



"Integrity, Service, Excellence"

Spring 2007

K-Plus Engineering, Ltd.

Integrity, Service, Excellence

KPEL was honored with a 2007 Engineering Excellence Merit Award from ACEC-Illinois for our work on the Wacker Drive Riverwalk Wabash Plaza - Vietnam Veterans' Memorial project.

KPEL welcomes **Kris Regas** to our team!

Visit our **website** for current project information, KPEL services and additional opportunities.

A Message from Joe...

Hello again and welcome to our Spring newsletter. This newsletter highlights some of our recent successes in our construction services team. It only seems right to do so with the on set of spring - or should I say construction season. We were fortunate enough to be able to provide construction phase services for the award winning Vietnam Memorial / Wabash Plaza Riverwalk Project (please see the article inside this newsletter). As with any successful project there are many key team members contributing to the success. So I say thanks to the CDOT staff (Michelle Woods and Bulent Agar) and Greg Benske and Tom Gill for their efforts on this project. I believe that this project was successful at least in part because of our fundamental values of Integrity, Service and Excellence.

Having recently celebrated our company's fourth anniversary I had the opportunity to look back at some original notes on our motto of Integrity, Service and Excellence. It challenged and encouraged me to make certain we at K-Plus Engineering are focused on these core values. I challenge you to remind and encourage us to follow these principals as jotted down in my notes a little over 4 years ago: Integrity -Service -Excellence. I believe that our K-Plus Engineering team strives to meet these values and that leads to our client's success. Thank you and I hope that you enjoy our spring newsletter.



Construction Engineering...



Picture of an Undercut of Residential Street

At K-Plus Engineering we provide a broad range of Construction Engineering services. Resident Engineering, Program Management, Periodic Observation, Constructability Reviews, and Construction Management services highlight our experience. Construction Engineering deals with the planning and management of construction projects (i.e. residential streets, water systems, subdivisions, river bridges, tollways, riverwalk plazas, sidewalks, industrial roads, etc.). It is imperative for our Construction Engineering staff to be

experienced and flexible. It is, after all, our people that set us apart.

We look to be cost-effective to our clients and therefore we must be knowledgeable in engineering activities, management principles, and even human behavior itself. Our team looks to solve the many issues encountered in the field while considering time and cost impacts. By being proactive in planning we can address issues before they require major schedule or cost increases. So whether it is addressing an alignment correction on an adjacent project (Naperville) or a parapet design modification (Kane County) or other issues, we strive to be foreword thinking.

Our team must also be excellent communicators (in person, on the telephone and through email). In addition to keeping communications open with our clients, contractors and

continued on next page

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Construction Engineering continued...

other team members, we also offer enhanced public coordination through the construction phase. This can be vital to keeping a project on schedule and it is often critical to the community's perception of the project's success. Newsletters, project websites and a range of other public coordination issues allow our most valued asset, our people, to leverage their time and talents.

K-Plus Engineering utilizes a range of technologies to effectively manage projects. Our field staff is equipped with laptops with wireless field access to our VPN (for remote access to our network and hence project files, email etc.) Our staff is also trained in various web-based systems such as Primavera, the Tollway's Proliance system and CDOT's web-based system.

The flexibility of our staff is critical. In a perfect world, our assigned staff would have an early project start with a review of the plans, time to set up of preconstruction activities, move into the construction, complete the construction, and close out the project paper work. However, the real world behaves a bit differently. The K-Plus Engineering team works with the issues and makes the project successful. Its one of the reasons that our staff is cross trained in a variety

of testing and other field needs including Federal and MFT documentation procedures.

We also know that a project is not completed just because the construction is done. We are focused on project close out (paperwork, documentation, final payments and warranty periods). Besides understanding the day-to-day demands and seeing the big picture for the client, our K-Plus Engineering construction engineers adapt to the changing realities, step up when needed, and support the team.

