

Site-Lines

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SOFTWARE NEWS:

MuniLogic™ automates and integrates asset management with key work processes

It's no secret that municipal organizations are under pressure to increase revenues, address compliance and provide superior service to constituents. In today's tough economic times, there's added pressure to accomplish those objectives with fewer resources.

Developed by Carroll Engineering Corporation (CEC), MuniLogic Municipal Management Software automates and integrates asset management with daily work processes. Designed especially for municipal organizations, it's a flexible, affordable and secure asset management solution with fully integrated GIS and document management capabilities.

As CEC Vice President Matt Garber notes, MuniLogic empowers townships and other municipal organizations to address many of their most pressing challenges — including increasing operational efficiency, improving service to their constituents and making more informed decisions.

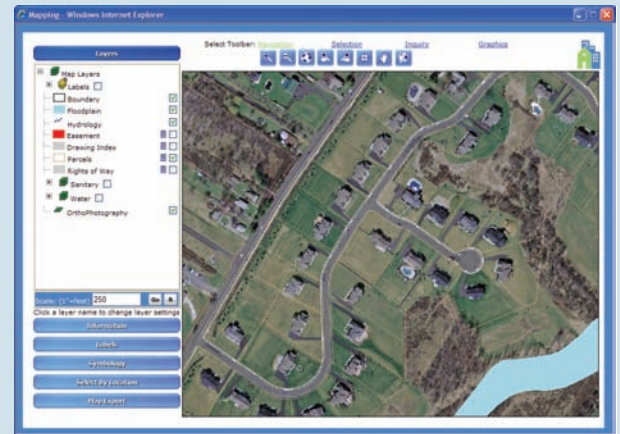
“The power of MuniLogic is that it can be deployed within every department, so all staff members are working from a single, centralized database,” Garber explains. “That way, everyone is reading the same, real-time information.”

Another key advantage of MuniLogic: affordability.

“MuniLogic can enable an organization to maintain or even improve service levels with fewer staff members,” Garber says. “That can deliver significant cost savings.”

With a fully integrated document management capability, the software solution enables organizations to achieve sustainability goals, as well.

“Using MuniLogic, organizations can begin scanning in and then recycling old documents, reducing the need for storage space,” Garber notes. “Ultimately, they can significantly reduce their use of paper, which we all know will help with the environment.”



MUNILOGIC IN ACTION

Many Pennsylvania townships — including New Britain and Richland in Bucks County and Nether Providence in Delaware County — are already tapping into the power of this unique technology solution.

New Britain Township Manager Eileen Bradley says there were several factors behind the decision to deploy MuniLogic.

“For starters, storage is always an issue,” Bradley says. “But for us to be most efficient, we needed to implement some kind of computer-based program to track property-related information, permits, code violations and resident requests, among other things.”

“MuniLogic has the GIS capabilities that allow us to look at the bigger picture — sewer lines, zoning, all correspondence related to a property,” she explains, adding that each employee or department can access the information they need.

“MuniLogic puts together all the pieces of the puzzle that a township needs to be more efficient and effective,” Bradley concludes. •

For more information about MuniLogic, visit www.munilogic.com.

Warrington
949 Easton Road
Warrington PA 18976

Collegeville
Suite G-101
555 Second Avenue
Collegeville PA 19426

Hillsborough
105 Raider Blvd
Suite 206
Hillsborough NJ 08844

From My Chair

Harry J. Barford, Jr., P.E.



Much has been written and said about the massive amount of federal money that will be spent to help the ailing U.S. economy. Of those funds, Pennsylvania expects to receive some \$16 billion — mostly for improvements to highways, education and infrastructure, as well as for other community revitalization efforts.

But how, exactly, will that money be distributed throughout the Commonwealth?

In March, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) published a helpful summary of highlights from Governor Ed Rendell's spending plan. According to PSATS, \$1 billion will be administered by PennDOT for projects listed in the Transportation Improvement Plans that municipal and rural planning organizations have developed. Another \$220 million will be administered by PENNVEST for water and wastewater projects. And about \$42 million will be distributed by the Department of Community and Economic Development as community action dollars and through loans, loan guarantees and grants for broadband development and technical assistance.

I encourage you to visit and bookmark www.recovery.pa.gov. There, you can watch where the money is going in Pennsylvania. If you haven't already done so, I also encourage you to download the free publication, *Your Guide to the Pennsylvania Economic Recovery Package*. It is a great resource that explains how stimulus funds are being divided and, perhaps most importantly, how your municipal organization can apply for funds.

To be sure, all of us share some legitimate concerns about the burgeoning national debt. However, I believe we should also feel optimistic and excited about the prospects of using these federal dollars for much-needed enhancements to our local infrastructures and communities. CEC looks forward to the opportunity to assist both current and future clients in prudently putting stimulus dollars to work for their communities. •

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: UPPER BUCKS CAMPUS OF BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Thanks to the scenic 15-acre Upper Bucks campus in East Rockhill Township, just outside Perkasie, Bucks County Community College students are able to enjoy the school's academic resources — much closer to home. Through a nearly \$12.5 million expansion and renovation, the Upper Bucks Campus is becoming even more beautiful and functional.



The expansion includes an addition to a classroom and laboratory building, an expanded parking lot, a drop-off loop to a new main entry plaza and connection of a parking area to an existing township park adjacent to the site. The project also includes new stormwater management facilities with infiltration capabilities.

According to CEC's Greg Hucklebridge, P.E., "The long-term goals of the project are to create a facility that will enhance the learning environment so that the Upper Bucks Campus can expand the curriculum it offers, which will help in attracting more prospective students."

In reflecting on the project to date, Hucklebridge says the public unveiling of the project renderings was a high point.

