

Engineering Department

April 16, 2014

What We Do

- **MISSION**

- *It is the mission of this department to operate and maintain a variety of functions in an efficient and cost-effective manner. These functions include contract administration of Public Works projects; the layout, engineering, and management of the city's public streets and right-of-ways including all utilities and appurtenances contained within; and overall support to other city departments and agencies by providing engineering services as needed.*

- **Responsibilities and Duties**

- The Engineering Department is responsible for the administration and management of most all major capital Public Works projects, including the projects included in the NYSDOT's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (such as South Street Water Main and Paving Project; the Walnut Street Culvert Replacement Project; the Traffic Signal Project (Phase I); the recently completed York Street Reconstruction Project, and the East and West Genesee Street Reconstruction projects, plus future projects under design such as the North Division Bridge; the (West) Genesee Street Paving Project and the North Hunter Brook Culvert Rehabilitation Projects at Schwartz and McIntosh Drive. Other recently completed City projects administered include the State Dam Rehabilitation Project, the Falcon Park Field Renovation Project, the Sewer Collection Project, the Franklin Street Water Main Project, the City's Annual Road Improvement Program, the Community Development Block Grant Program's sidewalk and curb projects, the CDBG Parks/Playground projects, the City's Sidewalk, curb and handicap ramps program, the City's Revolving Loan Sidewalk Program, and the Energy Performance contracts with Siemens and Wendel Energy and many other capital projects. The Engineering Department also assists in the bidding process for other City projects including major equipment and chemical purchases.
- The Superintendent of Engineering Services also assists the City's Public Works Department's Water Division in the management of the Backflow Prevention Program. The City Engineer is also in charge of all public rights-of-way including the coordination of all public utility companies' infrastructure contained within the City's rights-of-way.

Who We Serve

- The Engineering Department receives and investigates multiple City Resident concerns and complaints such as bad road sections, drainage issues, sidewalk and curb requests, City owned utility locations, street light outages, excavations within City owned Rights-of-Way, construction detours, etc..
- We also provide engineering services to all other City Departments as requested. We assist on a multitude of grant requests with the Office of Planning & Economic Development and the Director of Capital Projects and Grants. We provide support for the continuance of operation and maintenance of the Public Works and Municipal Utilities Departments.
- The Engineering Dept. also interacts with multiple other Federal, State and local governmental agencies such as the F.E.R.C., E.P.A., Army Corps of Engineers, NYSEFC, NYSDOT, NYSDOL, NYSDEC, NYSDOH, Cayuga County Governmental Agencies, Local Towns, etc..
- Our largest commitment of time is devoted to the communication and interaction with all of the other City Personnel, the utilities, contractors, and consultants in the performance of their duties in accomplishing all of the capital projects that we manage. All of our staff are involved in some phase in the planning, estimating, designing, negotiating, inspection and overall management of these many and various projects.

What Revenues We Generate

- Although the Engineering Dept. does generate a small amount of revenues for excavation permit fees and the fees for contract plans and specifications, our biggest contributions to the City's Budget are in the reduction of current and future operational expenses, and by cost efficient project management including the negotiating of consultant fees, and trying to secure multiple bids to achieve the lowest contract costs and the overall project costs.
- Our department has previously initiated bidding for our energy purchases resulting in saving many thousands of dollars each year.
- We have install new energy savings LED and Inductions lamps on all City owned Street Lights saving approx. 50% of the annual cost for these Street Lights. We also replaced the entire lighting system in the Auburn Parking Garage and installed an Energy Management System where the overall electric costs will save approximately 40% of the annual Cost.
- Through the energy savings measures installed in the Energy Performance Contract with Wendel Energy the city was able to replace many older electrical consuming devices such as motors, lighting, pumps with new devices with extended life and reduced its operational costs with the savings being more that the amortized costs. Also included was the replacement of many old and inaccurate water meters which will pay for themselves and ultimately reduce the overall costs to provide water to our customers.

Operating Budgets

[illegible]

Changes in Services or Other Significant Changes

- - Investigating the value of road millings to either secure a credit or obtain an equal value of crushed stone for City purposes.
- - Continue to implement and utilize our Geospatial Information System which increases efficiencies in the use and distribution of data ranging from Utility Mapping, Fire Hydrant Inspection and Road Condition Assessment to the tracking of snow plows.
- - Continued investigation of the use of the Electricity and Credits produced at the Co-Generation Facility from the Landfill gas.
- - Continue working with the City Manager and other City staff and our Energy Advisers to purchase the City's Natural Gas and Electricity Demands at the lowest rates and also try to maximize the Remote Net Metering Tariff and the agreements for the Mill St. Dam and the North Division St. Dam Hydroelectric Facilities to reduce our utility costs to a minimum and utilize the value of Hydroelectricity produced to a maximum.
- -Continue the exploration and utilization of energy savings measures as was just accomplished with the completion of the two Energy Performance Contracts with Siemens and Wendel Energy.
- -Continue to work with other City Staff on finding other cost justified Renewable Energy Projects.
- -Continue to apply and assist others in securing grants for our capital projects and equipment purchases to maximize the use of City Funding.
- -Continue to work with the Planning and Economic Development Office to retain and recruit new businesses and industry to keep Auburn and its environs in a healthy state and a desirable place to live.