NW Precinct Utility Infrastructure
Athens, GA

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND CHALLENGES

As part of a new chiller plant and distribution network, the University of Georgia had to install two 20" chilled water pipelines under the busy intersection of Baxter and Lumpkin Streets on campus. The design called for a single 59" steel casing to house both lines. Trenchless construction by microtunneling was specified to reduce impacts to the surface traffic and buried existing utilities and to minimize the potential for over excavation and resulting settlement. Bradshaw Construction jacked the casing behind a slurry microtunneling machine with no settlement. More clayey soils were encountered than anticipated, requiring extra efforts at the separation plant including adding special polymers to the drilling fluid. The 20" pipelines were pushed into the casing simultaneously; held together by specially designed casing spacers, then backfilled with flowable fill.