

The City of Evansville has contracted with Foth Infrastructure and Environment since April 1997 for its engineering needs. And we've had Dave Sauer as our city engineer ever since the original contract with Foth.

Foth was the engineering firm for reconstruction of Union Street and East Main Street, stormwater improvements on Water Street, review of development plans during our booming growth early the last decade, and our new wastewater treatment facility. Reconstruction of our downtown Main Street won the Transportation Project of the Year award from the Wisconsin chapter of the American Public Works Association.

In late January 2011, we changed engineering firms, at least technically. Our new firm is Cedar Corporation, a firm with decades of experience in civil engineering. And we still have Dave Sauer leading the team.

Cedar Corporation's corporate office is located in Menomonie with additional offices in Green Bay and Madison. They were founded in 1975 and have grown to 50 employees.

Cedar Corp is a full-service design firm with staff in engineering, architecture, environmental repair, planning, landscape architecture, and land surveying. They also have extensive experience in grant writing and project financing, enhanced by their hiring Jim Frymark recently retired from the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

Cedar Corp's philosophy is to focus on quality, timeliness, and cost to provide the best value-per-dollar for their clients' projects. They value their working relationships and say their goal is to become "like staff" for their clients.

Geographically they have primarily served in western Wisconsin, and they have represented some municipal clients for decades. We've been told that Cedar Corp specializes in engineering for smaller municipalities, so our needs fit right into their niche.

Over the last few years, Cedar Corp and Foth have worked together on a handful of projects. Foth brought expertise in wastewater treatment, which at the time Cedar Corp lacked. And it provided the opportunity for the two companies to work together and become familiar.

On January 28, Foth and Cedar Corp entered a strategic alliance. Tim Weyenberg, CEO of Foth, described, "The alliance will result in greater breadth and depth of resources available to you and it will create opportunities for both of our companies to grow – providing long-term benefits to our clients and staff." By transitioning out of general municipal engineering, Foth will be able to concentrate its work on specialized infrastructure with a greater focus on its corporate clients.

The service contracts of some forty of Foth's municipal clients were assigned to Cedar Corp. At the same time, seven Foth staff members, including Dave Sauer, were transitioned to Cedar Corp. Evansville will still have Dave Sauer as our engineer, and a few familiar faces such as Tom Pfefferkorn and Todd Buhr are also joining Cedar Corp.

We've been assured we can expect a seamless continuity of service during and following the transition. Their Madison office will still be in the same building as Foth, simply moved down the hall to a separate suite. And they will still have full access to Foth's resources for support. This is particularly important as we complete a few projects this spring and summer – including the wastewater treatment facility and Main Street bridge replacement.