

# VIC'S CRANE & HEAVY HAUL

LIFTING SAFETY TO A HIGHER LEVEL



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## Always Committed to Safety & Quality

In reflecting on 2020 and the challenges we have overcome, we really have a lot to be proud of. Persevering was not easy this year, but we worked together as one strong team like we have done for nearly 70 years now.

As we focus on the upcoming year I would like to highlight and recommit to our motto and business model of "Lifting Safety to a Higher Level." It is an owner and management commitment to our employees and clients.



It is these fundamentals that our success is built on year after year:

- Providing a place of employment where every employee is given the time, equipment, and training necessary to perform their job safely and correctly.
- Creating a workplace where supervisors and tradesmen alike view safety and quality as the key elements to any task being performed.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank our employees and fellow contractors whom we have the honor of working with and for. We look forward to supporting you in your operations and bringing value to your projects.

You have our commitment that quality and safety will be at the forefront of every jobsite we have the privilege of being at.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Blankenship".

Rob Blankenship  
Safety Director  
Vic's Crane & Heavy Haul



## Vic's Takes On The Challenge Of Transformer Transportation

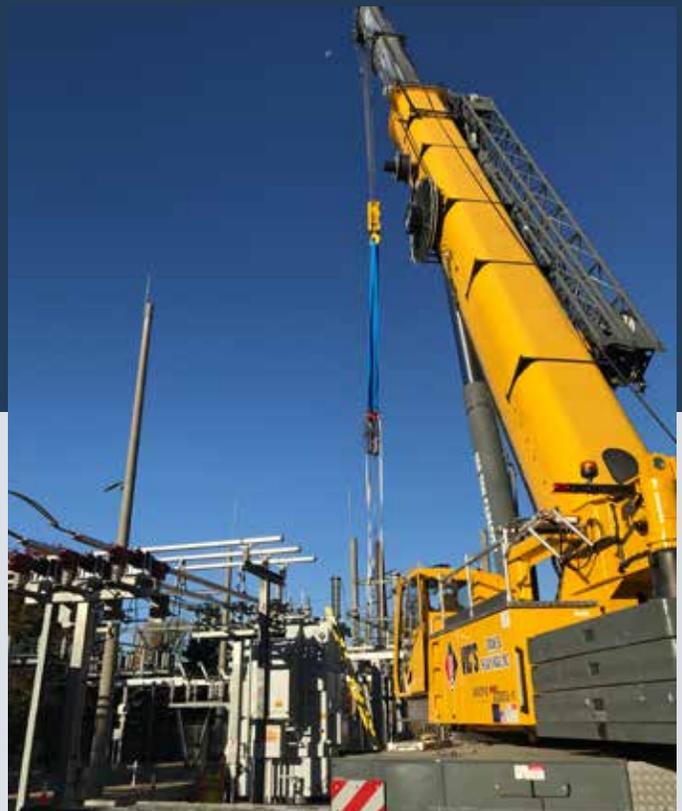
In early October, Vic's took on the challenge of moving a transformer from Burnsville, MN to a new substation in Inver Grove Heights, in the East metro. When moving a load as heavy and tall as this one, planning is crucial and details matter: Vic's conducted an extensive route survey to find the most efficient and practical route while still keeping everyone's costs down.

The nine-person team of operators, drivers, and linemen started out in Burnsville by lifting the 18' 4" high, 76,600-pound transformer onto a lowboy trailer using our Grove GMK6300L-I with 78,000 pounds of counterweight. Navigating oversized cranes into the small substations presented a challenge, but Vic's has the experience to get where they need to be. After securing the cargo, they hit the road. Even though their destination was 15 miles away under regular circumstances, their

route survey found that they would need to travel a total of 64 miles in order to haul the transformer without hitting any power lines or traffic lights.

Along with planning, communication was key. Each member of the nine-person team had a crucial role to play in the safety and success of the job, especially the escort, the driver, and the line workers tasked with lifting power lines when needed.

Vic's was chosen for this job due to their expertise with this type of project and competitive bid. Vic's hauls oversized loads every day of the week and moves tall items like this transformer on a fairly regular basis. In fact, even for a tricky job like this, it only took a couple of days to go from route survey to permit applications to getting the transformer to its final destination.





## Setting Bridge Girders For The New French River Bridge

The Old North Shore Scenic Drive running between Duluth and Two Harbors is one of the most picturesque drives in Minnesota. Each year countless visitors travel the route to take in the majestic views of Lake Superior, crossing the nearly 100-year old French River Bridge along the way. This summer the St. Louis County Public Works Department began a project to construct a new concrete beam single span bridge – and a team led by our Rosemount office with resources from both our Hibbing and Twin Ports branches were called in to set the bridge girders.

Although Vic's has plenty of experience with bridge projects, we still needed to be careful handling the massive bridge girders that measured 103,500 pounds and more than 121 feet long while completing the job on a tight time frame. Our GMK 7550, 550-ton crane was the perfect rig for the job. Due to Grandma's Marathon being canceled this year, the project was able to start two weeks sooner than originally planned. With our extensive fleet, having the right crane available for the adjusted timeline was no problem.

The new French River Bridge is expected to be complete in mid-November. Visitors will enjoy other improvements to the adjacent wayside rest area including an ADA accessible overlook structure, increased parking, and a sidewalk crossing the new bridge.

Vic's has extensive experience on bridge projects, including recently completing the I-94/I-494/I-694 bridge project in Woodbury, MN, the Highway 73 bridge in Hibbing, MN, and the Highway 4 and County Road 5 bridge in Fairfax, MN.







