

Mile High Large Diameter Pipe Bursting!

What do you get when you have a mile high city and severely aged Clay Sewer pipes? Mile High Trouble if they are not repaired. AUI Inc. (Albuquerque Underground, Inc.) was invited to bid on a City and County of Denver project under the contract of the Waste Management Division. The project was located in a very heavily populated residential area, and consisted of roughly 2,000'LF of 8" Clay sewerline to be pipe burst and upsized to new 12" HDPE dr 17 pipe and 350'LF of 27" Clay upsized to new 28" HDPE dr 17 Sewer. The project also consisted of new manhole installations, rehabilitation of old brick manholes, conventional trench, backfill, and compaction, and sewer service reconnections. AUI Inc. was the successful low bidder, and was chosen due to our experience and best value bid. AUI upsized the 8" Clay to 12" HDPE dr17 and the 27" Clay to 28" HDPE dr17 utilizing Hammerhead equipment.

28" bursting assembly with HDPE pipe attached

Michael J. Rocco
Trenchless Manager
AUI Inc.



Project Superintendent Archie Lucero Sr. with pipe bursting head

The city of Denver is no stranger to trenchless construction, and it is a commonly used practice, but pipe-bursting was somewhat new for the project engineer Wayne Querry. The interceptor pipe ran through several back yards and heavily utilized residential areas with utilities throughout - traditional methods would have been very costly, and had a serious impact to the residents and general

public in the area. In this case, the damage was severe enough in some parts, that along with the requirements to keep up with the demands of area growth and increased capacity needs, pipe bursting was the perfect solution. The satisfaction and curiosity of the residents was proof enough of the technologies merits - they were all amazed that so little pavement and earth needed to be

disturbed, as well as how little inconvenience there was throughout the project.

Some of the challenges during the project were the sheer size and weight of the 24" Hammerhead bursting tool and the size of the 28" HDPE dr17 pipe. AUI was very limited in where pits could be dug. Specialized shoring and trench equipment had to be brought in and utilized, which in turn required a lot of careful planning by the Project Superintendent Archie Lucero Sr. Since this was AUI's largest upsize project, Archie wanted to make sure all of the bases were covered. Along the 12" portion it laced in and out of residents yards, and there were many other municipalities that AUI interfaced with to gain the required access. The original plans called for replacing the existing manholes, but due to utility conflicts, as well the fact that most of the manholes were in residential back yards, Guildner Pipeline Maintenance (Commerce City, CO) was there to install their Poly-Triplex 5600 series approved lining for the manhole rehabilitation process. This sped up AUI Inc.'s schedule, prevented additional stress to residents, and saved the City and County of Denver nearly \$10,000 in manhole replacement costs.

Pipe bursting in Denver was a huge success for us at AUI. The 28" Pipe Burst was a milestone for us, as it was our largest pneumatic burst to date, surpassing our previous largest burst of 24". The Existing 350' of old 27" Clay was burst to new 28" HDPE in 1 hour & 15 minutes! All the praise and credit goes out to our crew, led by our Project Manager Larry Reeves, Superintendent Archie Lucero Sr. and our Foreman Dartanyan Wofford.

AUI Inc. has the essential pieces.

Pipe Bursting
Occupational Safety Program
Heavy Highway
SIP Lining
Utilities
Trenchless Technology
Manhole Rehabil.

Discover how we put it all together.

AUI CONTRACTORS
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
ENGINEERS
INC.

Two Offices in New Mexico
7420 Reading Avenue SE
Albuquerque, NM 87105
240 South Crawford
Las Cruces, NM 88007

For additional information, contact **Michael Rocco**
(505) 242-4848, Ext. 3004 or rocco@auinc.net
New Mexico Contractor License No. 20617
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