At K-Plus Engineering, our staff is experienced and flexible since we emphasize team empowerment. This gives individuals the opportunity to push their own career paths to the next level of leadership.



Picture of Bridge Joint Replacement over the Fox River

What's New...

It has been a busy winter for K-Plus Engineering. We continue to grow so we once again have expanded our office space. We are still in the same office location, but we have leased additional space in order to accommodate for our increasing numbers.

We are proud to announce that on December 12th, one of our senior managers, Anthony Malone, was appointed the President of the American Public Works Association (APWA) Fox Valley Branch. This is a one year term scheduled to expire in January 2008. This reflects our commitment to professional development and continuing education and training as well as our commitment to serving the industry.



K-Plus Engineering was recognized in the **American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois' Thirty-Sixth Annual Engineering Excellence Awards**

Competition. The competition recognizes outstanding projects designed by private practice engineering firms from the State of Illinois. We were honored with a 2007 Engineering Excellence Merit Award for our work on the Wacker Drive Riverwalk Wabash Plaza – Vietnam Veterans' Memorial project, along with the City of Chicago Department of Transportation.

At the beginning of December, our staff was able to take a break from their busy schedules for an evening for our company holiday party held at Rosebud. It was a pleasant evening where we could all relax and enjoy each other's company.



Picture of staff and their families at the company holiday party

Featured Project...

K-Plus Engineering, Ltd. performed design services on the First Street Redevelopment project in St. Charles, Illinois. Anthony Malone was the project manager and lead designer of this high-profile project with much assistance from other K-Plus Engineering team members. For more efficient coordination between the various civil engineering elements, K-Plus Engineering was retained by both the City of St. Charles and STC Development, who was the major developer of this project.

The aggressive \$100 million redevelopment project is bordered on the north by Main Street (IL Route 64), Second Street (IL Route 31) on the west, Prairie Street on the south and the beautiful Fox River on the east. Phasing of the project was complicated by the fact that there were two state highways and three bridges over the Fox River that were affected by the project. The project included the following amenities:

- Approximately 100,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space (on the first floor of the buildings)
- 100,000 square feet of office space (on the second and third floors of buildings)
- 80 residential condominium units and 16 rental apartments (on upper floors)
- Two parking garages and additional on-street parking with a total of approximately 836 new spaces
- Relocation of the Blue Goose supermarket to the southwest corner of Indiana and Second Streets, with a floor area expansion to 30,500 square feet
- Public plaza extending from the river west across First Street, to include the area behind the existing buildings that front on Main Street
- Public access along the river via an improved river walk

Professional services provided to the City included a study of the existing sanitary sewer system associated with this project. Infrastructure improvements pertaining to

the watermain, storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems and a new layout for First Street from Main Street to Prairie Street were designed. Assistance was also provided to the City Electrical Department to incorporate their electric duct improvements into the bid documents.

Professional services provided to the developers included coordination with the three architectural firms associated with the project and the landscape architect. They also included preparing documents for the site grading and utility improvements. Much of the project was within the floodplain. Grading was complicated by the following requirements and site conditions:

- The new finished floor elevations needed to satisfy the Kane County Stormwater ordinance freeboard requirements for the 100 year base flood elevation. Not all of the existing buildings within the project area were demolished. Therefore there was three to four feet between the finished floor elevations on the east side and the west side of First Street.
- There was 15 to 17 feet between the grades on Second Street and the retaining wall along the Fox River.

Through cooperation and out of the box thinking with Knauer, Inc and DLK Civil Design, these grade changes were incorporated into the design to provide unique character and esthetic features.

The City had a kickoff and groundbreaking ceremony on September 6, 2006. The underground construction part of the project also began in September and is anticipated to be completed in June 2007. The Blue Goose grocery store and the new Harris Bank building are anticipated to begin construction in the Spring of 2007. It is projected that all phases of the First Street Redevelopment project will be completed by 2012. It has been a pleasure to be associated with this once in a lifetime project that will be admired and used by people for many years to come.