

	<b>Department of Design and Construction</b>	<b>SPECIFICATION BULLETIN</b>	<b>SB</b>  <b>25-006</b>
<b>Title: SPECIAL MODIFICATION OF WORK FOR INSTALLATION OF NEW CURB AND SIDEWALKS</b>			
<b>Prepared:</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">7/15/2025</div>		<b>Approved:</b>  <div style="text-align: right;">7/15/2025</div>	
Richard Jones, P.E. CWI CDT Chief Engineer	Date	How Sheen Pau, P.E. Associate Commissioner – Infrastructure Design	Date

#### APPLICABILITY:

- This Specification Bulletin (SB) is effective for projects advertised on or after 7/22/2025.

#### SUPERSEDEENCE:

- This SB supersedes the following SBs: **None.**

#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Section 8.02 (3 pages)*

#### REVISIONS TO THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STANDARD HIGHWAY SPECIFICATIONS, DATED 5/16/2022:

All references contained below are to the New York City Department of Transportation Standard Highway Specifications, Dated May 16, 2022. Said Standard Specifications are hereby revised as follows:

- a. **Refer** to Section 8.02 – Special Modification of Work for Installation of New Curb and Sidewalks  
**Delete** in its entirety Section;  
**Substitute** the revised Section in Attachment 1 (3 pages)

For questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Richard Jones, [jonesri@ddc.nyc.gov](mailto:jonesri@ddc.nyc.gov).

## SECTION 8.02 – Special Modification of Work for Installation of New Curb and Sidewalks

**8.02.1. DESCRIPTION.** Under this Section, the Contractor shall be required to modify work methods of installing new curb and sidewalk in order to maintain, protect and accommodate the integrity of NYC Transit Authority (NYCTA) facilities, trees, under-sidewalk building vaults, and existing sidewalk encroachments to remain (such as brick and/or masonry walls and fences) located within a zone of protection immediately beneath or adjacent to the existing sidewalk and curb designated to be replaced under other contract items. The zone of protection shall define an area of curb and sidewalk where: work is within three (3') feet of NYCTA or railroad facilities or under-sidewalk building vault facilities, and/or work is within one (1') foot of existing sidewalk encroachments to remain in place, and/or work is within the Critical Root Zone (CRZ) of existing trees. Work in the CRZ shall be as directed by the Engineer, in consultation with the Tree Consultant. For the purposes of this specification, the CRZ is defined as Tree Diameter at Breast Height in inches (DBH) x 1.5 feet. For example, a tree with a 10" DBH would have a 15' CRZ. The CRZ is a radius that extends each way from the center of the tree (30' diameter in this example).

This section is not intended to cover sidewalk replacement of monolithic vault roof/sidewalk slabs, where there is no separation between the vault roof and sidewalk slabs.

**8.02.2. MATERIALS.** - Not applicable.

**8.02.3. METHOD OF OPERATION/CONSTRUCTION:** Once clearances have been verified by available records, and/or information obtained from test pits (excavated under other contract items), to the satisfaction of the Engineer in consultation with the Transit Authority/Tree Consultant, the Contractor shall exercise extreme caution to install new curb and sidewalks within zoned areas of protection. Exercising extreme caution shall mean utilizing appropriate methods of operation/construction, special operations and sequencing, and by employing hand labor, using hand held tools only, under the personal direction of the Engineer in consultation with the NYCTA, railroad facility operator or Tree Consultant. . The work shall incorporate, but not be limited by, the following restrictions:

1) Removal of Existing Curb and Sidewalk. Removal of existing curb and sidewalk material shall be performed by sawcutting of curb and sidewalk, for a depth of not less than 2", to assist the Contractor in breaking up the concrete curb and sidewalk for removal by hand. Curb and sidewalk removal shall be done with hand labor, using hand held tools only, working from adjacent undisturbed sidewalk and/or pavement. It shall be understood to mean that digging and/or excavating directly with power mechanized earth moving equipment will not be permitted; any materials to be removed from the Critical Root Zone of an existing tree must be hand and/or pneumatically excavated. Further, the subbase should be reused when roots are encountered in proximity to the drip line of trees, when reconstructing sidewalks and/or resetting pavers. New sidewalks shall be ramped over the roots of existing trees and remain as close to the original grade as possible.

Power mechanized earth moving equipment may only be used as a depository of material removed from the excavation by hand as described above. All equipment, methods, and maintenance and protection provisions shall require full authorization by the Engineer in consultation with the facility operator(s)/Tree Consultant.

No excavation work will be allowed adjacent to existing trees without the Tree Consultant personally witnessing and directing the work. Every reasonable effort shall be taken so as not to cut or damage tree roots, particularly roots larger than 2", during removal work. Exposed tree roots shall be covered and protected with clean damp topsoil and/or wet burlap, as approved by the Tree Consultant, immediately after exposure to keep the roots from drying out. Topsoil or burlap shall be kept damp with applications of water, as directed by the Engineer and/or the Tree Consultant. Any fill or backfill placed within the immediate vicinity of existing tree root zones shall be hand firmed only. No separate payment will be made for any topsoil or burlap used to cover and protect tree roots.

2) Preparation & Installation of New Curb and Temporary & New Sidewalk. Backfilling, filling, grading of subbase, and installation of new curb and both temporary and new sidewalk, as required

under other Contract Items, shall be performed utilizing materials, equipment and methods of construction that will insure the integrity of the NYCTA under-sidewalk building vaults, existing street trees, existing sidewalk encroachments to remain, and at the same time meet all requirements for this work as specified in other sections of the contract.

