



# Subsurface Utility Engineering: A Proven Solution

XXIV FIG International Congress 2010

The Problem:  
Unreliable Utility Information

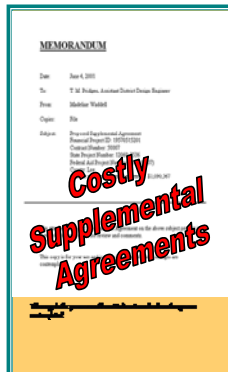


**Change  
Orders  
\$\$\$\$**

## Unreliable Utility Information Affects Project Planning / Design



## Unreliable Utility Information Affects Project Funding and Construction Cost



## Unreliable Utility Information Affects Road Reserve Acquisition



## Unreliable Utility Information Affects Utility Damage and Construction Delays



## Unreliable Utility Information Affects Health & Safety Risks



## A Proven Solution: Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)



- Civil Engineering
- Geophysics
- Survey
- Cadd and/or GIS

## American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE)

### **SUE:**

A branch of engineering practice that involves managing certain risks associated with: utility mapping at appropriate quality levels, utility coordination, utility relocation design and coordination, utility condition assessment, communication of utility data to concerned parties, utility relocation cost estimates, implementation of utility accommodation policies and utility design.

## SUE is important because it has been proven to:

- Reduce damages
- Resolve conflicts prior to construction
- Avoid unnecessary utility relocations
- Save Lives
- Saves Money

## SUE: The Process

Currently, the popular view of SUE includes three major phases:

- Designating
- Locating
- Data Management

## SUE: The Process

Designating:

The process of using surface geophysical methods to interpret the presence of a subsurface utility and to mark its approximate horizontal position (its *designation*) on the ground surface. (Note: Utility owners and contractors often call this process "locating.")



## SUE: The Process

### Locating:

The process of exposing and recording the precise vertical and horizontal location of a utility, through the use of vacuum excavation. It is non-destructive and typically more time and cost efficient than other conventional digging methods.



## SUE: The Process

**Data Management:** The use of the surveyed utility information obtained by designating and locating and typically that data is incorporated into CAD or GIS.

Activities include:

- updating existing utility drawings
- Depiction on design plans
- Creation of "composite" utility maps
- Conflict analysis and resolution



## What is SUE's History?

- 1982 -- Traditional ways not working -- SUE "invented"
- 1985 -- First statewide contract with Virginia DOT



## What is SUE's History?

- 1991 -- FHWA began promoting SUE



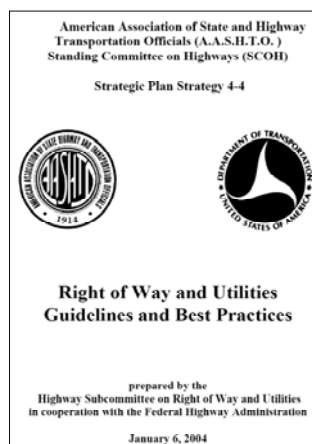
- 2002 – Standard Guideline was adopted by American Society of Civil Engineers



## Industry Standards and Guidelines

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- American Public Works Association (APWA)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- Federal Aviation Authority (FAA)
- State DOT's, Cities, Counties and Utility Owners

