2016 AASHTO Right of Way, Utilities, Outdoor Advertising Control & National Alliance of Highway Beautification Agencies Conference

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Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida
INDOT’s New Paradigm

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Does this describe your utility coordination process?
Coordination of the Past

• Minimal review and response time
• “Get out of our way” mentality
• No partnership
• No consideration of financial impact to utilities
• No consideration of relocation time or needs
• Conflict went beyond the utilities, but to the individuals doing the coordination
Example #1 – Drainage Conflict
Example #1 – Drainage Conflict
Example #2 – Ditch Conflict
What if....
What if...

• Utility Coordination was a PARTNERSHIP
  • Responsibility and Accountability for both parties
  • Utility Coordination is not just an administrative task
  • Designers/DOT understand Utilities
  • Utilities understand Designers/DOT

• Utility Coordination was a COMMITMENT
  • Between all stakeholders – owner, utility, public
  • Plan the project with a schedule
  • Stick to the schedule
What if...

- Utility Coordination was PREDICTIBLE
  - Utilities can plan and budget their resources
  - Designers can plan right-of-way needs
  - Project owners can plan their budget
- Utility Coordination MANAGED RISKS
  - Risks cost time and money
  - Project owner owners assumed some of the risk
  - Utilities were not required to assume all the risk
Indiana Process

• July 1, 2008, 105 IAC 13 went into affect
• Specific steps per 105 IAC 13:
  • Initial Notice
  • Verification Plans
  • Preliminary Plans
  • Preliminary Final Plans
• Requires specific response times from utilities
  • 30 days for Initial Plans & Verification Plans
  • 60 days for Preliminary Plans
  • 120 days for Work Plans
Evolved to what we now call our new paradigm:

“Everyone knows where everyone goes.”
From CONFLICT to COOPERATION...

- Treat them as partners
- Meet early and frequently
- Change thought process from “they are in our way” to “they are our partners”
- Change thought process from “re-design” to “design around”
- Utility owners are not our enemies – after all, it is OUR project that is putting them in conflict. They’re just fine where they are right now.
The Keys to Everything...

• Communication! Communication! Communication!
• Have a conversation
• Early Coordination Meetings
• Partner with the utilities
• Work Together
• Be willing to learn from one another
Early Coordination Meeting

• Meet with Utility Partners
• Discuss project goals & schedule
• Discuss expectations
• Analyze Risks – what could break your bank, or your schedule?
  • Material procurement delays
  • Scheduling issues
  • Permitting issues
  • Right-of-way restrictions or needs
Early Coordination Meeting

• Review of the Verification Plans
  • Identify critical points
  • Determine what information is missing
    • Do you need QL-A or QL-B information?
    • Who will do this work?

• Lines on Paper
  • Find out exactly what that “W” is or what that “T” means
  • Find out the significance of that facility for the utility
Lines on paper...
...don’t tell me this...
...or this.
Project Development

• Iterative Process – one size does NOT fit all
• Review with Utility Partners
• Develop overall utility plan
• Page turn review prior to relocation
• Include relocations in contract when possible
• Follow up with utilities during relocation work & during reconstruction
Case Study – Richmond, IN
Case Study – Richmond, IN

• Schedule
  • Designed in 2000
  • Site Meeting 2004
  • Green Lighted in December 2014

• Issues
  • Multiple handoffs
    • INDOT
    • Design Firms
    • Utility Engineers
    • Utility Coordinators
  • Scope Changes
Case Study – Richmond, IN
Case Study – Richmond, IN

- Frontier’s estimated relocation
  - $6,000,000
  - 24 Months
Case Study – Richmond, IN

• Solution

PARTNERSHIP
In the end...

*Everyone knows where everyone goes.*
Questions?