

Dear Clients, Colleagues, and Friends,

Re: Infrastructure Asset Knowledge

I believe most of us would agree that the infrastructure that was designed and constructed by our forefathers was done quite well. But now, most of our cities and towns have infrastructure that's 100 years old or more, and unfortunately it's failing. Surprised? Our forefathers wouldn't be because they never expected the useful life of these facilities, which may operate in very harsh environments, to exceed 100 years. In fact, for certain materials of construction, they understood the useful life expectancy was much less.

The time has come when infrastructure repair and replacement must be addressed, and we are not just talking about things the public can see and appreciate like bridges and roads. The backbone of our communities, the old water mains and sewer pipes that protect our health and the environment, is wearing out.

Do you have a complete understanding of all of your infrastructure assets? Do you know all of their ages, materials, and conditions? Do you have a good asset management plan to address the issues? The honest answers for most of us are "I know some things, but not nearly enough", and "I'm not sure where to begin."

Well, you need to start somewhere so meet with your public works director and engineer. Collectively, you can develop a sensible plan. And, here's something that should be a relief - you don't have to start out big. Do some affordable repairs each year, even if they are relatively minor in nature. Moving forward will be satisfying and confirm for the public that its interests are being protected. Just get started!

Wishing you the very best until next time,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Myers".

Raymond H. Myers, P.E., BCEE
Principal Engineer