## SUE: A Proven Solution

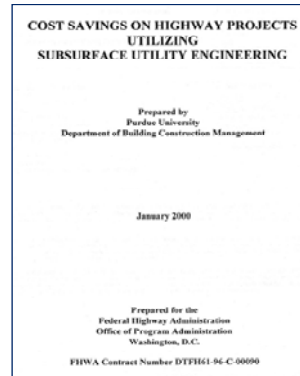


**AASHTO**  
Subcommittee on  
Right-of-Way and Utilities

<http://rightofway.transportation.org>

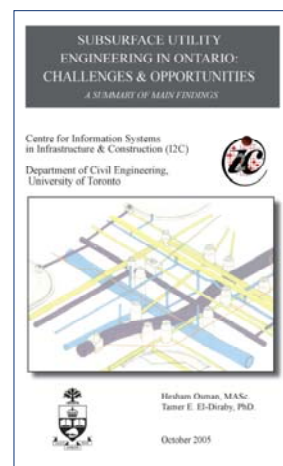
## SUE: A Proven Solution

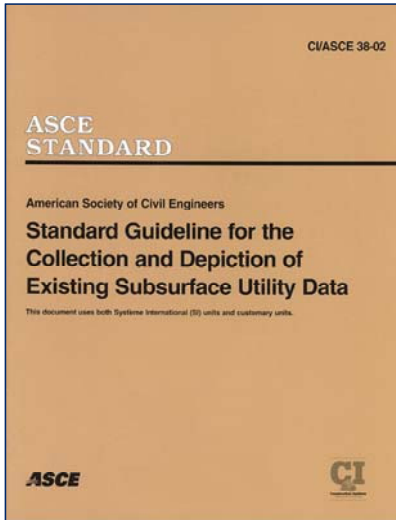
FHWA-Purdue study  
**\$4.62 Saved Per \$1.00 Spent**



## SUE: A Proven Solution

- University of Toronto
- Commissioned by Ontario Sewer and Watermain Contractors Assoc.
- **\$3.41 Return on \$1.00 Investment**





## C/ASCE 38-02 Four "Quality Levels" defined

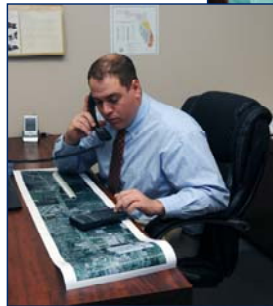
## ASCE Standard SUE Quality Levels D, C, B, A



## ASCE Quality Level D – “Records Research”

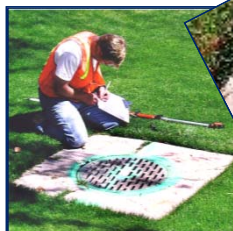
Information comes solely from:

- Existing utility records,
- Individual recollections
- Dial Before You Dig tickets
- Field review
- Public Service Commission
- Governmental Permitting Agencies
- Web base Search



## ASCE Quality Level C – “Field Research”

- Involves surveying visible above ground utility facilities, i.e. manholes, valve boxes, etc.
- Correlates survey data with existing utility records plans



## ASCE Quality Level B – “Designating”

Using surface geophysical techniques to determine the existence and approximate horizontal position of underground utilities

