

## DELDOT UTILITIES SECTION POST-COORDINATION & CONSTRUCTION REVIEW MEETING: FINAL

STATE CONTRACT: T201401101, SR72 Advance Utility Relocation, McCoy Rd to SR71

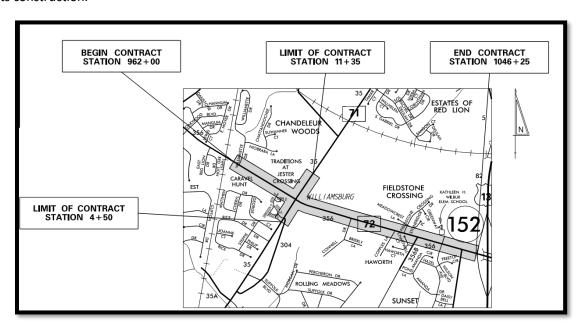
**REVIEW MEETING DATE**: May 17, 2024

PREPARED BY: Alan K. Marteney, P.E.

Century Engineering, LLC, a Kleinfelder Company

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**BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project includes This is the advanced utility work for the proposed improvements to widen SR 72 from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction. The main focus of the project is to add two-way left turn lanes. The project will also include the addition of bike lanes and a sidewalk. This project will relocate the utilities for contract T200601102, SR72 McCoy Road to SR71 in advance of its construction.



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- Artesian Water
- Comcast Cable Communications
- Delmarva Power-Electric Distribution
- Delmarva Power-Gas
- Eastern Shore Natural Gas-Transmission
- New Castle County-Sewer
  - Relocation plans and specifications were included in the road construction project to be completed by the road contractor.
- Suez Water of Delaware
- Verizon-Communication
- DelDOT-Signal Conduit

**ROAD CONTRACTOR:** ADEL Construction Company, Inc.

**ROAD CONSTRUCTION START DATE:** May 2019

ROAD CONSTRUCTION END DATE: March 2022 (original contract time 719 calendar days, extended 325 for

total 1044 calendar days)

**DELDOT PROJECT DEVELOPMENT SECTION/PROJECT MANAGER:** PD North;

**ENGINEER OF RECORD FIRM: JMT** 

**DELDOT CONSTRUCTION REPRESENTATIVES:** Catherine Schwander

**CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION FIRM:** Century Engineering

**DELDOT UTILITY COORDINATOR:** Debbi Kukulich

**MAJOR PROJECT CHALLENGES**: Project is located along a heavily travelled corridor with major utility facilities. The resulting congestion of utility facilities along with limited right-of-way and the need to maintain traffic and the utility services presented coordination and relocation scheduling challenges. The Engineer of Record, JMT, also assumed responsibility of the project due to expedite the project development to advertise and meet various commitments. Design of the road improvement project continued after the Advance Utility Relocation project was advertised.

Construction of the project occurred as the COVID pandemic was developing, resulting in many challenges to keep up to date on safety mandates, personnel exposures, impacts to the labor and material supply system, etc.

## **LESSONS LEARNED** from this project included:

- Design of items critical to determining utility impacts and relocation plans should be completed prior to advertising plans or issuing Utility Notices to Proceed, notably the drainage design.
- All required right-of-way was not acquired prior to the advance relocation contract beginning, resulting in delays and additional costs. All right-of-way should be acquired prior to starting construction.
- The expedited schedule did not allow for a thorough SUE investigation, which resulted in unknown conflicts arising during construction.
- During construction, an Inspector was identified as the main point of contact for coordination between the utilities, contractor and designer. This arrangement was identified by all as a major benefit to the project.

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- Oversight of and obtaining accurate as-built information on the utility relocations is crucial. When
  multiple utility relocations are occurring simultaneously, additional field staff may be required. The
  procedures for obtaining as-built information should be established prior to construction NTP. The asbuilt information should be evaluated by the Design Engineer for accuracy of installation and potential
  conflicts.
- Extensive coordination was undertaken to establish the location and details of a 'joint trench' for use by the utility relocations. This was deemed to be a great benefit to the project.
- Lead time concerns for ordering materials for some of the utility relocations were identified early and accounted for in the Utility NTP process.
- Most of the utility companies could directly utilize CADD files provided by the Engineer which expedited the exchange of information and aided quality control.
- DP&L-Electric relocated poles in advance. Subsequent construction involved excavations close to the poles which required DP&L to return to hold the poles. The need for this service should be identified during the project development by considering constructability of the project.
- Overall, constructability of the utility relocations also needs to be considered and account for such
  things as installation by pipe stringing vs individual pipe segment, tie-in provisions for maintaining
  service with minimal disruption, and access for utility construction when multiple relocations are
  occurring at the same time.
- Several service laterals were encountered that were not included on the construction plans or utility relocation plans resulting in additional relocations, delays and costs. Thorough investigation to identify the location of all utility services to a property should be undertaken during the SUE investigation.
- Impacts to septic systems and basement sump pump outfalls were encountered during construction.
  Identifying these types of private systems should be pursued during the project development, utilizing staff from the right-of-way section if needed. (Other potential types of private facilities include irrigation systems, landscape lighting, security lighting, and electric/communication lines to commercial signs.)