



# Austin, Texas Embraces Pre-chlorinated Pipe Bursting in Water Main Replacement Program

**Profile:**  
City of Austin, Texas

**Project Title:**  
Elroy Road Water Main Replacement

**Location:**  
Austin, Texas



**Scope:**  
7,400 Feet of 6" Cast Iron Replaced with 10" HDPE

**Method of Replacement:**  
Pre-chlorinated Pipe Bursting

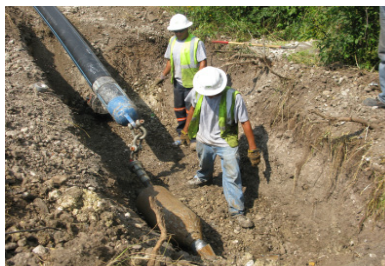
The City of Austin, TX has an aggressive program in place to replace their aging water distribution system. The City also has strong values in the protection of the environment. In the early summer of 2010, the Austin Water Utility in conjunction with Public Works, implemented their first pre-chlorinated pipe bursting project with Murphy Pipeline Contractors.

The pipe bursting method is considered a "green" technology and assisted in reducing the environmental impact on the surroundings. Only surgical excavations were required along the project which helped reduce excavation and restoration by over 85% compared to traditional open trench. The efficiency of the method also attributed to the overall success as Murphy Pipeline crews averaged replacing 500 feet per day. This production rate meant crews were only visible to each homeowner for one day.

As this was the first pre-chlorinated pipe bursting project completed in the City, careful consideration went into selecting a contractor to ensure the project's success. While Texas is known to have a considerable number of sewer pipe bursting contractors, water pipe bursting presents unique challenges. Numerous project meetings were held prior to construction to address all of the Water Utility and Public Work's questions and ensure all construction methods, material and procedures would fit within the City of Austin's Specifications.

*"We commend your crews on the knowledge and skill demonstrated out on the project. As this was the first water pipe bursting project completed in the City of Austin, the additional time spent to educate and assist our personnel is greatly appreciated. The successful completion of the project was demonstrated through exceeding the project completion schedule, meeting additional requests and from the positive feedback of the homeowners."*

**- Bimal Adhikary, PE, PhD, PMP Austin Public Works Engineer Team Leader**



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