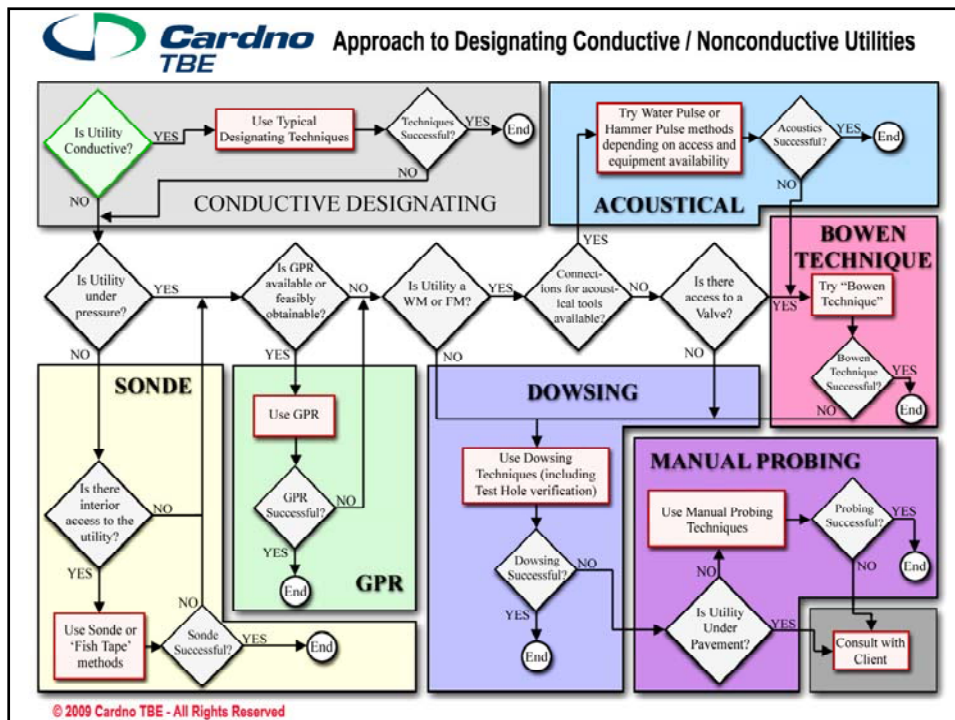


## Quality Level B Designating Instruments

 <p><b>Radiodetection 400</b> Multi-Frequency 512Hz 8KHz 33KHz 65KHz Low Medium</p>	 <p><b>3M Dynatel 2250</b> Multi-Frequency 5772Hz 8KHz 33KHz 133KHz Low Medium High</p>
 <p><b>Metrotech 810</b> Single Frequency 83KHz High</p>	 <p><b>Metrotech 530</b> Single Frequency 332KHz High</p>
 <p><b>Subsite 950</b> Multi-Frequency 512Hz 1KHz 8KHz 29KHz 80KHz Low Medium High</p>	 <p><b>Rycom 8876</b> Dual Frequency 815Hz 82KHz Low High</p>
 <p><b>Metrotech 9890xt</b> Multi-Frequency 982Hz 9.8KHz 82KHz Low High</p>	 <p><b>Pipehorn</b> Single Frequency 480 KHz Very High</p>

## 2D and 3D Radar Tomography

Safe, non-invasive geophysical investigation method used to detect metallic, non-metallic, natural and manmade underground objects



## ASCE Quality Level A – “Locating”

Using non-destructive excavating equipment at critical points to determine the precise horizontal and vertical position, type, size, condition, material and other characteristics of underground utilities



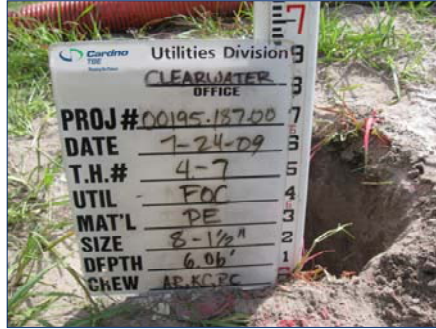
## ASCE Quality Level A – Locating Equipment



