

DPW Wash Bay: Water Piping Replacement Project

The DPW asked its partners at FMD to assist them with a capital project to replace 200 ft of leaking buried water piping for their Vehicle Wash Bay, by running approximately 170 ft of new 2-inch, insulated copper piping inside the building. The Wash Bay is an important part of the DPW's operations as it is used to clean salt and other harmful debris from the many trucks and vehicles in their fleet, which extends their service life. The scope of the project required installing the new piping in many high-bay areas throughout the garage. The project was completed on-schedule and well below pricing from a private contractor. In fact, FMD's total cost to perform the work was only \$7,700, which was less than half of the \$17,000 bid price from a private plumbing contractor – ***a whopping \$9,300 savings to the Town!***



This tremendous cost and time savings was realized by using less costly licensed FMD plumbers (versus prevailing wage public bid rates), purchasing stock using favorable State contracts (versus paying mark-ups to a contractor) and creative use of new equipment such as the "Pro-Press" tool. This new tool increased productivity by allowing FMD plumbers to make compression connections at joints rather than using traditional soldering methods.

Massachusetts building construction projects which exceed \$10,000 in cost are subject to more complex bidding procedures, including advertising and a sealed bid process. This often also requires professional engineers and/or architects to prepare plans and specifications for such work, which further increases the project cost and schedule. Utilizing the FMD to complete the project achieved a substantially lower construction cost than from a public bid contractor and also avoided the additional cost and time extension needed to engage a professional designer and publicly bid the project.

This project is another good example of the capacity, expertise and value of the Facilities Maintenance Department, and our ability to support other Town departments, such as our colleagues at DPW.

