

Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) SW Region - Homer Watson Blvd./ Highway 401 Interchange



Fibre optics cable was found at proposed location for bridge foundation



TSH/TBE completed a Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) investigation in advance of the design of the interchange improvement project at the Homer Watson Boulevard / Highway 401 interchange in Kitchener, Ontario. This project was the first SUE Pilot project initiated by MTO in Ontario. TSH/TBE worked as sub-consultants to DELCAN, MTO's prime consultant for the project.

DELCAN initiated the records research and provided a topographic survey of the area. TSH/TBE started the investigation by collecting additional utility record information and using that as a basis for the utility designating. The designating was limited to very specific corridors where the work would take place. Electromagnetic cable locate equipment was used for the designating portion of the investigation. A number of potential

conflicts were identified and a total of 16 test holes were installed to get the exact vertical depth and size of pipes and structures at critical points.

The investigation identified several discrepancies in the record data that could have caused major delays and cost increases had additional investigations not been performed. One interesting finding was the presence of fibre optics cable located in the precise location that the foundation was to be installed for the pedestrian bridge. This finding could have a major impact on the final design of the bridge. A description of the project appeared in the November 2004 edition of the MTO publication – Road Talk.



Client: Ontario Ministry of Transportation / Delcan

Date: Fall 2004

Location: Homer Watson Boulevard / Highway 401 Interchange, Kitchener, Ontario

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