

IT'S A BORING LIFE



Iowa Trenchless

BORING & TUNNELING SPECIALISTS

AUGER BORING | TUNNELING | MICROTUNNELING
ROCK BORING/TUNNELING | PIPE RAMMING | PIPE JACKING

BORING THROUGH BLAIR:

*Iowa Trenchless Takes
on Nebraska Project*

By Avere Doles





IOWA — TRENCHLESS —

Iowa Trenchless is currently working on a project in Blair, Nebraska. Our mission: to install a 42-inch casing for a 36-inch high-service water main that will connect the water treatment plant to the Cargill plant. This new infrastructure is essential for Cargill, a global leader in agricultural production and food processing, to continue its vital operations.



This ambitious project requires navigating under two Union Pacific railroad tracks and US Highway 30, necessitating four casing bores and two horizontal directional drills (HDD). One of the most challenging aspects has been boring under the mainline Union Pacific route, both east and west. During the planning phase, we uncovered that part of the track was built on an old trestle bridge used to cross the Missouri River. This bridge, now buried, posed a potential obstacle.

To mitigate the risk of encountering remnants of the old bridge, Foreman Jeremy Steeve, and crew: Justin Jungles, Mason Jones, and Tony Curry, proactively probed the area with an Akkerman Guided Boring Machine (GBM). This careful preparation ensured a smooth and safe bore, free from obstructions.



A notable achievement in this project was completing a 280-foot bore, with 220 feet accomplished in a single day using permalock pipe. This milestone underscores our team's commitment to efficiency and precision.

While significant progress has been made, the project is ongoing. The final phase involves completing one more bore under Industrial Park Drive. This last step is crucial to securing a reliable water supply from the treatment plant to the Cargill facility.

We take immense pride in our team's hard work and dedication to overcoming the challenges posed by this project. Our commitment to excellence and efficiency continues to drive our success. Stay tuned for more updates as we advance towards the completion of this critical infrastructure project in Blair, Nebraska.

Iowa Trenchless Employee Spotlight: Brandon Derry

Recognizing hard work, dedication and leadership

By Avere Doles

Met Brandon Derry, a cornerstone of Iowa Trenchless, whose journey with us began on June 1, 2006, right after graduating high school. Inspired by his father, Brad Derry, who worked at the shop, Brandon took his first steps into the trenchless industry. Now, with a total of eighteen years at Iowa Trenchless, his dedication and expertise have earned him the title of General Superintendent, a role he was promoted to in 2023 after many successful years as a foreman. This is a huge accomplishment, especially considering Brandon is only 36 years old—he's spent half of his life in the trenchless industry.

Brandon and his fiancé have one son, named Bryor. Brandon is excited to introduce him to the world of trenchless technology when he comes of age, hoping to inspire him to become part of the family legacy.

Brandon's tenure with Iowa Trenchless has been marked by numerous notable projects. Among them, the four tunnels he worked on for DFW Airport in 2021 stand out as particularly memorable. This benchmark job showcased our ability to get the job done, with the total linear footage of the tunnels



exceeding 1,000 feet. Utilizing an Akkerman 660 and 720 Tunnel Boring Machine (TBMs), the project took 7-8 months to complete. Another significant moment in his career was when he helped educate personnel from Pacific Boring on using a pneumatic pipe ram at a rocket facility in Sacramento, California. Although his promotion to superintendent has placed him in a more visionary role, during his time in the field, Brandon was a powerhouse, completing numerous jobs efficiently and cost-effectively. You name the trenchless construction method, and there is a good chance that Brandon has already performed it.



As General Superintendent, Brandon humorously describes his job as "herding cats," but in reality, he skillfully manages all Iowa Trenchless crews and equipment. He leverages his 18 years of experience to provide practical solutions whenever crews encounter challenges in the field. His leadership ensures our projects run smoothly and efficiently, making him an invaluable asset to the team.

Brandon is particularly excited about the Akkerman guided boring machine, a trend he sees as a game-changer in the industry. The accuracy of the GBM makes light work of auger bores. He notes that steering casing with steering heads and California shoes is notoriously difficult, making this new technology a welcome innovation.

For Brandon, the most rewarding part of his job comes at the end of extremely long and grueling projects. This sense of accomplishment drives him to tackle even the toughest jobs with determination and grit.

