PROJECT TEAM

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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Three new research projects enhance utility coordination and partnerships

As communities grow and become more connected, an increasing amount of utility infrastructure is placed in the public right of way. While pipes, cables, and other channels are important for carrying water, gas, sewer, and communication lines, they can also bring a range of challenges when it comes to managing and coordinating efforts in these public spaces.

"These projects will help us have better discussions and coordination from the early phases of planning and design to construction and ongoing management."

— DEANNE POPP,
Iowa DOT Utility Program Administrator

Three new Iowa DOT Research projects aim to improve communications and cooperation among all of the public and private stakeholders involved:

Best Practices for Utility Management in the Public Right of Way. This project is exploring the strategies public agencies have used to successfully work with utility companies and developing a written manual guiding future collaborations.

Project Development and Utility Coordination as a Partnership. To reduce construction delays and increase efficiencies, this project aims to help stakeholders align their processes.

Early Identification and Location of Utility Facilities Within Iowa DOT Project Footprints. Through this effort, researchers will establish a method for collecting utility location information along with a process for effectively using, sharing, and maintaining the data.

More than 40 stakeholders attended a joint kick-off meeting for all three projects. Representing city, county, and state interests, the number of people far exceeded a typical meeting—a testament to the value of these projects.

To learn more and subscribe to project updates, visit Iowa DOT Research at ideas.iowadot.gov *or* iowadot.gov/research.

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