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And now you may flush

Construction projects often get a bad rap for running late and overspending. But in a delightful twist, Dubuque, IA's new Regional Airport was completed six months early and under budget.

That's the good news.

The irony was that the water, sewer, and fiber optic lines serving the airport weren't scheduled to be installed until the airport was ready.



New Terminal at the Dubuque Regional Airport



Project area map

WHKS engineers designed the almost 3½ mile corridor to route the utilities out to the airport from the City. The route largely followed a local stream, having to cross the watercourse several times. At each crossing, the water line was set at least nine feet below the streambed and the sewer line was encased in concrete to prevent any possibility of leakage.

At one point, the utility lines crossed a nation-wide natural gas pipeline. Digging near a 30" high-pressure gas line tends to attract the attention of the gas company. But great communication and cooperation let everything go smoothly.



Utilities at Olde Davenport Road under construction

In another area, an almost 50-foot bluff of solid rock had to be surmounted, but by following the adjacent highway alignment, the team was able to make use of the blasting and excavation that had already been done for the roadway.

With this utility infrastructure now all the way out to the new terminal, it won't only provide the airport and adjacent industrial and commercial developments with City services. Five of the future growth areas that have been identified along the Highway 151/61 corridor are also now able to plug into these up-to-date utilities.

