



BOLTON & MENK, INC.

By Design

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Transportation Planning Leads to Smart Growth

During the late 1990's many Minnesota municipalities saw rapid growth and expansion. Many communities learned first hand about the need to have a working plan for growth and development to avoid problems with insufficient infrastructure.

An important part of management of growth and development is transportation planning. In fact, when transportation planning leads the way, the result is a city that is more livable for residents, with a more efficient and cost effective infrastructure.

Transportation Planning: A Valuable Investment

Transportation engineers can help cities and counties with population and land use forecasts in order to determine future traffic volumes and conditions.

"We help define traffic growth based on population and residential and commercial growth patterns. We help cities and counties develop transportation priorities based on the land use plans they usually already have," according to Steve Manhart, Transportation Engineer.

He further explains that although some cities may not need to put plans into action for several years, they are able to identify what needs there will be a few years down the line.

A transportation plan gives cities and counties the ability to stage capital improvement programs according to growth patterns and define what improvements are needed and when.



Belle Plaine, Scott County and Mn/DOT have joined together to make transportation planning a priority in the Belle Plaine area.

Although the economy has slowed, Chris Chromy, Transportation Engineer, says the time to plan is sooner, rather than later.

Impact on Development

Transportation planning not only helps cities avoid traffic congestion and unfavorable traffic patterns, but it can also assist in the development process.

Together with land use objectives, a transportation plan sets criteria for development and access management. A developer can coordinate plans to meet these criteria from the onset, says Ron Roetzel, Bolton & Menk Transportation Department Manager.

"When developers know the expected transportation plan, it streamlines the layout and approval process. It saves the city and county time and money. Cities need to be proactive and manage the growth rather than reacting to the problems of growing too fast," says Roetzel.

What happens if transportation planning is neglected? "One thing I've encountered in the past is a municipality will see several housing

developments going up at once. All of the sudden there are 500 new homes and local residential streets start carrying heavy traffic because there isn't a major roadway to carry the traffic," says Chromy.

In order to avoid this sort of problem, cities that are seeing significant residential growth should look into transportation planning to help identify future collector and arterial roadways. This would include identifying what is the functionality of a particular roadway, the appropriate roadway, and right-of-way width. Also important is the type of intersection control and developing an access management plan to preserve the capacity of the roadway network.

Chromy advises cities to identify growth areas and keep an eye on them. "If there is a pending development, don't just plan for that development, but look beyond the immediate project to consider how it effects the rest of the city and county."

"Once you invest the time and effort to develop a transportation plan, implement it. Use it and use it on a regular basis. It can be a valuable guide in planning your city," Chromy says.

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EDITOR: Nancy Thorkelson
PRODUCTION: Envision:
Design that Works, Inc.

OFFICES:
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
1960 Premier Drive
Mankato, MN 56001-5900
Phone (507) 625-4171
Fax (507) 625-4177

BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA
1515 East Highway 13
Burnsville, MN 55337-6857
Phone (952) 890-0509
Fax (952) 890-8065

FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA
219 North Main
Fairmont, MN 56031-1833
Phone (507) 238-4738
Fax (507) 238-4732

WILLMAR, MINNESOTA
316 4th Street SW
P.O. Box 895
Willmar, MN 56201-0895
Phone (320) 231-3956
Fax (320) 231-9710

SLEEPY EYE, MINNESOTA
140 First Avenue North
P.O. Box 434
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085-0434
Phone (507) 794-5541
Fax (507) 794-5542

CHASKA, MINNESOTA
1107 Hazeltine Boulevard, Suite 480
Chaska, MN 55318-1008
Phone (952) 448-8838
Fax (952) 448-8805

AMES, IOWA
2730 Ford St.
Ames, IA 50010-0668
Phone (515) 233-6100
Fax (515) 233-4430

LIBERTY, MISSOURI
108 North Water Street
Liberty, MO 64068-1781
Phone (816) 792-5100
Fax (816) 792-2133

www.bolton-menk.com



Ric Williams Joins Burnsville Office

Licensed Land Surveyor Richard J. Williams, Jr. recently joined the Burnsville Office Survey Department. As a third generation Land Surveyor, Ric has over twenty-eight years of surveying experience in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Alabama and Louisiana. He has worked in the Metro area of Minnesota since 1978. For the past eight years, he worked for a consultant in the metro area, serving as Vice President. His principal responsibility was managing the survey staff, including six survey crews and eleven office employees. The types of projects that Ric has managed include:

Boundary Surveys

- Boundary surveys for Canadian Pacific Railroad, Metropolitan Waste Control Commission, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Community Development Agency, Superior National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service, as well as private land owners and developers

GPS Surveys

- Survey of PLS corners for Carver County and Hennepin County
- Aerial photo control in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Construction Staking

- Several regional airports (Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Area) for the Metropolitan Airports Commission, including the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and Flying Cloud Airport
- State Highway 25 upgrade in Buffalo, MN and State Highway 14 relocation around Dodge Center, MN for the Minnesota Department of Transportation
- New field training facilities at Camp Ripley, MN

Ric is a highly professional and capable surveyor who brings his talent not only to the Burnsville Office, but to the entire company.

