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# HOW TO DEAL WITH BIG PROJECTS IN SMALL TOWNS

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# INTRODUCTION

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- Civil Engineer who works with small- to medium-sized utilities and jurisdictions in Oregon
- Currently contract City Engineer for three cities
- Represented municipal clients for the last 11 years
- Has completed projects large and small
- Works hard to find solutions for small cities in creative ways



# BIG PROJECT HANDLED INCORRECTLY

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The state was completing a \$3.0 million highway improvement through the middle of town. Project improvements conflicted with existing city waterline facilities.

- Storm drain facilities had 14 direct conflicts
- The line was an existing 12” asbestos cement line
- It was necessary to replace 5,000 LF of pipe
- City annual improvement budget of \$150,000 per year



# BIG PROJECT HANDLED INCORRECTLY



- Project was underway when I was hired
- No prior coordination
- ODOT sent conflict resolution letter
- Overnight the city had a \$350,000 problem

# PHASE II HANDLED CORRECTLY

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After Phase I was completed the city took a proactive approach toward Phase II of the highway improvements.

- Coordinated with ODOT for future conflicts
- Established a conflict-free location
- Researched funding options

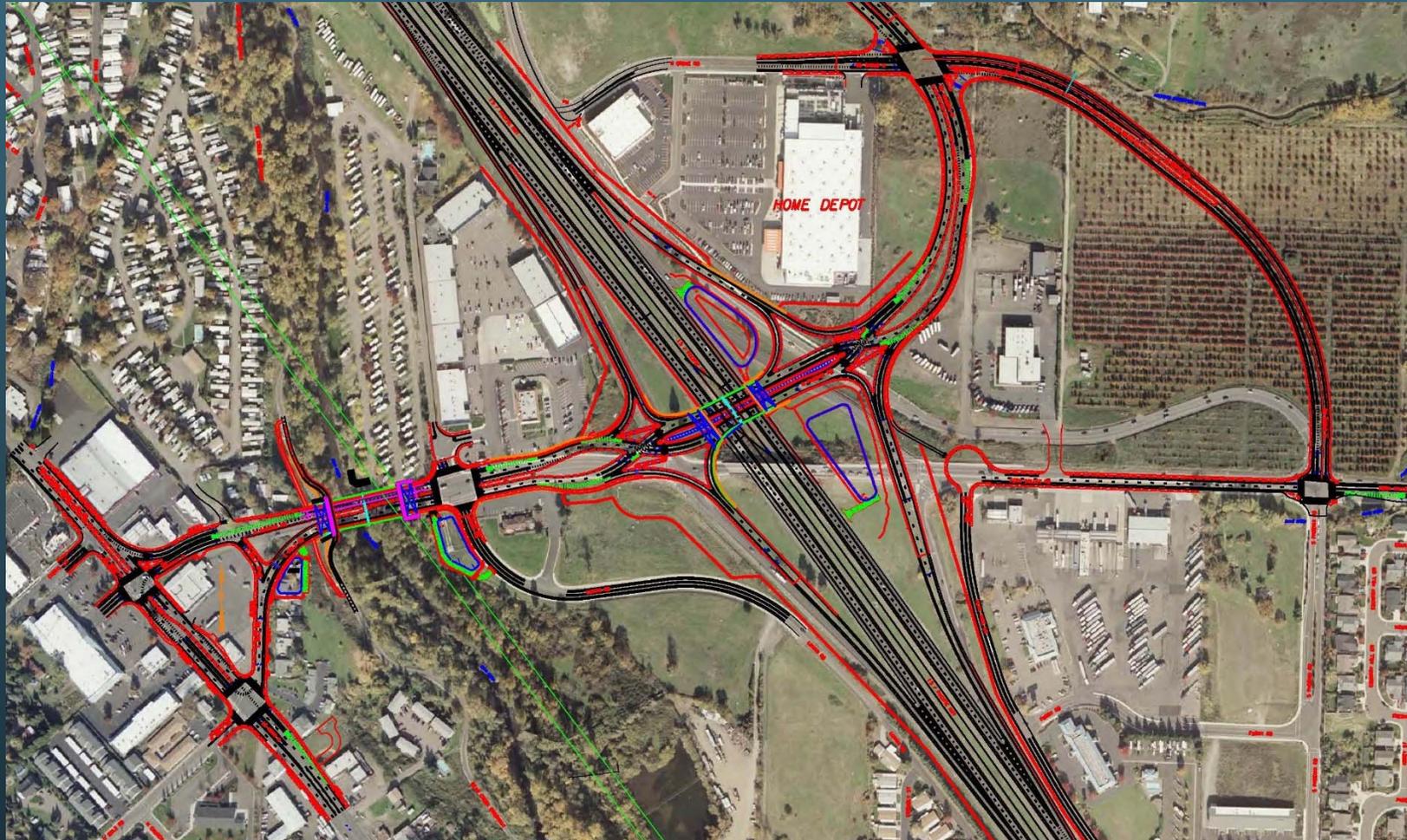


# PHASE II HANDLED CORRECTLY

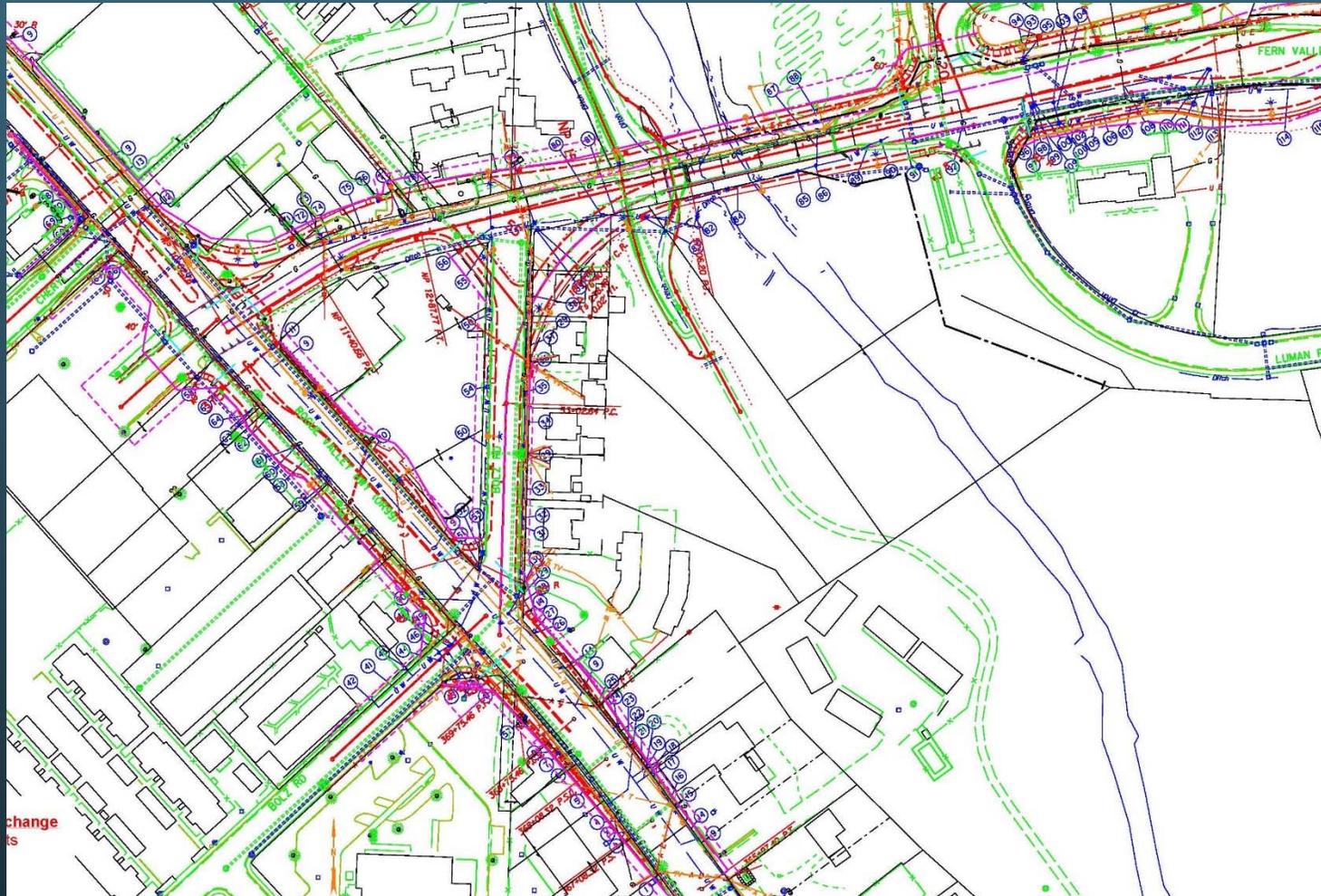


- Identified funding for entire project
- Completed project prior to street improvements
