The Des Moines Metropolitan Design Standards Manual has been developed to correct inconsistent, non-uniform standards that had the potential of burdening the area's future taxpayers. The Des Moines Metropolitan Improvements Design Standards and Specifications Committee comprised of representatives from 17 local governments, local contractors, and water works departments worked to complete the 400 page design manual 1991. It has been updated twice since that time. The manual provides uniform and flexible design standards for public improvements throughout the Des Moines Metropolitan area that are desirable, functionally adequate, properly designed, low in maintenance, safe, and cost effective. The manual covers such items as sanitary sewers, water mains, storm sewers, roads, sidewalks, bike paths, erosion control, and signalization projects.

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