



Several public works services can be delivered through a public-private partnership model, such as road paving and repair.

## CH2M HILL OMI paving way to public works excellence

July 1 is a milestone for both the city of Centennial, Colorado, and CH2M HILL OMI.

For Centennial, it is the first day the city will have its own public works department. And for CH2M HILL OMI, it marks the launch of its first public works services contract in Colorado. The company will manage a full scope of services for Centennial, including traffic engineering and operations, permit processing, inspections, administrative services, and street and roadside maintenance, including snow removal.

The contract with the 100,000-person city is just the latest step the company has taken to be a leader in public works management services. Partnering with communities to provide public works such as road maintenance, mowing, and more actually began in 1992, when CH2M HILL OMI added public works to its traditional services menu of operations and maintenance for water and wastewater treatment systems.

That first partnership started in Hinesville, Georgia. It grew out of an existing 8-year relationship with CH2M HILL OMI to provide operations and maintenance for the city's wastewater plant. Today, employees not only operate the water and wastewater systems but also provide services such as fleet maintenance, street and signage maintenance, parks and grounds maintenance, mosquito control, and solid-waste collection.

Over the years, more cities have found that partnering with a private firm can be the most effective, efficient way to maintain and manage public infrastructure. For many newer cities like Centennial, which was incorporated in 2001, it is the only practical approach. Until this year, when the city decided to develop its own public works department, it relied on county services. Without a private partner, it would have been difficult and costly to start new departments from scratch.

So how does the company deliver public works? The approach is flexible and depends on the community's needs. Sometimes CH2M HILL OMI provides public works along with traditional water or wastewater operations and maintenance services, and sometimes as part of full municipal services. In some communities, like Hinesville and The Villages in Florida, the company directly employs the sanitation workers, heavy- and light-equipment operators, and craftspeople. In other cities, like Johns Creek, Georgia, and Centennial, CH2M HILL OMI blends operations and maintenance experts, engineers, and specialty

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### By the numbers: About CH2M HILL OMI's successful public works practice

- 15+ years of delivering public works services
- 525+ employees involved in public works projects
- 150+ contract years of experience
- 6 states where associates manage public works: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico, and Oregon
- 17 communities where associates manage public works
- 944 vehicles maintained at the three largest public works projects in Georgia—Hinesville, Effingham County, and Richmond Hill—including:
  - 218 police vehicles
  - 70 fire and emergency response vehicles
  - 11 mass transit vehicles
  - 645 other vehicles such as pickup trucks, city fleet automobiles, and miscellaneous motorized equipment

*"The immediate response we've gotten when we've called with questions or concerns has been nothing short of astounding!"*

— a Johns Creek, Georgia, resident in a letter to City Hall in April

## CH2M HILL OMI's public works expertise expands through the years

### 1980s

Focuses on operations and maintenance of water and wastewater plants, with first contract operations and maintenance agreement in 1982 with Lebanon, Oregon—a partnership that continues today.

### 1990s

Expands service offerings to include delivering public works to complement water and wastewater work. The company's first public works contract is with Hinesville, Georgia, in 1992. The partnership is ongoing.

### 2000s

Begins managing complete cities with public works components. In 2008, launches public works department operations for Centennial, Colorado, bringing the total number of public works projects to 17. The partnership will be guided under a 5-year contract worth about \$8.6 million a year.

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contractors into one seamless team focused on one goal: to flawlessly serve the city.

Regardless of the approach, CH2M HILL OMI public works pros are busy serving residents every day. They repair potholes. They remove broken tree limbs. They write grants to obtain funding for roads. They install street signs and traffic lights. They conduct curbside recycling and solid-waste pickup. They tap CH2M HILL engineers to conduct traffic studies about speed limits. They respond to dozens of calls to enhance the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Their work often receives national recognition, too. In 2002, Hinesville and CH2M HILL OMI earned a top partnership award from the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships. In addition, the company's partnerships in Grants, New Mexico; Live Oak, Florida; Sandy Springs, Georgia; and Johns Creek have all earned national recognition.

Recognition is also coming in at the local level. In Johns Creek, for example, where the company manages public works as part of a broad municipal services contract, residents frequently offer accolades: "I continue to be amazed at all of the little (or not so little) road/safety construction projects I see," wrote one person in a recent letter to city hall. "Thanks for the good work!!"

Another resident wrote: "The immediate response we've gotten when we've called with questions or concerns has been nothing short of astounding."

But for the more than 500 CH2M HILL OMI public works employees, operating across six states, nothing matters more than delivering exceptional service.



A view of the streets of Centennial, Colorado, where CH2M HILL OMI will deliver public works service, starting in July.



CH2M HILL OMI began providing public works services to cities in the 1990s. Here, employees working in Effingham County, Georgia, clean up after a tornado earlier this year.

For more information about CH2M HILL OMI's public works services, and a copy of its public works ad, visit [www.omi.ch2mhill.com/communities/pw.html](http://www.omi.ch2mhill.com/communities/pw.html).