## ASCE Quality Level A – Locating Equipment



Record Utility Information



Visually Verify Utility

## Dial Before You Dig vs. SUE- ASCE Quality Level B

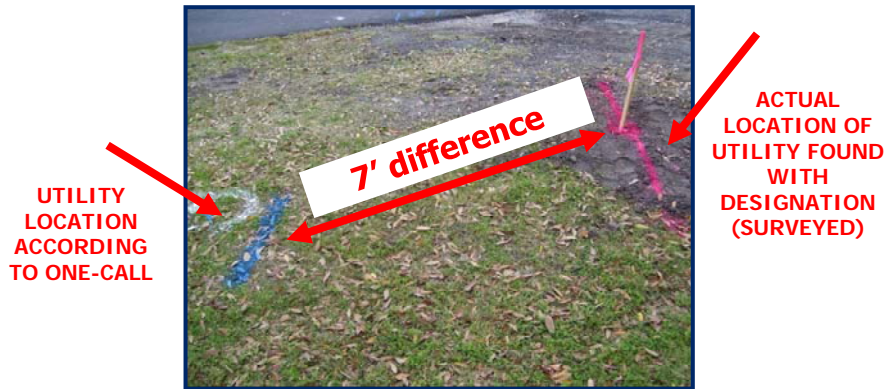


ONE-CALL MARK  
INDICATING GAS  
LINE

ASCE QUALITY LEVEL B  
MARK INDICATING GAS  
LINE



## One-Call vs. ASCE Quality Level B



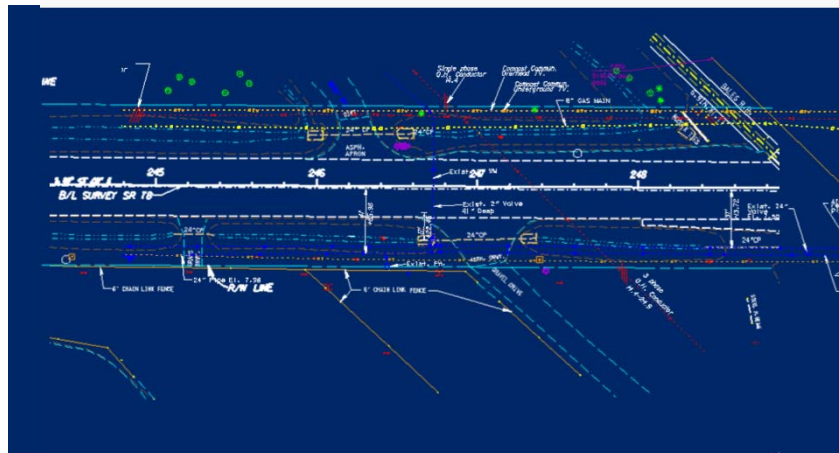
## One-Call vs. ASCE Quality Level B

### Oregon Demo Project

Utility	Utility Mark (m)	SUE QL-B (m)
Gas	7,272	8,373
Power	400	587
Telephone	3,085	4,455
Water	4,921	7,180
Sewer	4,250	4,250
Unknown	0	268

## Start with the Topography

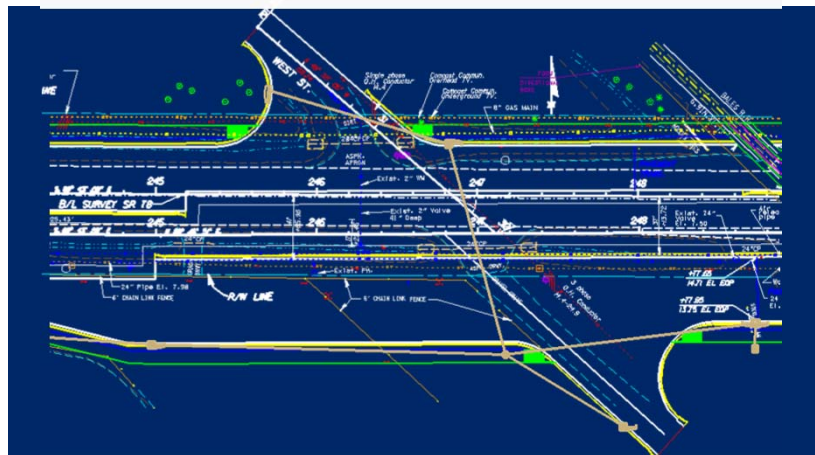
Add Existing Road Reserve limits Add Existing Utilities (Quality Level B)



