution lines and a three-year cycle for sub-transmission lines. The entire DTE system is now on its proper trimming cycle.

- Generating a specific performance report for the community is a manual, time-consuming process that will be prioritized now that the need is known.

2. GLWA

- Project Status (Pipes 504 & 259):
 - The 42-inch main (Pipe 504) replacement is on schedule for completion by the end of April. Road and greenbelt repairs will continue through June.
 - The 48-inch main (Pipe 259) that failed has been repaired, with four segments replaced. It is being filled and tested and is expected back in service next week.
- The water main system east of M-5 (Pipes 259 and 125), about six miles, is under evaluation for a long-term solution, with options including full replacement (costing over \$100M) or installing monitoring technology. A conceptual plan is expected in about a month.
- GLWA's inspection program, started in 2016, aims to inspect 20 miles of its 800-mile system annually. Only 14 miles in the Novi area have been inspected.
- Projects are prioritized using a risk model; the 14-mile stretch including Novi's pipes is now the top priority.
- Overall water usage has been trending down due to more efficient fixtures, creating financial challenges for covering operational costs.
- The committee requested weekly email updates and monthly meetings from GLWA.
- GLWA agreed to explore creating a consolidated project webpage for Novi (glwa.org/novi) and a "Frequently Asked Questions" section.
- A town hall for residents was proposed to address questions directly.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Two fiber companies, Easy Fiber and Gateway Fiber, are interested in presenting to the committee. Easy Fiber will be scheduled first to discuss expansion plans.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public expressed concern about the detour signage on South Lake Drive.

A second member of the public commended the city for its focus on the GLWA infrastructure.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by: Member Martinez; Seconded by Member Heintz. Approved 3:0 (6:58 PM)