When asked about his greatest influence, Brandon credits Rick Siemers, a longtime Iowa Trenchless superintendent, for shaping his career and work ethic. Rick set high standards for Brandon, which sculpted him into the person he is today.

If given the chance to work anywhere, Brandon would choose the western side of Montana to bore through the mountains or Hawaii. These locations reflect his commitment to never taking the easy route and his willingness to embrace hard work and challenge.

Join us in celebrating Brandon Derry, whose dedication, expertise, and leadership continue to propel Iowa Trenchless forward. His story is a testament to the impact one individual can have on an entire organization, and we are proud to have him on our team.

Keeping Cool, When the Work Gets Hot

As the temperature rises, it's essential to take extra precautions to ensure safety and well-being while working in hot conditions. Whether you're outdoors or in a heated environment, here are some tips to beat the heat and stay safe:

1. Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate:

Drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if you don't feel thirsty. Dehydration can sneak up on you quickly in hot weather.

Avoid caffeinated or sugary beverages, as they can contribute to dehydration.

2. Take Regular Breaks:

Schedule frequent breaks in shaded or cool areas. Use this time to rest and cool down.

If possible, adjust work schedules to avoid the hottest parts of the day.

3. Dress Appropriately:

Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, and light-colored clothing that allows sweat to evaporate.

Use hats and sunglasses to protect your face and eyes from direct sunlight.

4. Use Sunscreen:

Apply sunscreen with a high SPF to exposed skin, and reapply as directed. Sunburn can increase your body's heat retention.

5. Know the Signs of Heat-Related Illness:

Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are serious conditions. Learn the symptoms and know what to do if you or a coworker shows signs of distress.

Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea, and headache.

Heatstroke symptoms include high body temperature, confusion, rapid pulse, and loss of consciousness.



6. Keep Your Workspace Cool:

If possible, use fans, air conditioning, or other cooling devices to maintain a comfortable working environment.

Take advantage of ventilation and airflow to reduce heat buildup.

7. Look Out for Each Other:

Be mindful of your coworkers' well-being. If you notice signs of heat-related illness in a colleague, act quickly to get them help.

Encourage a culture of safety where everyone feels comfortable speaking up about concerns related to working conditions.

8. Know Your Limits:

Listen to your body. If you start feeling unwell, take a break and cool down immediately.

Don't hesitate to notify your supervisor if you're struggling with the heat.

9. Stay Informed:

Pay attention to weather forecasts and heat advisories. Stay informed about the expected temperatures and plan accordingly.



Working in hot conditions presents unique challenges, but by taking proactive measures and looking out for each other, we can ensure a safer and healthier work environment. Remember, staying cool and hydrated isn't just important for comfort—it's essential for your health and well-being.

Stay safe, stay cool, and let's look out for one another during these hot summer days!



Powering Progress: Iowa Trenchless and the Path to Panasonic in Desoto, Kansas

By Avere Doles

In 2022, Desoto, Kansas, received exciting news when Panasonic announced its plan to build a \$4 billion electric vehicle battery plant in the area, bringing along with it the promise of 4,000 new jobs. As the plant's opening draws near, Desoto is abuzz with preparations, including significant infrastructure developments both publicly and privately.

One of our ongoing infrastructure projects is the improving Panasonic's interceptor sewer to support the growth and operation of the new battery plant. However, the project faced challenges right from the start due to adverse ground

conditions, predominantly silty and sandy soil. Despite these challenges, Iowa Trenchless stepped up to the task. Originally, the job called for the use of TT Technologies' 24-inch pneumatic pipe ram, the "Taurus," due to anticipated challenging ground conditions as indicated in the geotechnical report. However, upon commencing the bore, it became evident that the actual ground conditions were more favorable than expected.

Foreman Jon Kile, and crew: Joe James, Jim Herbst, Mason Jones, and Tony Curry overcame the first major hurdle which



was the need to bore under the BNSF Railroad, a crucial transportation artery in the region. Iowa Trenchless executed this with precision, utilizing an Akkerman Guided Boring Machine and Michael Byrne Auger Boring Machine to install the 140-foot long casing ranging from 32 to 54 inches in diameter for a sanitary sewer line.

