



# CITY OF FORT WAYNE $6\sigma$

## REDUCING THE COST PER FOOT OF WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

### *Six Sigma Project Overview*

#### **PROBLEM**

Water main replacement costs are higher than the most recent Utility rate plan estimate.

#### **Savings**

- + Cost per foot: Before/\$61  
After/\$49
- + Each dollar reduction: \$32,000
- + New process has saved \$317,000

#### **SOLUTION**

An analysis determined that changes needed to be made in the bidding and construction process to make it more cost effective. The City of Fort Wayne now bids large, stand alone water main replacement projects in the cold weather months to produce the lowest unit costs.

#### **Factoid**

*Six Sigma has decreased costs, improved customer service and increased productivity throughout city government. Projects have resulted in over \$3 million of savings.*

#### **SAVINGS**

The cost of water main replacements has dropped from \$61 per foot to \$49 per foot. The new process has saved the City more than \$317,000. Other benefits include decreased service interruptions, improved water quality, better fire projection, and controlled utility rates.

#### **Six Sigma Team**

Greg Meszaros, *Project Leader/Black Belt*  
Ted Rhinehart, *Champion*  
Matthew Wirtz, *City Utilities*  
Mark Gensic, *City Utilities*  
Paul Powers, *City Utilities*  
Dan Smith, *City Utilities*  
Ken Stempien, *City Utilities*  
Bob Hinga, *Water Maintenance*  
Outside Contractors and Engineering Firms