



CITY OF HOUSTON

PROJECT: ONLINE PERMITTING APPLICATION NEW FUNCTIONALITY. STRONGER INTEGRATION. ENHANCED REPORTING.

CLIENT DESCRIPTION

Founded in 1836, the City of Houston has a population of 1.9 million and is the fourth most populous city in the nation and the largest in the southern U.S. and Texas. With this large population, the City of Houston desired a means of collecting permits online for contractors submitting applications for street-cuts in the City. They also desired a means of rationalizing and managing the work being carried out to avoid any duplicated efforts (work being carried out by one contractor and then another in a similar location a short time later). These permits were necessary to hold contractors accountable for any damages done to other buried facilities.

BUSINESS NEEDS AND OBJECTIVESCHALLENGE

The City desired a means of automating the application process for contractors who applied for permits to carry out street-cuts. The City was looking for a vendor to design and develop a Web-enabled permit application system integrated with a comprehensive data management system. The solution would graphically display the area affected by the street-cut application and provide a management system for monitoring the applications. The City chose Idea Integration to provide a Geographic Information System (GIS) solution to meet their needs.

TECHNICAL SOLUTION

Idea provided a solution to design and implement online forms (user interface for permit applications) with a database for managing the permit applications. An additional feature of an online GIS application was utilized to connect to the City's enterprise spatial databases (multiple data sets from a variety of sources) in order to display a user-friendly map of the city streets, property parcels, and other land base information. This would allow the contractors and City personnel to easily determine if work could be combined instead of cutting and re-paving the street multiple times. The technology used included multiple enterprise Oracle® databases, ArcSDE™, ArcIMS®, ArcInfo™, ArcView®, ASP, JavaScript™, and server-side UNIX® and PC application development.

In addition to the technical solution, Idea worked with city officials to develop and define the permit workflow system within the Department of Public Works. Previously, the City had no such workflow methodology in place, which allowed construction companies to exploit the system.

BUSINESS IMPACT

The deployment of this solution saved the City of Houston millions of dollars in road management services and provided an efficient system for coordinating roadwork construction. It also reduced the impact on street traffic by ensuring that construction work for different jobs in a particular area was carried out in a coordinated and efficient manner, preventing the need for repeated traffic delays due to construction.

STREET-CUT PERMIT SYSTEM LOG IN SCREEN

