

## Session 44

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### *Successful Utility Coordination Case Study*

#### **Topic Description**

Vinnie will present at least one successful utility coordination project, explain why it was successful, and tie in how employing qualified utility coordinators with a rounded experience base is a key element. Describing common pitfalls of less qualified coordinators on the example project will be considered.

#### **Speaker Biography**

Vinnie has a BE in Mechanical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology and has worked in the utility industry for over 20 years. She began her 16-year career in the electric utility business working for PSE&G ( New Jersey ) and Florida Power (now known as Progress Energy). In 1999 Vinnie switched to the consulting arena in the area of utility coordination for civil site projects as well as for roadway construction. She currently is a Senior Utility Coordinator with TBE Group in their Orlando , Florida, office and oversees TBE's utility coordination efforts in the State of Florida . Her TBE Florida team works with multiple FDOT clients as well as providing utility coordination to design firms as a sub consultant.



# Successful Utility Coordination Case Study

Presented by  
**Vinnie LaVallette, EI**



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## Agenda

- **Successful Utility Coordination Case Study**
  - Define Success
  - Highlight Project
  - What went Well and Why
  - What went Wrong and Why
  - What makes a good Utility Coordinator?



# Success

- The accomplishment of an aim or purpose
- The attainment of fame, wealth, or social status
- A person or thing that achieves success

*Oxford English Dictionary, 2006*



# A Successful Case Study



- The screen is blank...
- **NO** project goes on without a hitch



## A Successful Case Study



- **NOT!**
- **Poor coordination**



## A Successful Case Study



- **Contractor in a bit of a hurry**
- **Just put a YIELD sign on the pole and we are all set...**



## A Successful Case Study



- What were they thinking?
- Basically, they weren't



## A Successful Case Study



- I-10/I-110 Interchange
- Trans/Dist Electric
- Gas
- Major Telecommunications
- Water-Sewer
- Temp. Sheet Piles
- Clearances
- Partnering



## A Successful Case Study



- Goldenrod Rd Extension
- Cul-de-sac on McCoy Rd
- Utility corridor
- Joint Trench
- UWHC Agreement
- Cross-Box in LA ROW
- Partnering



## A Successful Case Study



- I-10, Pensacola
- Design-Build
- AT&T Submarine
- 1 Mile Work Zone
- Western approach, multiple UAO and RR



## A Successful Case Study



- Rural roads
- 3 R's
- Usually not many utilities
- Minor drainage
- Usually more ROW



## A Successful Case Study



- Urban roads
- Multiple utilities
- ROW acquisition
- Congestion
- Clear zone issues
- Utility exceptions



## **What makes a Project Successful?**

- **All parties are still speaking at the end**
- **Design alternatives benefit the overall project – not just FDOT or UAO**
- **Safe and efficient utility design**
- **No poles blocking a driveway or road**
- **Qualified Utility Coordinators help**



## **What makes a good Utility Coordinator?**

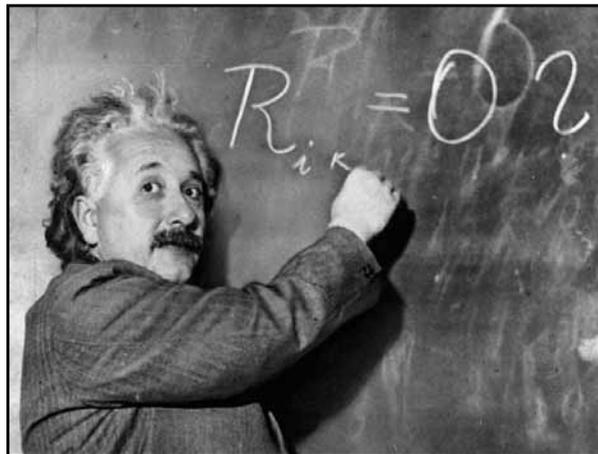
- **A personality helps**
- **Established relationships with the Utility Owners**
- **Comprehensive knowledge of FDOT policies and procedures**



# Art vs. Science



## Science



## Science

- Plans reading
- Field reviews
- General utility design concepts
- Design alternatives
- Conflict analysis
- Constructability



## Art



- Not this kind of Art...



# Art



- Not this Art either
- Extra Credit if you know who this is...



# Art



- Not this Art...
- This is Arthur



## Art

- **Effective Communication Skills**
- **Negotiation Skills**
- **Establish productive relationships with Utility Owners**
- **Knowledge of the process**



## Coordination made easy



- **Install all underground facilities above ground**
- **Takes the guess work away...**



## Coordination made complicated



- Multiple underground facilities
- Drainage will probably be designed right here!



## Coordination made very complicated



- Turn of the century NYC
- How do you ever identify these facilities?



## What we do is important!



- Safety of the public
- Safety of the utility workers
- Safety of the contractors



## We use lots of Acronyms

- UWS – Utility Work Schedule
- UWA – Utility Work Agreement
- UWHC – Utility Work by Highway Contractor
- MOA – Memorandum of Agreement
- UAM – Utility Accommodation Manual
- UAS – Utility Adjustment Sheets
- DBA – Design Build Agreement



## We Know Our Environment



## We Work Safely



- Rural utility crew
- Must be Texas...



# You Work Safely

- DOT crew?



## Question & Answer Session



# Thank you!

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