## Add Preliminary Roadway Design



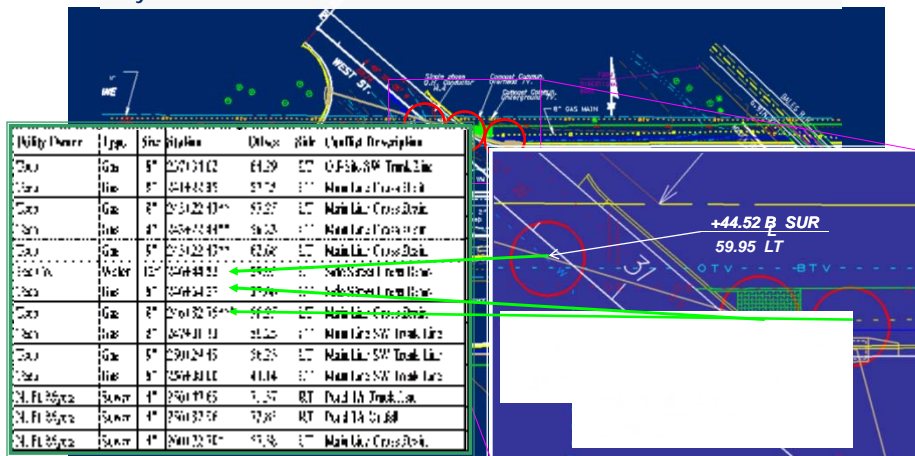
Add Preliminary Drainage Design



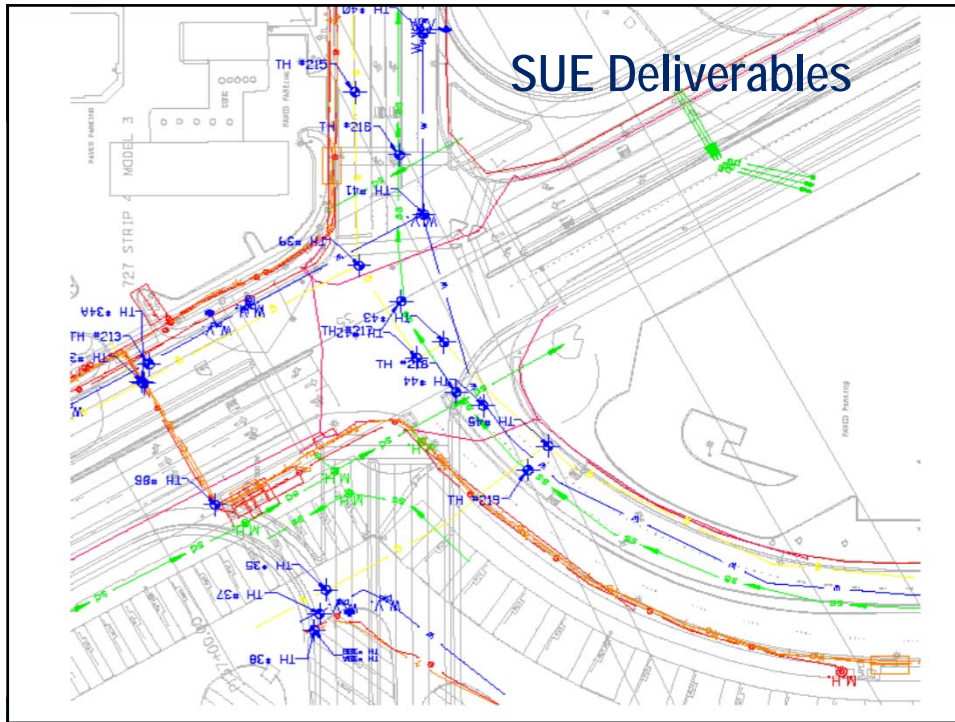
Analyze Conflicts

Identify Locations


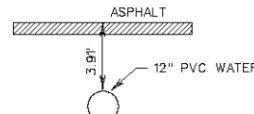
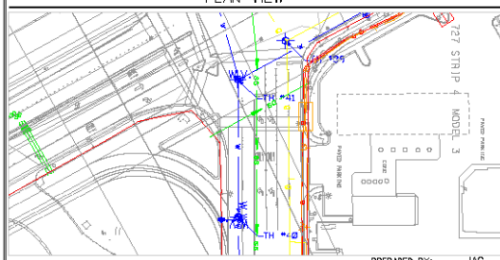
Build Conflict Matrix



