A SUDAS primer

SUDAS (pronounced “soo’dahs”) is the shorthand way of saying Statewide Urban Designs and Specifications. CTRE is developing Iowa’s SUDAS manuals for public improvements. The manuals include design and construction details unique to specific jurisdictions across the state. They also address conditions, like materials availability and soil conditions, that may vary among the six state Iowa DOT districts.

The SUDAS manuals contain revised and expanded sets of design and specifications standards originally developed and adopted by several central Iowa urban jurisdictions in the 1990s. More than 150 engineers and planners from around the state are involved in developing the statewide manuals. They are:

- building on and updating the existing central Iowa standards,
- converting the central Iowa focus to a statewide focus, and
- including federal, state, and local specifications.

A statewide steering committee leads the effort. Six district committees review proposed changes and make recommendations to the steering committee. Subcommittees discuss issues such as signalization, water systems, and new products.

Over the next few months, they’ll be working on all kinds of projects, including:

- Reviewing and revising the storm water management and drainage chapter of the design manual
- Drafting the new trenchless technology chapter of the design manual
- Preparing the final draft of the signalization chapter of the design manual
- Drafting the traffic signals division of the specifications
- Finalizing the rewrite of the jointing section of the roadway design chapter of the design manual
- Reviewing and revising the sanitary sewer design and specifications

Go to the SUDAS website (www.iowasudas.org/) to get a copy of the manuals and to find out more about this project.

New SUDAS engineer

Former Oskaloosa City Engineer and Public Works Director Larry Stevens brings 27 years of city engineering experience to CTRE as the SUDAS engineer. In this role he works with the 13 technical subcommittees that are revising and writing sections for SUDAS. He also helps SUDAS director Dale Harrington with administrative duties and meets with the six DOT districts.

As Oskaloosa’s city engineer for 12 years, Stevens organized, directed, and coordinated the engineering department’s activities, supervised personnel, and directed building inspection and zoning administration. Along with these responsibilities, Stevens also began supervising and coordinating the Street and Wastewater Divisions of the Public Works Department as the public works director.

Recent research

- Statistical Analysis of Highway Needs Condition Data: Manual vs Automated, Omar Smadi
- Development of In-Situ Detection Methods for Material Related Distress (MRD) in Concrete Pavements, Scott Schlorholtz
- Remote Sensing Change Analysis Methodology to Support Traffic Monitoring Programs, Shauna Hallmark and Reg Souleyrette
- Development of Bridge Load Testing for Load Evaluation, Wayne Klaiber, Terry Wipf, and Doug Wood
- In-Street Yield to Pedestrian Sign Application in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Ed Kannel and Reg Souleyrette
- Developing an Effective Construction Training Program for Hispanic Supervisors and Craft Workers, Chuck Jahren, Ed Jaselskis, and Tom Cackler
- Deploying the Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) in Iowa, Steve Andrle and Dennis Kroeger
- Coordination of Transit and School Busing in Iowa, Steve Andrle and Dennis Kroeger

See details at www.ctre.iastate.edu/research/complete.cfm.