



CASE STUDY



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ST. PETERSBURG, FL CASE STUDY

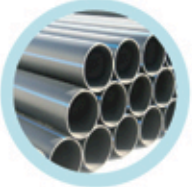
LOCATION: St. Petersburg, FL

PROJECT SCOPE: 18-year, \$100 million program to replace and upgrade the city's aging water system infrastructure

APPLICATION: Estimated range of 3 million linear feet with pipe sizes in the target areas ranging from 2-inch to 12-inch

PROJECT DATES: 18-year project: 2004 - 2022

KEY CONTACTS: Joe Towry, manager of the water systems maintenance division for the city of St. Petersburg, FL



SUMMARY

Joe Towry, the manager of the water systems maintenance division for the city of St. Petersburg, Florida works off a multi-color-coded map displaying detailed information including the age of the infrastructure in each neighborhood along with projected cost for replacement and linear foot descriptions. A quick scan places the totals of pipe in the range of 3 million linear feet. Pipe sizes in the target areas range from 2-inch to 12-inch.

Towry's department is in the process of implementing an 18-year, \$100 million program to replace and upgrade the city's aging water system infrastructure. He has taken a methodical approach to the project and uses his background as an analyst to better dissect and understand the city's infrastructure.

The reclaimed water project is a big part of the water conservation efforts in St. Pete, but number one on Towry's list is the preservation of the drinking water system. This goal is imperative to the city's future and one of the forward-thinking tools that is playing a significant role is high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe.

While incremental improvements to the nation's water distribution systems have been made over the last 100 years, many like Towry feel it is time to aggressively implement the latest technologies like trenchless construction and HDPE to the water industry.

"To compare HDPE with other materials solely on price per linear foot is not a proper comparison," says Towry. "Other items should be taken into consideration like the long-term investment. Leaks are expensive; if I can spend an extra three dollars today that will save the city \$100 in the future, I have done my job well."

Towry explained there is a considerable laundry list of concerns associated with residential neighborhood pipeline construction. Many of the areas in St. Pete have been classified as historical preservation areas with brick streets, granite curbing and hex block sidewalks. Removal and restoration of these assets using conventional open cut construction techniques within historical areas comes with a considerable price tag.

Adding to the costs formula are multi-million dollar homes, expensive landscape designs and designer driveways. This is where Towry uses trenchless technology – horizontal directional drilling (HDD) – to his advantage to reduce the number of concerns from area residents and area homeowner associations.

See PPI's article for details: *St. Petersburg, FL PPI article in the Case Studies section at www.pepipe.org*

Please do not hesitate to contact the Alliance with any questions or comments.

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