To ensure maximum efficiency and minimize disruptions, Iowa Trenchless used 30-foot casing sections instead of the typical 20 feet, reducing the number of welds required and streamlining the crossing process, especially under the railroad track.

The project recently completed the first of seven planned bores, marking a milestone in the infrastructure development of Desoto. Notably, four of these bores will traverse under Kill Creek, further highlighting the complexity and importance of the project. As Iowa Trenchless continues to pave the way for Panasonic Plant development in Desoto, Kansas, we look forward to witnessing the positive impact this project will have on the community and the region as a whole.

Rocky Roads to Success: Mile High Triumph in Denver

By Avere Doles

When tunneling, encountering unexpected rock formations with a cutterhead intended for dirt poses significant challenges. The right experience and equipment are crucial for successfully navigating these obstacles. Iowa Trenchless recently faced such a challenge while installing 365 feet of 48-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) for a tunnel at Denver International Airport (DIA). This project, a first in the history of Iowa Trenchless due to its downhill execution, aimed to enhance the operational efficiency of the airport by improving taxiway connections and deicing facilities. The project, led by general contractor Flatiron Corp., involved installing 365 feet of 48-inch RCP. Iowa Trenchless was contacted to contribute to this massive endeavor. The tunneling crew, spearheaded by Foreman Lance Atkinson and Superintendent Brandon Derry, included Noah Ramsey, Steve Bell, Avere Doles, Daniel Jensen, Gavin Felder, and Ryan Sanderville. The drill shaft was sloped 20 feet down, with an additional 20-foot-deep slide rail shaft, and the receiving shaft supported by lagging approximately 45 feet deep. The downhill conventional tunnel was executed at a 0.5 percent grade using an Akkerman 480 TBM and a 5000-jacking unit. The project commenced on May 8, 2024, and was completed by June 8, 2024.

The crew faced rocky conditions that were not anticipated in the project

scope. Within the first 40 feet of the tunnel, they encountered a rock formation that occupied almost 75 percent of the TBM face. This rock sent vibrations the entire length of the tunnel. Foreman Lance Atkinson noted, "Every time we thought we were in the clear, more rock would appear. We were on our toes the entire project. The team had to remove a substantial amount of rock, creating a "Mile-high" pile by the end."

Communication between the TBM and 5000 operator was imperative to avoid any potential damage to the TBM. The use of Sonetics Apex V2 wireless headsets allowed for seamless communication, keeping the crew synchronized. With the help of micro blasters to safely break up the rock face and through expertise and determination, the team navigated these challenges successfully.

As the project continued, rock formations were still present but became more sparse. The crew remained vigilant throughout the tunneling operation, maintaining momentum and progressing the tunnel towards the receiving shaft. Despite the challenges, the team successfully installed the tunnel, accurately meeting the receiving shaft window.

The completion of this project at Denver International Airport marks a noteworthy achievement for Iowa Trenchless. Despite encountering unexpected rocky conditions, the team's expertise, communication, and determination ensured the tunnel was completed on schedule and to the required

specifications. This project not only enhances the airport's operational efficiency but also showcases the capability and resilience of Iowa Trenchless in tackling challenging tunneling conditions.





LAUNCH DAY: 05/08/24

HOLE OUT DAY: 06/05/24

Midwest Vac Professionals:

Central Iowa's MVPs

By Jeana Shepherd



Spring has been a dynamic season for Midwest Vac Professionals (MVP), marked by significant growth and exciting achievements. We proudly welcome Gunnar and Kaiden to our expanding team and look forward to continuing to add to our crew.

One of MVP's standout accomplishments this season was our involvement at Offutt Air Force Base in Sarpy County, Nebraska. Employing hydro excavating techniques, we successfully located utilities such as gas lines and fiber optics. Our strong performance secured a follow-up contract to provide cleaning and televising services for the facility in the near future.

Collaborations with local businesses and municipalities in Iowa have further strengthened our presence. Partnering with Landus in Yale and Panora, IA we efficiently cleaned debris from grain elevators' main boot pits and sump systems, establishing valuable local relationships. Landus, who owns and operates over 50 facilities in the state of Iowa, is a great local company to pair up with. Additionally, our work with Crystal Freeze in Panora involved hydro excavating a trench to facilitate the installation of a new drain system. Utilizing our experienced crews, we were able to hydro excavate the trench 145 feet long by 36 inches deep as requested.

