

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF KENTON COUNTY

## Planning and Development Services of Kenton County Reduces Paving Costs and Enables Proactive Coordination

Since 1961, Planning and Development Services of Kenton County has been providing support and direction to guide growth and economic development in Northern Kentucky. Through diligent planning, as well as partnership with 32 cities and two counties' fiscal courts (board of county commissioners), PDS is helping to create a highly desirable place to live, work and play.

Planning is at the heart of PDS's mission, and one of the areas of prime focus is Northern Kentucky's streets and roads. Coordinating projects among city, county and state governments and area utilities can be a monumental task. Until recently, this process was heavily paper-driven and time-consuming.

A visioning workshop focused attention on streamlining the paper process to save both time and money, while improving service and safety for Northern Kentucky's citizens. After an exhaustive RFP process, PDS found only one solution did not require expensive custom software development: Accela Right of Way Management. Because the solution is delivered via the web as Software as a Service, PDS could begin using it very quickly without a large up-front capital investment.

Trisha Brush, PDS' Deputy Director for GIS Administration, says, "We saw Accela as leading the industry in map-based coordination and found the online tools very easy to use. In a matter of weeks, we launched the first phase of our program, bringing together the water and sanitation

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*"Accela Right of Way Management allows our users to align their project schedules so street cuts occur only once. This helps us cut down on street closings, which avoids traffic problems and reduces the negative impact on our neighborhoods. Most important, it helps our governments and utilities stretch their limited budgets by realizing very significant savings in paving costs."*

Trisha Brush, Deputy Director for GIS Administration

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### Population

Partners with 32 cities, two counties' fiscal courts and several utilities

### Challenge

Improve paper-based, time-consuming coordination of projects in the public right of way

### Solution

Accela Right of Way Management

### Results

Plan projects proactively to minimize street cuts, saving time and money

Brought on a city, water and sanitation utilities, and fiscal courts from two counties in matter of weeks

Realized immediate savings of \$18,000 for City of Covington

Improved service and safety for citizens



# Dynamic, map-based coordination

utilities and fiscal courts from two counties, along with the City of Covington – all coordinating their projects through Accela Right of Way Management.”

## City realizes \$18,000 in immediate savings

Like most cities, paving costs represent a large portion of the City of Covington’s annual public works budget. Especially with rising asphalt costs, the City needed to minimize paving wherever possible without sacrificing the performance and safety of its streets.

Assistant City Engineer Mike Yeager manages the Engineering Division, which is responsible for coordinating street repairs and construction projects, including utility projects that fall within City limits. “We operate on a three-year plan for resurfacing city streets,” Mike explains. “By having this information in Right of Way Management along with other utility projects, we can avoid unplanned resurfacing, which saves everyone a lot of money.”

In the fall of 2010, the City of Covington planned to pave three streets where the Northern Kentucky Water District also had plans to replace water mains. Thanks to the solution’s map-based coordination, Mike was able to identify the overlap in these projects and work with the Water District to incorporate the resurfacing requirements into their projects. “The City reimbursed them for everything except one lane width, which saved us approximately 3,000 square yards of asphalt. At \$6 per square yard to mill and pave, the City saved \$18,000 just from this one set of projects. Accela had an immediate impact on our productivity and efficiency.”

## Working together for more effective decision-making

“We’re following a phased approach to involve as many entities in Northern Kentucky as possible,” Trisha shares. “With a growing number of organizations using the solution, we’re able to facilitate much more effective decision-making, enable streamlined project coordination and realize even greater savings for everyone involved.”

PDS has completed four phases of its long-range rollout, with 22 entities currently using Right of Way Management, with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Duke Energy, Cincinnati Bell and a number of cities recently added. As these users and others ramp up, she foresees additional ways the solution will enhance efficiency and coordination.

“We are starting to work on loading pavement condition indices into Right of Way Management,” notes Trisha. “By knowing the pavement condition, cities can plan their resurfacing projects more effectively. Utilities can also focus their projects and roadways where the pavement condition is poor and most likely in need of resurfacing anyway. With this kind of information visible to our users – particularly our utilities – they can all be much more proactive in planning projects, which ultimately comes back in the form of cost savings and time savings.”

## About Accela

At Accela, we believe that engagement makes all the difference. We’re ushering in a new era where democracy thrives when government works directly with the people, coming to citizens on their terms through mobile devices, social media and networks, and open data. By streamlining critical agency functions like land, asset and right of way management, licensing, legislative management, recreation and resource management, citizen relationship management and environmental health and safety, the Accela Civic Platform bridges the gap between agencies and citizens. We help build better communities by powering thousands of services and millions of transactions daily for agencies of all sizes. Accela is headquartered in San Ramon, California, with offices in San Francisco, New York, Melbourne and Dubai.

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