Chapter 1: Introduction & Adoption

Since the early 1990's, the City of Delaware has experienced significant growth in residential, commercial and industrial development activities, at levels never before experienced in the community. In order to properly manage the growth, and more specifically, the design and construction of miles of new roadway, water lines, and sanitary sewer and storm lines, it became necessary to increase the number of city staff dedicated to reviewing and overseeing such development activity, and to adopt more comprehensive design and construction regulations. The combination of improved staffing levels and better regulations has provided the necessary basis by which the city can ensure the adequacy and acceptability of the substantial expansion in public infrastructure being constructed.

More recently, an effort has been undertaken to publish the multiple engineering design and plan development policies, regulations, standards, and specifications implemented during the high growth period within a single document that is readily accessible to developers, contractors, and consultants. In doing so, the process of planning and designing the infrastructure for future development projects will be more efficient as the most current regulations governing such activities will be readily available and accessible to the development team through the Infrastructure Design Manual. The effort to include all design regulations in a single volume necessitated a thorough review of existing city code as well as the many practices and policies of other city departments in order to update and organize the information into a practical design manual. This Design Manual incorporates not only city policy, but also the most applicable regulations of other agencies, such as the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA), Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) as it applies to development activity within the City of Delaware. Understanding that many regulations are subject to modification throughout a given period, updates to the Infrastructure Design Manual will be prepared and made available as required. In its entirety, the Engineering Design Standards consist of 3 parts, all utilized concurrently; Part 1-The Land Development Infrastructure Design Manual, Part 2- Plan Notes, and Part 3- Standard Drawings.

This Design Manual is not intended to be a design textbook. It assumes that the user has an understanding of the engineering concepts utilized here in. This manual provides a uniform design procedure for summarizing and submitting plans in an acceptable and understandable manner. It does not provide uniform solution to all engineering problems. The manual provides sufficient information to develop engineering systems in accordance with City of Delaware policy if paired with sound engineering judgment from a registered Professional Engineer licensed in the State of Ohio and in responsible charge of the design.

Section 903.01 of the City of Delaware Codified Ordinances states:

"The City Manager shall have the authority to adopt and periodically update standard construction specifications and regulations for all public improvements and connections thereto, and all developments in the City or under City jurisdiction. Such standards and any order of the City Manager issued in connection therewith shall have the same force and effect as duly enacted legislation".