"This truly is a state-of-the-art project that incorporates green design and has earned LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] certification," he says. "Once complete, the campus will be an even more wonderful asset to the Upper Bucks community."

Hired through SchraderGroup Architecture, CEC is playing a pivotal role in the site design and land development process — including performing survey, site design and construction stakeout.

Hucklebridge says that CEC's local experience and expertise has proved invaluable when overcoming the inevitable hurdles along the way: "We have been able to resolve many conflicts and concerns with the township, as well as with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Perkasie Borough Authority, and the Pennridge Waste Water Treatment Authority in a timely manner. That has helped minimize negative impacts to the construction schedule."

Construction is now underway, with an anticipated completion date of December 2009.

For more information about CEC's Planning & Site Design services, please visit www.carrollengineering.com.

Closed-loop systems deliver significant benefits

Would you like to improve air quality along a congested traffic corridor? How about saving motorists valuable time as they travel along the corridor? If the answers are “yes,” a closed-loop system could be the solution.



A closed-loop system allows traffic signals within one half-mile of each intersection to “talk” to each other — coordinating the green time along the corridor. The coordination can be based on timing, spread-spectrum radio or fiber-optic connection.

Time-based coordination occurs when all controller clocks at the closed-loop intersections are set to “zero time” at the same moment. Spread-spectrum radio and fiber-optic interconnection allow the

intersections to “speak” directly to each other. These systems modify signal timing programs based on pre-set traffic volume thresholds — facilitating traffic flow on the major roadway while still allowing cross traffic to operate with minimal delay.

With the use of modems and fiber-optic cables, data can be sent to a computer at an offsite location, enabling operators to monitor all intersections in the closed-loop system, to download traffic count data, and even to modify timing programs remotely.

CEC EXPERIENCE

CEC has been involved in the engineering design process for several traffic-responsive, closed-loop systems throughout the region. Among them:

- 16-signal system along the Easton Road (SR 0611) corridor in Horsham and Warrington townships
- 21-signal system in Phoenixville Borough, East Pikeland Township, and Schuylkill Township that coordinates SR 0023, as well as PA 113 and Bridge Street
- 9-signal system along the Main Street (SR 0016) corridor in Waynesboro Borough
- 15-signal system along SR 0309 in Richland Township and Quakertown Borough

“These systems provide fundamental improvements to the region,” notes Andrew Brown, P.E., Manager of CEC’s Traffic & Transportation Department. “For example, if there’s a serious accident along the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, vehicles can be detoured along 309, and traffic can be monitored with the closed-loop system software at the offsite location.

“The benefits of a closed-loop system are endless,” Brown says. “Coordinated signals move traffic more efficiently, which means vehicles idle less at intersections. That, in turn, leads to a reduction in vehicle exhaust emissions, helping the region meet National Clean Air Act standards.”

For more information about CEC’s Traffic & Transportation services, please visit www.carrolengineering.com.

FYI from CEC

William Tennent Groundbreaking:

Administrators, teachers, and students from Centennial School District celebrated the beginning of a \$79.4 million William Tennent High School remodeling project on June 2. CEC will provide civil and site design services for the two year project, which will include 94 new classrooms and a new library.

Stop by our booth: Check out CEC’s booth at the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association’s 67th Annual Conference and Trade Show in Hershey, PA., September 13–16.

Civil Engineers’ Summit & Expo:

Held in Los Angeles this past April, Executive Vice President Tom Gockowski joined the panel discussing the importance of diversification of a firm’s engineering services. The group also discussed how to find the right services to make a firm succeed during tough economic times.

Accolades

CEC congratulates Steven Lidster

for passing the LEED certification test. Steve works out of the Hillsborough, NJ office and this certification is very important in the building and design of environmentally-friendly construction.

CEC Employee Functions

– Held on March 7, over 20 employees and their families enjoyed an afternoon of bowling and refreshments at Thunderbird Lanes in Warminster. On May 30, CEC staff and their families watched the Philadelphia Phillies defeat the Washington Nationals by the score of 9 to 6.

CLIENT PROFILE: WORCESTER TOWNSHIP

From time to time, CEC will profile one of the clients we serve. In this issue of Site-Lines, we're highlighting Worcester Township.

Established in 1733, Worcester Township takes its name from the English settlers who founded it. Today, the township has approximately 7,789 residents and is part of the Methacton School District. It spans 16 square miles in Montgomery County, Penn., and is bordered by Towamencin to the north, Upper Gwynedd to the northeast, Lower Providence to the south, East Norriton to the southeast, Skippack to the west and Whitpain to the east.

For decades, residents and officials have lived by the theme "Keep Worcester Green." Indeed, the preservation of open space continues to be a core initiative, and this goal is reflected in the types of development that are permitted in the township.

For example, Worcester has preserved tracts of land that would otherwise be developed into housing communities. The township follows the philosophy that in the long run, it's more cost-effective to preserve land than to pay the educational, infrastructure and support services costs that come with

housing development.

The township uses historical structures in conducting township business. The Worcester Township Community Hall was built almost a century ago, in 1919, to promote sociability and cooperation, to advance agriculture and horticulture and to maintain a hall for public and private use. In 1983, ownership of



the Worcester Township Community Hall (formerly known as the Fairview Village Assembly Hall) was transferred to the township, and today, the structure is used for township meetings.

Another important Worcester landmark: Farmers Union Hall, which was previously the Evangelical Congregation Church. Organized in 1975, the Worcester Township Historical Society

purchased the church in 1983. In 1987, the Society renovated the building, which today serves as its museum and library.

CEC is proud to serve as wastewater engineer for Worcester Township. For more information about the township, please visit www.worcestertwp.org. •



949 Easton Road
Warrington PA 18976

