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Council Bluffs Public Works Receives APWA 2014 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Council Bluffs’ Public Works Department was recently named to receive a national American Public Works Association (APWA) Award for the city’s snow and ice removal program. APWA’s Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award will be presented at the 2014 North American Snow Conference, taking place May 4-7, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio in the Duke Energy Center. This APWA award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works snow and ice operations, and to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts.

Council Bluffs’ Public Works Department maintains a network of more than 301 center lane miles and 588 lane miles of major and local streets, and has the largest municipal street network in Western Iowa. The Streets Division is comprised of 28 employees and is responsible for the maintenance of the city streets, along with unimproved roads, alleys, ROW mowing, street sweeping, ADA ramps, signs, signals, lighting, city owned sidewalks and snow/ice maintenance.

Throughout the winter, public works provides snow and ice control for 588 lane miles of road network. Snow removal is performed with the assistance of the Sewer and other divisions on a 24-hour schedule when snow events develop. When snow maintenance operations occur, snow removal is prioritized by designated emergency snow routes, hills, and then residential streets. Snow removal begins when any accumulation of snow/ice develops on city streets.

Snow and ice removal is a primary responsibility of the Public Works Operations Department, and snowplows are the lifeline for travel and emergency responders within the city. In 2009, the Council Bluffs Public Works Director applied for matching funds to build a new Operations facility located on the wall of Indian Creek, and the project was approved by the state for \$3,869,000. Design and construction followed on the 42,000 square foot new facility that was to be indoor storage for most of the division’s fleet and four separate was bays. The facility houses Public Works Operations, Street, Sewer, Traffic and Pump Station Maintenance Divisions. Fleet is also located in the same setting in a facility.

“Council Bluffs is a community of promise and opportunity that has high expectations for city public services, especially snow and ice control,” said Public Works Director Greg Reeder. “We knew we wanted to do snow/ice operations differently than in the past, but facilities and outdated equipment made it difficult to practice new methods we had learned through APWA Snow Conferences,” Reeder said. “Today we are better than ever. The new brine blending system and the ever-improving distribution equipment has placed Council Bluffs on the leading edge,” he said.

(more)

For more information about the City of Council Bluffs Public Works Department, please contact Public Works Director Greg Reeder at greeder@councilbluffs-ia.gov. For more information on the 2014 APWA North American Snow Conference that will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio during May 4 -7, please visit the APWA website at: www.apwa.net/snow. For APWA media queries, contact Laura Bynum, the APWA media relations and communications manager, at lbynum@apwa.net.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 29,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 64 chapters in North America.

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