

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

PAVING THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY EDUCATING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES.

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/docs/newsletter/>

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New Right-of-way Construction Section Created



*Bob Simmering,
Engineering
Services Manager*

Engineering Services is proud to announce a new way to better serve the community – a right-of-way construction section. This section will work with private construction and development projects to protect and maintain the valuable public and private utilities housed in the City right-of-way. This will allow for a more thorough inspection of private projects using the right-of-way to help ensure that City standards are maintained and that existing utilities are kept safe.

The "one stop" location for coordinating the projects is the Development Services Center (DSC) under the leadership of Bob Simmering. The section will be managed by Scott Opfer and led by Barney Blum, Harry Kroos, Greg Topil, Roger Ohlrich and Kent E. Evans. This team brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this exciting new venture for PWU. Those with right-of-way construction projects are encouraged to contact the DSC and discuss their needs with the new team.

Engineering Services - a New Home, New Staff and New Excitement

by Roger Figard, City Engineer



In my 36 years with the City and 23-plus years as City Engineer, this past year ranks as one with significant change and excitement as we look to the future.

Engineering Services moved into the Municipal Services Center (MSC), 949 West Bond, as a new and permanent professional home for Design/Construction, Traffic Operations and Street Maintenance. We share this space with Watershed Management and Technology/Records Services, which has created an excellent work and information sharing environment.

Our West District Maintenance Section and Fleet Services also are settled in at the MSC, right next door at 901 West Bond. Our old home at 901 North 6th St. was sold in late fall to NEBCO.

New Street Maintenance Manager Ty Barger and Northeast District Supervisor Clay Engelman have ushered in significant new and needed processes for the future of Street Maintenance. A new Winter Operations Plan with improved de-icing protocols is already paying dividends in improved safety and service on our streets this winter. Also, paperless work orders, incident management and new training protocols are in place or nearing completion.

Lonnie Burklund, our new Traffic Engineer, and his staff have completed a much needed fiber and conduit inventory. He is also well on the way to developing a new Master Plan for the Traffic Operations Section, including upgrades to the City's outdated Central Signal System. The existing traffic signal system software is over 15 years old and is no longer supported. Additional Traffic Operations initiatives include a significant increase in the proposed use of roundabouts at the growing edges of our City to improve safety and operation and allow future expansion of our arterial streets with less disruption to the residents and road users.

With a newly formed right-of-way (ROW) construction section, supervised by Bob Simmering and managed by Scott Opfer, we can better manage and protect the public ROW that is so crucial to all of Public Works and Utilities as we operate water, wastewater, storm sewer, signals, fiber, streets and pedestrian systems.

The future is bright, the opportunities are here and we have the people, both new and tenured, to make it a reality.

STRONG LINCS

"THERE IS NO 'DIVISION' AMONG OUR DIVISIONS."

Miki Esposito

PWU Director Miki Esposito is pleased to announce the Strong Linc Award recipients for the workplace principle of **loyalty**. Please congratulate these Strong Lincs for their valued service.

Larry Jochum (*Engineering Services*)
Larry has been with the City over 35 years. For a good percentage of that time, Larry has been the primary/only traffic signal timing technician. Larry works nearly every Husker football Saturday, ensuring traffic gets to and from the stadium. Larry also is the primary responder when a fatal crash occurs. He investigates the incident to determine areas of potential liability for the City.

Bruce Briney (*Engineering Services*)
Bruce has over 35 years of experience with the City. He has moved to a number of different positions within Engineering Services and is always willing to go to the area where he is most needed. His flexibility and knowledge of many facets of the Division have made him a valuable resource.

Doug Schwartz (*Engineering Services*)
Doug has been with the City over 40 years. Doug has spent his time within the Signing and Marking Section and brings a wealth of knowledge of the duties and history in that area. He also looks for innovative solutions to problems that arise.

Lane Loschen and Steve Groesser (*Solid Waste*)
The loyalty of Lane and Steve to the Solid Waste Composting facility shows in the high-end quality product, which is appreciated by residents and landscape contractors. Their diligent work involves mixing materials, adding moisture and turning that mix into a life-giving product. The effort these individuals devote often goes unnoticed, but their dedication shows in the green lawns and the lush gardens many enjoy. Thank you to Lane and Steve for their steadfast approach to the compost facility.

Brian Praeuner (*StarTran*)
Brian is always willing to take on new assignments and help out other team members whenever they have a need. Brian cares about the success of StarTran, and it shows in his work.

Rick Scholl (*Street Maintenance*)
Rick exemplifies commitment to his job and constantly demonstrates a willingness to accept any challenge. He serves as a backup to the Fleet Services Garage Supervisor. On one particular occasion, Rick was asked to fill in for an extended period during winter preparation, a very demanding task, even for a seasoned veteran. Not only did Rick do an excellent job of managing normal daily shop operations, he also scheduled and oversaw all preseason snow removal equipment service, installation and testing.

The next workplace principle will focus on **excellence**. Nominations are due to Miki by Friday, March 20.

A FAREWELL NOTE...

Best wishes to our Public Works and Utilities colleague on her retirement from City employment. We appreciate her service to our community. May you find success in all your future endeavors.

Pam Gaden (Administration)
– 36 years

In-house First Aid CPR/AED Training Available

PWU has begun an in-house First-Aid CPR/AED training program at a reduced cost to the City. Instructors for the classes are Compliance Division employees Dave Thurber and Gerardo Martinez, both certified in First-Aid CPR /AED by the National Safety Council. Employees will be certified for three years. Training is on a voluntary basis.

