

WASHINGTON GAS COMPANY

Washington Gas Company Avoids Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Paving Restoration Costs in First Four Months

For more than 160 years, Washington Gas Company has been distributing natural gas in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. With more than one million customers throughout the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan region, the company manages more than 13 thousand miles of distribution pipeline beneath city streets and roadways.

Moving beyond spreadsheets and point solutions

For Washington Gas, paving restoration could consume as much as 40 percent of capital expenses. With ever tightening budgets, the utility needed to make its dollars go further. When staff would meet regularly with fellow utility and municipal project managers to coordinate their respective activities, information was shared in the form of spreadsheets, or in some cases data was provided electronically. Yet, information remained static and was difficult to consolidate into a common format. Too often, conflicts were either not visible or not identified soon enough in the project schedule to avoid paving restoration costs.

"We invested in point solutions such as a GIS system, work management and jurisdictional paving manager, but to really get the most out of these systems, we needed to integrate information from the other players," shares Darryl Jackson, Director of Operations Work Planning, Measurement and Technology. "This was often too difficult or not timely enough under our old processes. What we really needed was a way to relate our project data geospatially with project data from other entities whose systems and services overlapped ours in the right of way. Accela provided the exact solution we were looking for."

"We anticipate that by next year, we will realize \$1 million or more in savings with Accela Right of Way Management."

Darryl Jackson, Director, Operations Work Planning, Measurement and Technology



**Washington
Gas**

Population

Serves more than one million customers throughout greater Washington D.C. metropolitan region

Challenge

Improve coordination with municipalities and entities in the public right of way when managing road construction or street impact

Solution

Accela Right of Way Management

Results

Coordinate potential conflicts in real time using an interactive online map with geographical and temporal context

Reduced the number of invasive cuts and costly repaving

Averted potential costs of \$10,000-\$15,000 per project by avoiding street cuts in areas with moratoriums

Realized \$250,000 in cost avoidance in first four months of implementing solution



Improved planning for smarter, safer streets

Dynamic map-based coordination reveals conflicts before they become costs

Accela Right of Way Management's map-based coordination capabilities are delivered as a 100 percent web solution. Information is presented via an interactive online map in geographical and temporal context, allowing Washington Gas to coordinate in real time with municipalities and other entities involved in the public right of way. Now, they are better able to mitigate wasteful construction or street impact due to conflicting project schedules or lack of information.

"Within the first few weeks of using Accela Right of Way Management, we identified a conflict between a road improvement project planned by a local county and a Washington Gas project," recalls Darryl. "With just a click, we could see details of the conflict – where and when it would occur – and then communicate with the county to align our project schedules. This one example saved us \$80,000 in paving costs."

Washington Gas has also saved significantly by avoiding street cuts in areas with moratoriums. In the past, it was not uncommon for the utility to complete the design and permitting for a project only to later learn that a moratorium existed at the proposed project site. With the solution, Washington Gas now has insight into moratoriums across all the jurisdictions in which it operates and can shift project dates to avoid costly false starts and re-work. According to Darryl, this capability avoids potential costs of \$10,000-\$15,000 per project.

Value grows as more project data is shared within the ecosystem

When making street cuts, the utility uses "keyhole" technology, which cuts a 24-inch disk out of the pavement to allow for repair work. In order to replace and seal the disk, the pavement must be of a certain quality level. The District of Columbia is populating the solution with the paving index for streets in its metropolitan area. With the index linked to the solution's online map solution, Washington Gas will be able to plan keyhole repairs with greater precision, avoiding more invasive street cuts and costly repaving.

Additionally, by integrating the solution with the utility's asset optimization system, which identifies projects offering the greatest value for a given cost, Washington Gas can avoid onsite inspections to save both time and money. Integrating data from the utility's work management system will also help streamline workflow and project efficiency.

"The value of Accela Right of Way Management is proportionate to the contribution of everyone in the ecosystem," he says. "There are numerous opportunities for participants to improve communications and relationships and to collaboratively add greater value as a group."

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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