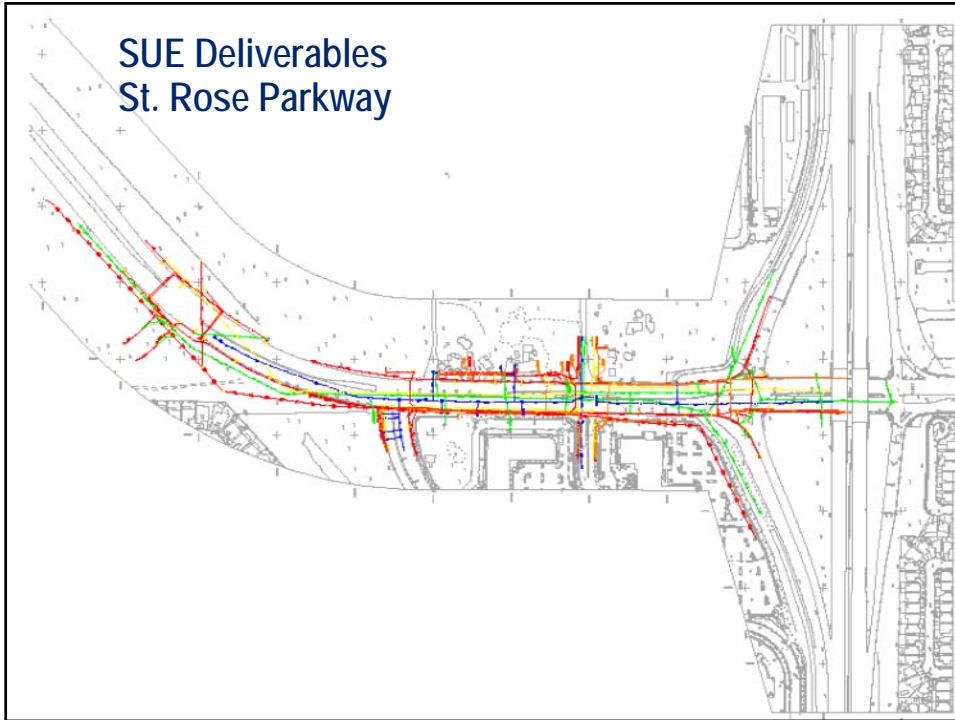




TEST HOLE DATA FORM

 <p><b>Cardno TBE</b></p> <p>PROJECT NAME SR 160 Blue Diamond          CITY \ COUNTY Lee \ Jackson, Clark Co.          GENERAL LOCATION SR 160 from Rainbow Blvd to I-15 N to Warm Springs Rd, S to Windmill</p>	<p>TBE PROJECT NO: NV02102800          CLIENT: VTN          CLIENT REF NO: 00009          TEST HOLE NO: 41          DATE TEST HOLE: 11/7/02          (SCALE) METRIC</p>
SECTIONAL VIEW	
 <p>ASPHALT          3 FT          12" PVC WATER          2261.15 SURFACE ELEVATION          2287.24 TOP OF UTILITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NOT TO SCALE</p>	
PLAN VIEW	
	
<p>PREPARED BY: JAC          CHECKED BY:</p>	
<p>TEST HOLE LOCATED BY:          -X- Station / Offset: LT. RT. Centerline Const. Baseline Survey          -X- Coordinates: N26721747.728 E 773175.753</p>	
<p>SURVEY PROVIDED BY:          VTN</p>	

