



STRATEGY 1b-Utility Analysis Summary

CCF proposed contracted with Fehr Graham & Associates to conduct a utility infrastructure analysis for the downtown area in cooperation with the City of Freeport engineering department staff. Fehr Graham focused on utility service providers associated with electric, gas and technology. This information will supplement the City provided services associated with water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer in order to provide a clear picture of the utilities available within the downtown area.

A key aspect of the readiness for downtown buildings to be successfully redeveloped is the availability and sufficiency of public utilities. Fehr Graham & Associates coordinated with the appropriate providers to do an overall assessment of the utility and technology services available within the downtown area. This assessment included gathering information on the availability, access and approximate location of the electric, natural gas and communication utilities. This information was then transferred to mapping and transmitted to the City of Freeport for inclusion within their Geographic Information System Department. This information provides an overall picture of the available utility and technology services for downtown Freeport when combined with the information already available via GIS mapping from the City of Freeport relative to water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer.

As of the time of this Annual Report, there remain some gaps in the utility information (particularly related to natural gas) for which information will continue to be gathered and forwarded to the city's GIS Department. While this assessment will provide a complete picture with respect to the utilities available within the downtown area, it is felt that additional effort may be required to complete the analysis with respect to potential redevelopment. As each opportunity for redevelopment will present a unique set of demands with respect to utility and infrastructure, the challenge moving forward will be to expand upon the information gathered to date in order to proactively meet those redevelopment needs.

Recommendations

- Additional coordination with utility and technology service providers should be conducted to identify any service area gaps or demand concerns within the downtown area
- As building specific projects emerge, an analysis of the impacted building's existing services should be performed to identify any particular deficiencies in availability or demand requirements
- Over time, compile this additional utility and technology service data and include it in the GIS format (as part of the overall Building Condition information) for which any demands from continued redevelopment can be readily assessed