



COMING SOON!

March 26, 2026

HBK Engineering, Chicago IL

2026 Roundtable Topics

SESSION 1:

When The System Meets The Street: Chicago Contractor Perspectives

We talk a lot about how great and efficient things are in Chicago's underground network, but even so, what challenges still hinder your work? The most common examples we hear from contractors across the country are: bad 811 locate marks, inaccurate utility maps, and too much crew downtime waiting for the 811 process to be completed. Do these apply to you? Everyone is here to learn. So please tell us your top issues you wish could be changed and what your ideas are to make these changes happen.

SESSION 2:

City vs. Suburbs? Contractor and Locator Perspectives

Working in the Chicagoland suburbs often looks simpler than working in the city, but it brings its own unique set of challenges. We were surprised to hear from some contractors and locators that they prefer working in the city rather than the suburbs, for various reasons. Do you agree? From your experience, what makes suburban jobs harder than expected—for both contractors and locators—and where do breakdowns most often occur?

SESSION 3:

C-DOT & Chicago 811's Success: Behind The Scenes

CDOT and 811 Chicago won the CGA *Groundbreakers Award* in 2025 for essentially being the most efficient 811 system in the country. Many credit strong enforcement, mandatory utility coordination, and the 811 permitting process as the key factors. So if we know these things work, can Chicago be a Pilot for other one-call centers, or is this system too complex for some places? Are any other states or cities implementing your policies already? Tell us what goes on behind the scenes to keep this machine running smoothly.