## SUE Deliverables Test Hole Data Form





2505	8142820	243568	656.2	TS-20-14
2506	8142820	243568	656.2	TS-20-14
2507	8142820	243568.1	656.18	TS-20-15
2508	8142820	243568.6	656.15	TS-20-16
2509	8142820	243569.9	656.31	TS-22-1
2510	8142819	243569	656.32	TV-9-58
2511	8142820	243570	656.31	TS BOX
2512	8142820	243570	656.3	TS BOX
2513	8142820	243569.2	656.28	TS BOX
2514	8142820	243569.2	656.3	TS BOX
2515	8142821	243570	656.3	FO BOX
2516	8142821	243569.1	656.28	FO BOX
2517	8142822	243569.1	656.25	FO BOX
2518	8142822	243570	656.26	FO BOX
2519	8142822	243571	656.52	TS-21-1
2520	8142823	243570.6	656.29	TS-21-2
2521	8142826	243570.7	656.23	TS-21-3
2522	8142827	243570.2	656.19	E-21-2
2523	8142827	243569.6	656.17	TV-9-59
2524	8142837	243569.8	655.98	TV-9-60
2525	8142837	243570.1	655.99	TS-21-4
2526	8142837	243570.3	655.99	E-21-1
2527	8142815	243570.5	656.47	TS-2-2
2528	8142815	243570.9	656.66	E-22-3

### SUE Deliverables St. Rose Parkway 2528 Survey Shots



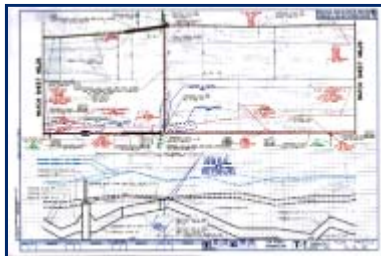
## SUE Deliverables

### US-95 Searchlight, Nevada Phase III

Level=1	UG TELEPHONE	61,944.38
Level=10	GAS	94,632.65
Level=30	CATV	409.64
Level=35	STORM DRAIN	5,475.23
Level=40	WATER	804.62
Level=24	TRAFFIC ELECTRIC	3,780.82
Level=50	UG ELECTRIC	3,079.87
Level=60	FIBER OPTIC	101,582.96
Level=51	OH ELECTRIC	4,259.66
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>271,710.17</b>

## Conflict Matrix

- Utilizes 38-02 data
- Identifies all potential conflicts
- Recommends where to use Quality Level A



## Conflict Matrix

Station and Offset	Utility	Identified Conflict	Testhole Needed	Utility Impact with Cost ("As-Designed")	Recommended Resolution	*Benefit of Resolution
C1 100+05, 21 L 14th St Constr. BL	AGL-BFO	Proposed storm structure and existing BFO	No	Relocate 1150LF of BFO-DUCT (\$91,000)	Relocate proposed storm drainage into street. Use D's that drain toward roadway.	Save Cost to Relocate BFO-DUCT (\$91,000)
C2 100+09, 21 L 14th St Constr. BL	AGL-BFO	Proposed storm structure and existing BFO	No	See C1		
C3 100+38, 24 R 14th St Constr. BL	UNK@Tee	Proposed 18" storm and unknown utility Tee	TH 1	Relocate unknown type and function utility	TH1 to identify utility and conflict	Eliminate possible delay during construction
C4 100+58, 22 R 14th St Constr. BL	8"W	Proposed 18" storm and existing 8"W	TH 2	Relocate 8"W (\$7,500)	TH on 8"W, adjust depth of proposed storm drainage	Save Cost to Relocate 8"W (\$6,000)
C5 100+82, 28 R 14th St Constr. BL	8"W	Proposed 18" storm and existing 8"W	TH 3	Relocate 8"W (\$7,500)	TH on 8"W, adjust depth of proposed storm drainage	Save Cost to Relocate 8"W (\$6,000)
C6 101+01, 26 L 14th St Constr. BL	4"G	Proposed storm structure and existing 4"G	TH 4	Relocate 20 LF of 4"G (\$6,000)	TH on 4"G, adjust depth of proposed storm structure	Save Cost to Relocate 4"G (\$4,500)
C7 101+22, 27 R 14th St Constr. BL	4"G	Proposed 18" storm and existing 4"x2" gas Tee	TH 5	Relocate 2"G & 4"G Tee (\$12,500)	TH on G lines, adjust depth of proposed storm structure	Save Cost to Relocate G lines (\$11,000)
C8 101+01, 26 L 14th St Constr. BL	16"G	Proposed 18" storm and existing 16"G	TH 6	Relocate 16"G (\$10,000)	TH on 16"G, adjust depth of proposed storm structure	Save Cost to Relocate 16"G (\$8,500)
C9 101+25, 41 L 14th St Constr. BL	BT-DUCT 2"G	Proposed storm structure and two BT-ducts	TH 7	Relocate BT-DUCT & 2"G (\$11,000)	TH on BT-DUCT & 2"G, adjust depth of proposed storm structure	Save Cost to Relocate BT-DUCT & 2"G (\$10,000)
C10 101+37, 41 L 14th St Constr. BL	6"W	Proposed 18" storm and existing 6"W	TH 8	Relocate 6"W (\$5,000)	TH on 6"W, adjust depth of proposed storm drainage	Save Cost to Relocate 6"W (\$3,500)
C11 101+58, 22 L 14th St Constr. BL	16"G	Proposed 18" storm and existing 16"G	TH 9	Relocate 16"G (\$10,000)	TH on 16"G, adjust depth of proposed storm structure	Save Cost to Relocate 16"G (\$8,500)
C12 101+58, 22 L 14th St Constr. BL	AGL-BFO	Proposed storm structure and existing BFO	No	See C1		
C13 101+60, 22 L 14th St Constr. BL	AGL-BFO	Proposed storm structure and existing BFO	No	See C1		
C14 102+20, 27 R 14th St Constr. BL	4"G	Proposed storm structure and existing 4"G	No	Relocate 4"G (\$4,500)	Relocate 4"G	Eliminate conflict with proposed DI
C15 102+38, 24 L 14th St Constr. BL	AGL-BFO	Proposed storm structure and existing BFO	No	See C1		