- Worked with ODOT to mitigate conflicts
- Did not impact the city's improvement fund

# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON



# 183 CONFLICTS WITH WATER FACILITIES



# PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

## Fern Valley Interchange Waterline Replacement Preliminary Estimates

Project	Pipe Type	Length	Replacement Quantity (Linear Feet)	Estimated Cost
Bear Creek Crossing/Fern Valley Road	AC/ST	1000	1000	\$300,000 - \$600,000
North Phoenix	DI	700	850	\$250,000 - \$500,000
Luman Road Realignment	AC	875	875	\$180,000 - \$250,000
Bolz Road Replacement	AC	681	681	\$150,000 - \$300,000
Hwy 99 Replacement	AC	350	350	\$100,000 - \$175,000
<b>Total Cost</b>				<b>\$980,000 - \$1,800,000</b>
* Includes Hydrants, Service Lateral and Tie ins to Existing Cross Streets				



# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON

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City of Phoenix has a population of approximately 4,500 people and has a public works staff of 4.

- 1,450 water service connections
- Annual average water revenue of \$900,000
- If these impacts came as a surprise they would have been in trouble
- Project bid in 2013
- Coordination started in 2009



# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON

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Gather information and be involved in the project at every level.

- Verify road jurisdictions, easements, and permits
- Don't assume anything; verify everything
- Begin potholing conflict locations, record data
- Communicate impacts to Management and Council or Board
- Educate Management and Council or Board about the process



# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON

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Steps that the City of Phoenix took to minimize impacts:

- Stopped other planned water improvements
- Raised water rates
- Looked for funding opportunities (unsuccessful)
- Negotiated work sharing with ODOT
- Stayed involved with the entire project to minimize impacts



# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON

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366.321<sup>1</sup>

Expense of relocating municipal facilities payable by department; exceptions

(1) When location, construction, relocation, reconstruction, maintenance or repair of a state highway requires relocation of any facilities placed or maintained in or on a public right of way by any municipal corporation, or a district or authority established under ORS chapter 264, 450, 451, 523 or 545, the Department of Transportation shall pay the municipal corporation, district or authority whose facilities are so required to be relocated the reasonable expenses of relocation, less any benefits and salvage of the relocation.



# \$72 MILLION FERN VALLEY INTERCHANGE CITY OF PHOENIX, OREGON



- Work being completed as part of the project
- City responsible for waterline costs
- Worked with ODOT team to minimize conflicts
- Total cost to the City: \$340,000

# CONCLUSION

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Items to remember to successfully minimize impacts of large projects completed by others:

- Get involved as soon as you learn about the project
- Coordinate efforts
- Educate management and boards
- Look for ways to minimize impacts - be creative





**QUESTIONS?**

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