



Above, Corunna's manhole rehabilitation project involved various sealing, grouting and rebuilding methods. At right, the city's sewer rehabilitation program included cured-in-place lining for mains. Insituform Technologies cleaned and inspected 30,967 feet of 6- to 18-inch mains before installing the CIPP liner.

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Joe Sawyer

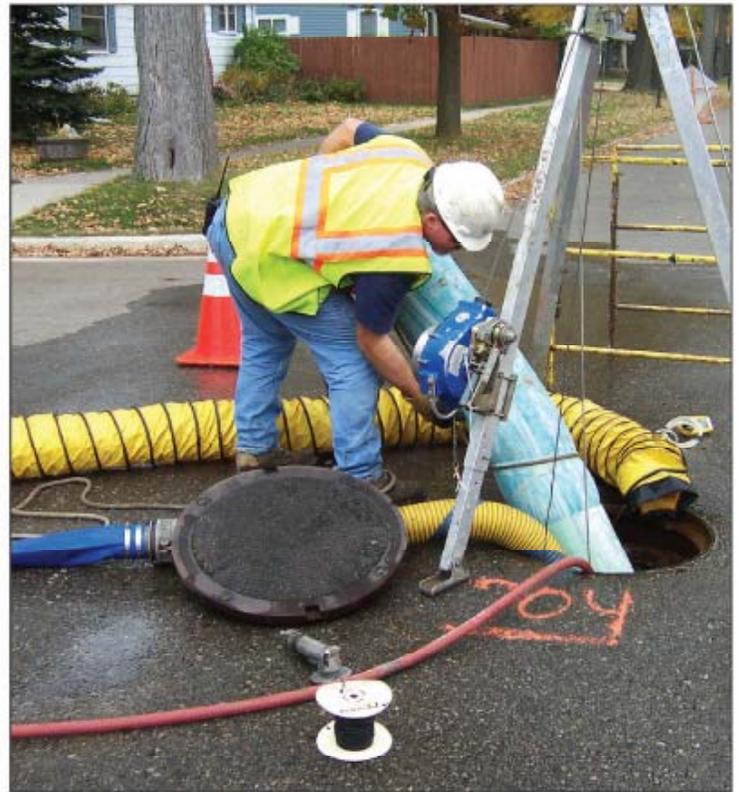
Phasing in

At the outset, Crawford and Sawyer worked with Gary Arnold of C2AE, a Grand Rapids engineering firm. "We were careful about thinking ahead," Sawyer says. "We didn't have accurate maps, and we knew that was the priority from day one. All other decisions stemmed from what we found during the

inspection and evaluation."

Funding was the main challenge. "We assumed the only way we'd ever fix our system would be through conventional construction," Sawyer says. "We put a \$30 million price tag on that, which meant we couldn't even consider it. So the technology aspect of it, such as the lining program, is invaluable."

The team divided the work into four phases. Phase 1, investigation and evaluation, ran from October 2003 to December 2004 and included a complete inventory,



as well as cleaning and televising mains and laterals and all connections, lift stations and manholes. For this, the city won a \$157,500 Economic Development Fund (EDF) grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC).

Phase 2, final cleaning and lining of the mains along with lateral service inspection and manhole rehabilitation, ran from November 2005 through October 2006 and cost \$1.1 million, all paid by the city.

Phase 3, from August to Nov-

ember 2007, included complete rebuilding of the Ferry Street Pump Station (\$750,000) and construction of a new interceptor sewer (\$613,500). Funding included a \$575,000 MEDC grant.

Phase 4 will consist of rehabilitating failing lateral connections and is still in the planning and engineering stage.

Facing challenges

Crawford and Sawyer knew that a key to the project's success was to get the decision makers onboard.

ABOVE-GRADE TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES UNDERGROUND EFFORTS

Corunna City Manager Joe Sawyer quickly recognized the value of the free publicity he could get for the city through online technology. Web sites, blogs, streaming video — all were fair game in creating support for infrastructure projects.

"We launched our Web site May 1, 2005," he says. "Originally, it was intended for the sewer department only. The city's site has grown around that."

He realized that posting photos of project progress was a pre-emptive strike against citizen complaints of traffic disruption and slow progress. "We did use it through the course of the I&I work," he says. "We even provide a 'Lighter Side' humorous section. Sometimes these humor pages bring people into our site."

Sawyer also edits complementary still photos and video into finished video, which he posts on YouTube. "I edited sewer footage to create a fun but

educational video about what the sewer department is doing," he says. "We play it at city dinners and other events, like for Kiwanis clubs."

He uploaded the video in segments to YouTube and monitored their popularity. "We had more than 400 views within two weeks," he reports. "And my kids took them to school to show their classes. It's been fun."

Fun is just a byproduct of this online visibility campaign. "Every now and then when I put something new on the site, I'll send out mass emails to residents to let them know," Sawyer says. "We create this presence with the idea of attracting developers, as well. The press has been pretty good about covering us. Our YouTube videos just got covered, and we have bumper stickers and T-shirts."

Web work is done within a \$3,000 annual budget. Sawyer doesn't pay for outside consultants — he is the Webmaster. "In small towns," he says, "we wear a lot of hats!"