Stormwater Utilities Offer Revenue Building Opportunity for Cities

Stormwater management planning is one of many services Bolton & Menk offers its clients. While it has always been important for cities and developers to wisely manage stormwater runoff, the current State budget crisis and the impending National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II permit requirements have many cities evaluating alternative financing options.

The NPDES Phase II stormwater discharge permit program requires targeted cities to establish a self-regulating program which includes educating the general public about the ramifications of its general practices, designing and enforcing of construction site erosion controls, establishing post-construction stormwater management, and good housekeeping practices. These issues are designed to reduce adverse impacts to water quality from the City's storm sewer system.

According to Bill Douglass, Senior Water Resources Engineer at Bolton & Menk, one of the best stormwater management financing options for municipalities today is a stormwater utility billing system. When this system is in place, property owners are billed a monthly rate that reflects the amount of runoff from the property. Most systems base these charges on the size of the property and the amount of surface that generates direct runoff. Zoning types are also a significant consideration in setting up a stormwater utility.

Douglass says that now is a good time for cities to consider a stormwater utility system. "With the anticipated cutbacks, cities are looking for new revenue sources. Stormwater utilities are one way for cities to increase revenue without adding an additional tax. Most cities have been aware of stormwater utilities and have planned to initiate the process, but have been reluctant to add this additional utility because the availability of other funds and concerns regarding public reaction." Now with other sources being cut back, cities will be faced with many tough decisions regarding funding of municipal services. Stormwater utilities provide an alternative and also ensure that the greater contributors to runoff are the ones paying their fair share.

Bolton & Menk has assisted several cities of varying sizes in setting up a stormwater utility system that meets the needs of the City and allocates the costs fairly. Bolton & Menk also offers the following comprehensive stormwater management planning services:

- Stormwater retention/detention basin design
- Comprehensive stormwater management studies
- NPDES Phase II stormwater permitting
- Sedimentation basin design
- Stormwater treatment basin analysis

Blethen Takes Reins of Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors



Peter Blethen, L.S.

Peter W. Blethen, a licensed Land Surveyor, has assumed the presidency of the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS) for

2003-04. The Society has 585 members, including 352 licensed surveyors and others in surveying-related fields throughout the state.

The goal of MSPS is to elevate the standard of the surveying profession in the State of Minnesota. The organization has established basic minimum requirements for surveys, and has assisted in promoting legislation and education programs.

Peter is the Civil Division Survey Coordinator and a Senior Associate of the firm. He is currently working with each of our surveying departments throughout the company to insure seamless project communication between offices. Peter specializes in Global Positioning System (GPS) surveys and enjoys working with our state and county clients, as well as contractors and developers. He has been with the firm since 1983.



City of Northfield Project Wins Awards

The American Council of Engineering Companies of Minnesota (ACEC/MN) has announced that the Northfield Wastewater Treatment Facility Modifications and Expansion has received a 2003 Grand

Award. The project also won the Project of the Year as presented by the City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM). The project was designed by Bolton & Menk, Inc. and constructed by Gridor Construction.

At the ACEC/MN Awards Banquet, L-R, Randy Peterson, P.E., Northfield City Engineer, Jon Peterson, P.E., BMI Project Engineer, and Robert Brown, P.E., BMI Project Manager.



Top 10 Reasons to Celebrate

National Engineers Week *February 16-22*

10 Because if we don't, those scientists will keep on taking credit for all of our efforts.

9 To remind those kids in school just who's having fun now.

8 Even garbage collectors want to be called engineers.

7 To stop people from snickering when we discuss "flocculating" devices.

6 "ENGINEER" - you can't spell it without "G.E.E.!"

5 It's either that or "Broccoli Awareness Week."

4 What else have you got to do in the third week in February?

3 Spring will come early if enough engineers emerge from the shadows.

2 Pocket protectors! Pocket protectors! Pocket protectors!

1 Because 1,800,000 engineers can't be wrong.



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Bolton & Menk, Inc.
1960 Premier Drive
Mankato, MN 56001-5900

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