\*Please include all benefits incurred including time, costs, and safety improvements.

**Key:**  
 AC - Asbestos Concrete  
 BF - Buried Fiberglass  
 BFO - Buried Fiber Optic  
 BT - Buried Telephone  
 G - Gas  
 L - Left  
 MFS - Mixed Fluid Section  
 OE - Overhead Electric  
 OT - Overhead Telephone  
 R - Right  
 RCP - Reinforce Concrete Pipe  
 W - Water  
 WM - Water Main  
 TH - Test Hole, verify vert. and horiz.  
 UTK - Unknown Type  
 SAN - Sanitary Sewer

**Utility Owner:**  
 AGL - Atlanta Gas Light  
 GE - Georgia Power  
 BT - Bell South  
 L3 - Level 3 Communications  
 MFL - Metromedia Fiber Network  
 SAN - Fulton County Public Works  
 W - City of Atlanta  
 UNK - Unknown Owner



## Why Use SUE? To Avoid Unreliable Underground Utility Information





## When & Where to Use SUE

- Not Just for Highways!
  - Public Works
  - Power Plants
  - Utility Facilities
  - Oil and Gas Transmission
  - Airports
    - FAA just completed a promotional video
  - Military bases
  - Railroad / rapid transit
  - Asset Management
  - Seaports
  - Other Industries:
    - health, education, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, etc.



## Why use SUE?

- More Efficient & Reliable Design
- Reduce Unnecessary Utility Relocations
- Avoid Costly Conflicts & Delays
- Reduce Utility Damage & Loss of Service
- Lower Construction Bids
- Safety
- Cost-Effective (\$4.62 return per \$1.00 spent)
- Standard of Care (ASCE 38-02)

## SUE Video

*Subsurface Utility Engineering*  
*A Proven Solution*

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
1995



## SUE Web Sites

- FHWA:  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/sueindex.cfm>
  
- Cardno:  
<http://www.subsurfaceutilityengineering.com/>



# THANK YOU!

Contact:

[Nick.Zembillas@CardnoTBE.com](mailto:Nick.Zembillas@CardnoTBE.com)