## Vic's Helps Generate Power In Iowa

Transporting, assembling, and placing objects on a foundation doesn't sound complicated, but the task becomes quite a feat when it involves engine blocks weighing almost half a million pounds. Recently, Vic's helped complete a project for Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), that involved just that. The heavy haul project involved the transportation, assembly, and placement of three engine blocks, each weighing 445,000 pounds at the CIPCO's Summit Lake Generating Station.

For offloading the engine blocks from the railway in Creston, Iowa, Vic's used a 20 axle line Goldhofer trailer and 500-ton Gantry system. In order to make the move less risky on local roads, Vic's reduced axle bearing pressure by adding six holland dollies to the trailer,.. In addition to the engine blocks themselves, Vic's also offloaded and staged other engine components such as the common base (85,000 pounds), turbo charge module (58,000 pounds), and charge air receiver (46,000 pounds). The

engine parts were carefully assembled with a 500-ton gantry and 14 axle line Goldhofer self-propelled module trailer in a 66'x100' engine assembly tent. Then, they were moved into the engine hall. When fully assembled, the engines weighed 654,000 pounds!

This transport was made more complex by county and city permits required to move the super heavy loads. The crew at Vic's also needed to be able to multitask, installing one engine into the building while another was still being built. This ended up saving the project at least three days of time.

The onsite portion of the move lasted about six weeks, but planning for the project began over a year ago, in May of 2019. The crew size varied from four to 12, depending on the stages of the project, and as always, safety was a priority for everyone involved. The work of Vic's staff and the powerful engines should keep power flowing through central Iowa for decades to come.







## Vic's Gives Employee's Home A Lift

Vic's crane service manager Jimmy Widman has been on site for more crane lifts than he can count. But in July, he witnessed one like he'd never seen before, as his own home was lifted high above the tree tops.

It all began when Widman and his family decided to purchase a prefabricated house from Dynamic Homes in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The house was built and shipped to Widman's land in Welch, Minnesota. His old home had already been demolished and a new foundation had been poured. The house was shipped in two halves, each one measuring 14 feet wide, 60 feet long, and weighing 32,000 pounds. The lift was made with a Grove GMK6220 with 47,300 pounds of counterweight, and took a little over an hour to complete.

You might think it would be nerve wracking to see your house lifted high into the air, but Widman had no doubts in the work crew's ability. "I was not nervous with this, even with it being my home," says Widman. "Vic's as a company has done many house sets, and I myself have been around a few of them. I was confident in the Vic's and Dynamic crews, as both are professional and know what they are doing." Widman worked with contractors at Centerville Homes in Trempealeau, WI.

The setting of the home was a big step in finishing the home. The house will be fully complete in about six

weeks when the garage is built, concrete floors are poured, and utilities are connected. Widman and his family are looking forward to moving in to their new home, but also enjoyed the process of seeing it all come together. "It was definitely neat having Vic's set my house, as it's been such a big part of my life with my dad working here his entire career, me starting here at a young age, and now my kids showing interest in cranes and witnessing the project take place."

You can find more about Dynamic Homes at [dynamichomes.com](http://dynamichomes.com), and more about Centerville Homes at [centervillehomesinc.com](http://centervillehomesinc.com).





## Pre-Construction Planning Team

Pre-construction services provide clients with a formal method for developing a full work scope, cost, and schedule to perform lift and haul projects. Vic's offers pre-construction services as a project managing tool that allows clients to fully understand and mitigate logistical, budgetary, and risk management challenges before work begins.



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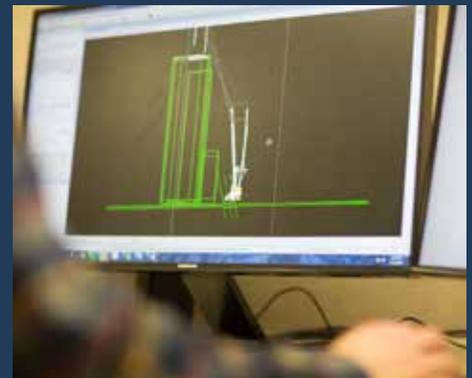
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## Quality Solutions and Benefits

The pre-construction process takes out many of the unknowns of a project and reduces risks for project owners. Having an early and detailed site plan for your crane, rigging, or haul projects affords cost savings and helps eliminate run on costs or bid change orders. Cranes and other heavy lift equipment can be very expensive and most successful projects cannot afford

to have these resources sitting idle. From manpower to equipment, nothing is cheap. Early and proper planning can save a project unnecessary expenses and stress. Having the right resources at the right time and eliminating obstacles and unforeseen complications are the rewards of quality pre-construction planning.



## Safety Photo Winner!

We would like to thank Paul Brouwer and Ryan Greening, the CI65-2 (GMK 165 ton) crew, for their strong commitment to teamwork and safety. With demolition work comes a wide-range of hazards that must be identified and mitigated. Through coordinated efforts with our customer working six stories above the crane, the crew's performance was commendable and a role model for the industry.



## Bentleyville "Tour of Lights"

The Bentleyville "Tour of Lights" in Duluth will look a little different this year, taking place in the form of a drive-thru, rather than a walk-thru, for the first time ever. What hasn't changed is the help Vic's provided to assemble the 128-foot tall, 17-ton Christmas tree that is the signature of the exhibit. This year our Twin Ports office donated the use of the crane, which was operated by Eric Arndt, our Hibbing branch manager. About a dozen iron workers from Local 512 also helped set the tree for thousands to enjoy. The event takes place from November 21st to December 27th.

