

Each year millions of dollars are spent to relocate or adjust utility facilities for road construction projects. Lack of utility coordination among public agencies, utilities and contractors often results in incomplete plans, construction delays and additional costs.

In times of economic challenge, budget cuts and limited resources, it becomes even more important to place greater emphasis on utility coordination early in the project development process. The net result: streamlined utility relocations, expedited project delivery, and reduced risk potential for construction delays and cost extras due to utilities.

A Utility Relocation Electronic Document Management System (UREDMS) can help accomplish all that and more. These benefits led the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Technology Implementation Group (TIG) to select UREDMS as one of its focus technologies for 2010. TIG's goal is to promote high payoff, innovative technologies that State and local transportation agencies and industry can utilize to help improve roadway improvement projects.

Although UREDMS can vary amongst transportation agencies, the typical application is usually a web-based project planning and construction program that provides secure communications, document submissions, access to stored documents and report generation wherever web access is available.

UREDMS can offer comprehensive information, including mapping and photography files, improved tracking capability and enhanced asset management. In addition UREDMS can provide a one-stop-shop for utility information, assist with facilitating invoicing payments, and can help reduce the number of unplanned utility relocations, search and retrieval is easier, document transfer faster, revision control more efficient and physical storage space is reduced. UREDMS also aids in eliminating lost or misplaced files. And, before long, greener agencies will appear across the Nation because the "electronic filing cabinet" promotes paperless processes.

But the benefits don't end there. Depending on the transportation agency's UREDMS, these types of applications can offers utilities 24/7 access to templates and forms, expedited document submission and revision processes, electronic signature capabilities and access to pre-populated forms.

And it all happens in a secure environment in which information can be shared among transportation agencies and utilities

Benefits with UREDMS:

- Utility Permitting and Coordination are Standardized
- On-Time Projects Instill Senior Management Confidence
- Transportation Programs are Stabilized
- Reliable Information is Provided to DOTs and Utility Partners
- Integrated Cost Processes Lead to Accurate, Advanced Cost Estimation
- Early and Frequent Coordination, Cooperation and Communication Among State DOTs and Utility Personnel Result in More Timely and Efficient Utility Relocation Activities

UREDMS provides a platform to enhance coordination, cooperation and communication among all stakeholders to ensure a project is successful. It's the tool of tomorrow, today.

The AASHTO TIG executive committee has formed a Lead States Team to promote this technology. The team includes representatives from the Federal Highway Administration and the Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Texas Departments of Transportation. The UREDMS lead states team members are available to provide guidance and answer questions as agencies consider taking advantage of this technology. Visit <http://tig.transportation.org/Pages/UtilityRelocationElectronicDocumentManagementSystem.aspx> to obtain additional information about UREDMS or to find contact information for lead states team members.