In Jefferson, IA, MVP undertook essential tasks for the City, cleaning two Digester Pits at their water treatment facility. With the utilization of two Vac Trucks, Service Trucks with hoses, and a dedicated eight-man team, we successfully



completed the job. MVP is preparing for an additional four Digester Pits project soon for the City of Jefferson.

MVP is gearing up for a substantial project in Des Moines in July. We will conduct over 55 utility locates along Hickman Road using Hydro Excavation for Snyder and Associates. The project will run from 70th Street to Merle Hay Road. This emphasizes our capability to manage large-scale operations efficiently, utilizing our fleet and experienced crew members to ensure superior service delivery. Snyder and Associates have kept our crews busy, and we appreciate working with them.

Another significant achievement includes securing a contract with McAninch for two Microsoft projects in Des Moines. These projects include comprehensive services ranging from cleaning and televising sanitary and storm sewer systems to utility locating and trenching.

MVP anticipates several upcoming projects in Omaha, NE, and various cleaning and televising jobs for multiple repeat contractors like McAninch, Corell, and Legacy Excavating. We are grateful for the trust placed in us by our repeat customers and remain committed to expanding our network and fostering relationships across the Midwest.



COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS:

Trench Safety Stand Down Week

This year, the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) organized the Trench Safety Stand Down Week, highlighting the importance of safety practices in trenching and excavation work. Iowa Trenchless proudly participated in this nationwide initiative, demonstrating its commitment to ensuring the safety of its workers and the communities they serve.

During the Trench Safety Stand Down Week, Iowa Trenchless took a moment away from the trenches to reinforce safety protocols, educate its workforce, and promote a culture of safety. The company conducted a safety meeting focused on trenching and excavation safety guidelines. By emphasizing the importance of proper equipment use, soil analysis, and trench protection systems, Iowa Trenchless aimed to mitigate risks and prevent accidents.



Even though NUCA Trench Safety Stand Down is only recognized during one week in the year, Iowa Trenchless recognizes that safety is a continuous journey and pledges to uphold its proactive approach to ensure that every worker returns home safely every day.

Exploring Providence: Iowa Trenchless at NASTT's No-Dig Conference

Recently, Iowa Trenchless had the opportunity to participate in NASTT's No-Dig Conference held in Providence, Rhode Island. The event was not only a chance to connect with industry leaders but also a unique experience to explore the city's rich culture and heritage.

At the heart of the conference was the exposition, where Iowa Trenchless had the opportunity to see each company's latest advancements and solutions in trenchless technology. From innovative drilling techniques to cutting-edge equipment, our team engaged with fellow professionals, exchanging insights and forging new partnerships.

During our stay, we took a step back in time with a visit to the historic Breakers Mansions. These iconic landmarks, reflecting the grandeur of Newport's Gilded Age, offered



a glimpse into the lavish lifestyles of America's wealthiest families. It was a testament to architectural marvels and timeless elegance.

Adding an exciting twist to our trip, Iowa Trenchless attended a Bruins game. The electrifying atmosphere at the arena provided a change of pace after insightful conference sessions, fostering camaraderie among our team members.

Our visit to Providence for NASTT's No-Dig Conference was more than just a professional gathering—it was an opportunity to learn, network, and explore. We returned with renewed inspiration and a deeper appreciation for the advancements shaping the trenchless industry.

Iowa Trenchless Company Wide Safety Training

Iowa Trenchless recently underscored its commitment to safety with a company-wide meeting held at the Port on Lake Panorama. This gathering, dedicated to enhancing workplace safety practices, highlighted our unwavering dedication to the well-being of our team members.

Nestled against the tranquil backdrop of Lake Panorama, the Port provided an ideal setting for our safety-focused meeting. Surrounded by natural beauty, our team gathered to reinforce the importance of safety protocols and to discuss strategies for maintaining a safe working environment across all projects.

The meeting featured interactive sessions led by senior leadership, focusing on the latest safety standards, procedures, and best practices. Team members actively participated in discussions, sharing insights and experiences to promote a culture of safety throughout Iowa Trenchless.

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Annual Company Wide Safety Training