3) Compaction. The Contractor shall compact all subgrade and new subbase materials in areas designated as being within the specified zones of protection by utilizing native and/or blended fill material, equipment and methods of construction that will ensure integrity of the NYCTA under-sidewalk building vaults, and existing sidewalk encroachments to remain, and at the same time meet all requirements for compaction as specified in Section 4.11.

In unpaved areas where heavy equipment or vehicles must operate within the CRZ of a tree (under the drip line), a 12" layer of wood chips must be spread to prevent soil compaction and root loss. Steel plates or construction mats should be added if requested by the Tree Consultant and approved by the Engineer, to further abate soil compaction. Such covering shall be maintained during the course of construction and removed by hand or as specified by the contracted Tree Consultant inspector with associated photos reported accordingly. Heat sources, flames, ignition sources, and smoking are prohibited within the CRZ and within the above mentioned mulched area.

4) Powered Excavating Equipment Limitations. The Contractor shall not employ powered or mechanical excavating equipment within the zone of protection as defined above. Powered or mechanical excavating equipment may only be used as a depository for material removed from the excavation by hand as described above.

The Contractor shall not be permitted to store, stand and/or travel equipment/vehicles on specified unpaved zoned protection areas.

The Contractor will not be permitted to operate auxiliary equipment that generates exhaust or other heat upward under the branches of trees less than 25 feet above the ground, unless approved by the Engineer, in consultation with the NYCDPR and the Tree Consultant.

#### **8.02.4. MEASUREMENT.**

(A) ITEM NO. 8.02 A. The quantity of "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Sidewalk Work" to be measured for payment shall be equal to the number of square feet (S.F.) of new sidewalk actually installed under other contract items within the zone of protection area.

(B) ITEM NO. 8.02 B. The quantity of "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Curb Work" to be measured for payment shall be equal to the number of linear feet (L.F.) of new curb actually installed under other contract items within the zone of protection area.

(C) ITEM NO. 8.02 AB-S. The quantity of "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Curb and Sidewalk Work" to be measured for payment shall be equal to the number of square feet (S.F.) of new curb and sidewalk actually installed under other contract items within the zone of protection area.

(D) For payment purposes, the horizontal limits for a zone of protection area shall be defined, for the purpose of this section, as: the area designated on the Contract Drawings or an area equal to the length of the designated facility multiplied by its width plus three feet on either side; an area equal to the length of the existing encroachment to remain multiplied by a width of one (1') foot adjacent thereto; or, the area within the vicinity of existing tree roots as directed by the Tree Consultant for a minimum distance equal to the CRZ. Where overlapping of the zones occur due to multiple facilities and trees, the area will be modified to one zone measured from the outside limits. Where the zone of protection area falls beyond the curb line the outside boundary shall be the curb line.

#### **8.02.5. PRICE TO COVER.**

(A) ITEM NO. 8.02 A. The contract price per square foot for "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Sidewalk Work" shall be the incremental cost difference of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required for excavation and disposal of pavement, base and all other material to new subgrade within and adjacent to zone of protection areas; sawcutting, grading, preparation of subgrades, backfilling, and compaction within zone of protection areas; all in accordance with the Contract Drawings, the specifications and the directions of the Engineer in consultation with the facility

operator(s)/Tree Consultant. The price bid shall further include the cost of maintaining, protecting, and accommodating the integrity of existing NYCTA facilities, existing sidewalk encroachments to remain, and existing street trees during the performance of sidewalk reconstruction (under other Contract Items) within zone of protection areas designated on the Contract Drawings or as directed by the Engineer in consultation with the NYC Transit Authority/Tree Consultant.

(B) ITEM NO. 8.02 B. The contract price per linear foot for "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Curb Work" shall be the incremental cost difference of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required to install new curbs and temporary restoration material under other Contract items, within and adjacent to zone of protection areas; all in accordance with the Contract Drawings, the specifications and the directions of the Engineer in consultation with the NYCTA /Tree Consultant. The price bid shall further include the cost of maintaining, protecting, and accommodating the integrity of the existing Transit Authority facilities, existing sidewalk encroachments to remain, and existing street trees during the performance of sidewalk reconstruction (under other Contract Items) within zone of protection areas designated on the Contract Drawings or as directed by the Engineer in consultation with the NYCTA /Tree Consultant.

(C) ITEM NO. 8.02 AB-S. The contract price per square foot for "Special Care Excavation and Restoration for Curb and Sidewalk Work" shall be the incremental cost difference of all labor, materials, equipment, insurance, and incidentals required to install curb and sidewalk under other contract items within zone of protection areas; all in accordance with the Contract Drawings, the specifications and the directions of the Engineer in consultation with the NYCTA, railroad facility operator, or/Tree Consultant. The price bid shall further include the cost of maintaining, protecting, and accommodating the integrity of railroad facilities and existing street trees during the performance of sidewalk and curb reconstruction (under other Contract Items) within zone of protection areas designated on the Contract Drawings or as directed by the Engineer in consultation with the railroad facility operator/Tree Consultant.

(D) Payment for all work specified herein shall be made on a one-time basis only; no payment will be made for the same area of sidewalk or length of curb more than one time.

Payment for Tree Consultant will either be made under Item No. 4.21 or will be furnished directly by the City where no Tree Consultant item is provided.

*Payment will be made under:*

Item No.	Item	Pay Unit
8.02 A	SPECIAL CARE EXCAVATION AND RESTORATION FOR SIDEWALK WORK	S.F.
8.02 B	SPECIAL CARE EXCAVATION AND RESTORATION FOR CURB WORK	L.F.
8.02 AB-S	SPECIAL CARE EXCAVATION AND RESTORATION FOR CURB AND SIDEWALK WORK	S.F.