Supervisors may register employees and review training data on the City Intranet.



StarTran Passes on Sale at Half Price

City of Lincoln employees may purchase their StarTran 31-Consecutive Day Pass at half price for ONLY \$8.50, through pre-tax payroll deduction. This is a great way to go green and save some green. Find the enrollment form on the Intranet's "Employee's Self-Service" for City employees.



Wednesday and Thursday
March 25 and 26
 Earth Wellness Festival
 Southeast Community College

Thursday, March 26
 Spring Contractor Meeting
 Firefighters Hall

Monday through Friday
April 6 through 10
 Nebraska Transit Week



Become a
 StarTran fan
 on Facebook



Wednesday, April 8
 Bike UNL Event

Saturday, April 11
 University of Nebraska
 Red - White Spring Game
 Big Red Express Shuttle Service

Saturday and Sunday
April 11 and 12
 16th annual StarTran "Stuff the Bus"
 for Friendship Home
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Wal-Mart and Sam's Club locations

Saturday, April 18
 StarTran Bus Rodeo
 Pinnacle Bank Arena
 Festival Parking Lot
 8 a.m.

Wednesday, April 29
 Spring Safety Meeting
 Firefighters Hall

COMPLYING WITH THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The City of Lincoln participates in the federally mandated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program as a result of the 1972 Clean Water Act. The goals of the program are "swimmable, fishable, and drinkable waters." Numerous cities treat water from rivers and reservoirs for use in their municipalities. The more pollutants in these waters, the more expensive the water treatment.



Obtaining a sample of leachate water

Here are some examples of how PWU divisions comply with the NPDES program:

- Solid Waste Management controls leachate runoff water from the landfill locations and properly stores and disposes of hazardous materials.
- Wastewater maintains water quality standards for processed sewage discharges from treatment facilities, which are cleaner than what is already in Salt Creek.



Taking a sample of treated wastewater discharge to Salt Creek

- Water Production and Distribution treats water pumped from wells adjacent to the Platte River for consumption. In order to meet water quality standards, the City is currently working to modify the existing stormwater system. This work will include construction of dechlorination facilities to treat residual water before being discharged to a local tributary.
- Engineering Services requires all contractors to comply with construction site runoff standards regarding sediment and erosion control. This includes proper fuel storage, containment of waste materials and frequent inspections.
- Street Maintenance Operations conducts a routine street sweeping program and inspects and maintains the entire storm drain system.
- All maintenance yards for PWU must store hazardous material inside.
- Watershed Management implements a construction site runoff program, and reports the City's progress in meeting NPDES goals to the State of Nebraska.

PWU employees working "behind the scenes" help the City to be compliant. Without the efforts made by PWU employees, our local waterways would be less "swimmable, fishable, and drinkable."

For more information on the City's NPDES program, visit lincoln.ge.gov (keyword: npdes).



Construction oversight



City of Lincoln Street Sweeping Program

Since 1915, if not earlier, street sweeping has been an integral part of street maintenance operations. A street sweeping program is required to maintain our Federal Clean Water Act permit, which was first issued in 2002.

In accordance with the Act and to prevent debris from entering the storm water drainage systems, residential streets are swept three times a year. Arterial streets are swept nightly every 15 days, and business districts are swept nightly every four days. In 2013-2014, 2,975 tons of debris was collected and transported to the landfill.

Without the removal of debris, blocked stormwater inlets can lead to unnecessary flooding during heavy rains. With the removal of debris, the amount of pollutants in the stream system is also reduced significantly. The program helps keep travel on Lincoln streets clean and safe.

The fleet includes six units with seven operators. The cost of one new street sweeper is about \$275,000. The entire sanitation budget, not limited to street sweeping, totals \$1.5 million.

In a 1927 annual report, the Street Department tally includes "pavement swept by Pan Men." The number of blocks swept was? 19,890! The best and most qualified guess is that the work was done by broom-and-dust-Pan Men.

Thank you, Ed Zimmer, for the historical information!



Thank you to all local contractors and PWU crews for your snow removal efforts each season! Your hard work and dedication help keep Lincoln streets safe. PWU crews have also done an exceptional job with pothole repairs.

"P" Street Stormwater Improvements



Conceptual image above



Permeable pavers

The "P" Street Stormwater Improvements are part of a complete redesign of the streetscape, parking and public spaces along "P" Street from 11th Street to Centennial Mall and on 14th Street from "O" to "Q" streets. Stormwater management was integrated into the green space plan, which includes an extensive plan for tree planting, new lighting, signage, pedestrian friendly areas, outdoor dining space and public art displays.

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) for this area include the following:

- Permeable pavement allows water to soak into the soil rather than runoff.
- Rain gardens capture and filter stormwater before discharging into the storm drain system.

These BMPs are designed to catch 90 percent of the average storm's runoff water that falls on the streets and sidewalks in the "P" Street corridor. The BMPs blend into the natural construction of the area, and you may not notice them unless you look for them. Permeable pavers in a sidewalk are similar in shape and size to bricks and have gaps between them that are filled with crushed rock. Rain gardens in the project look like a depressed area of ground next to the street filled with plants and wood mulch. If you are downtown on "P" Street, see if you can spot these stormwater BMPs.

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

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