

2017 TxDOT Environmental Conference Agenda

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

8:00 am to 4:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am to 4:30 pm	Exhibits Open
9:00 am to 10:20 am	<p>General Session, Moderator: Carlos Swonke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Lauren Garduno (10 min) • Connected and Autonomous Vehicles and the Texas Automated Vehicle Proving Ground Partnership, Dr. Christopher Poe, TTI (20 min) Texas was recently designated by the USDOT as a national automated vehicle proving ground. Dr. Poe will discuss the current connected and automated transportation sector. He will also describe the winning Texas proposal that consists of Texas A&M, University of Texas, Southwest Research Institute, and a network of 5 urban test bed sites supported by 32 public agencies. • Autonomous Vehicles: Implications for Environmental Planning, Dr. Kara Kockelman, UT Austin (30 min) Self-driving cars and trucks will make motorized travel easier, further congesting our roadways and adding to Texas emissions inventories. But car-sharing systems, electric vehicles, ride-sharing en route, and other opportunities exist for moderating those impacts. Dr Kockelman will discuss her research team's results in these CAV areas. • Implementation of the FAST Act Environmental Provisions, Owen Lindauer, FHWA (20 min) Changes affecting Section 106 and Section 4(f), linking planning and NEPA, categorical exclusions, and EIS projects that trigger the environmental review process.
10:20 am to 10:35 am	Break
10:45 am to 11:30 am	<p>General Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 85th (2017) State Legislature – Changes Affecting TxDOT's Environmental Program (10 min), Patrick Lee A short presentation about two changes made by the Texas Legislature in 2017. The changes affect which types of projects will require a public hearing, and the advance acquisition of right-of-way prior to environmental clearance. • SH 45SW / Mopac Intersections Lawsuit – Panel discussion (45 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doug Booher ○ Alan Glen ○ Ken Ramirez <p>This presentation will discuss the impetus for, and implications of recently issued TxDOT guidance regarding when a previously cleared project may be re-evaluated, versus when a new environmental review should be conducted.</p>
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	General Session

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond the Road: TxDOT's Environmental Outreach Campaign, Laura Cruzada Since 1917, the highway department built roads shaped around the state's scenic splendor and cultural heritage. Today, the Environmental Affairs Division helps care for the state's natural and cultural resources in tandem with this vision. Thanks to TxDOT's archeologists, historians and environmental scientists, there may be a hidden story about Texas beyond the road that is ripe for discovery. Go Beyond the Road with TxDOT to see how our outreach efforts tell a unique story about the state to engage people in the transportation planning process. Heritage Preservation and Innovative Outreach in Downtown Houston: Archeological Studies along the Elysian Project Corridor, Jason Barrett, TxDOT Learn how TxDOT is working with the Houston Archeological Society to discover and record Houston's 19th-century heritage. Environmental Achievement Award Finalists, Doug Booher
2:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Break
3:00 pm to 4:20 pm	<p>General Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating Section 106 and Section 4(f) Compliance: Rough Waters Ahead?, Terry Klein, SRI Foundation Working on the frontline of national efforts to respond to increased pressures to speed up project delivery and reduce project costs, Terry Klein is nationally recognized as an expert in DOT project planning for cultural resource issues. He will report on strategies at the state DOT level to address these goals while continuing good stewardship for our cultural heritage using better project planning tools, early engagement of stakeholders, and programmatic approaches to problematic cultural resources. Re-evaluations: How Old is Too Old?, Doug Booher This presentation will discuss recently issued TxDOT guidance regarding when a previously cleared project may be re-evaluated, versus when a new environmental review should be conducted. NEPA Assignment: What Have we Learned? Carlos Swonke A brief update on NEPA Assignment and our progress over the last year.
4:20 pm to 5:00 pm	TxDOT Only/Town Hall Meeting
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm	Exhibits Reception

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

8:00 am to 4:30 pm	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
8:00 am to 4:30 pm	Exhibits Open
9:00 am to 4:30 pm	Subject Matter Expert Room
9:00 am to 10:15 am	<p>Breakout 1: Public Involvement: Updates & Additional Statutory Requirements, Anita Bradley The latest public involvement updates and additional state statutory requirements will be discussed.</p>

	<p>Breakout 2: Birds of a Feather: Migratory Bird Lessons Learned, Jodi Bechtel, Robin Gelston, Mike Rhodes, Christine Bergren, & Diana Griffith</p> <p>Natural Resources staff will provide a brief overview of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and District staff will share case studies and lessons learned across the state related to managing bird issues on transportation projects.</p> <p>Breakout 3: Public Writing for Cultural Resources (part 1), Erin McClelland & Rebekah Dobrasko</p> <p>Designed for historical and archeological consultants, this two-part training session will give the basics for writing for the public. TxDOT plans multiple public-facing history and archeology projects in the future. Learn how to tell stories based on historic places, how to develop an interpretive theme, and picture-taking tips and tricks. The workshop will incorporate exercises and examples based on historic places and transportation history. Note that only a 10-minute break will be provided between sessions in order to keep the workshop on track.</p> <p>Breakout 4: “Everything is Awesome! Tips for Improving Human Environment Work Products, Jackie Ploch, Tim Wood, Ray Umscheid, Nicolle Kord, and Brandy Huston</p> <p>Human environment staff will present self-assessment findings, tips to reduce findings and planned updates to air, noise, community impacts, indirect and cumulative impacts and climate change tools. A Q&A follows the presentation. The audience is encouraged to ask questions or provide suggestions for HE tools to further expedite project development.</p>
10:15 am to 10:45	Break
10:45 am to Noon	<p>Breakout 5: Water, water, everywhere....., Don Weise & Jason Kord</p> <p>A presentation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s perspective on transportation project considerations for Section 408 and Real Estate Actions. There will also be a GIS exercise that evaluates stream and wetland mitigation options and where mitigation banks are available or if there is a lack of options raising critical challenges. Additionally, Jason will show two web applications to help with identifying mitigation banks and other resources. Also, if time permits, a streamlined Natural Diversity Database tool.</p> <p>Breakout 6: Public Writing for Cultural Resources (part 2), Erin McClelland & Rebekah Dobrasko</p> <p>Designed for historical and archeological consultants, this two-part training session will give the basics for writing for the public. TxDOT plans multiple public-facing history and archeology projects in the future. Learn how to tell stories based on historic places, how to develop an interpretive theme, and picture-taking tips and tricks. The workshop will incorporate exercises and examples based on historic places and transportation history. Note that only a 10-minute break will be provided between sessions in order to keep the workshop on track.</p> <p>Breakout 7: Developing a Good Purpose & Need/Independent Utility & Segmentation, and Connected Actions, Lisa Mitchell & Patrick Lee</p> <p>This session will explain how to draft a concise purpose and need statement, which is an essential component of environmental documentation. Also covered is how to explain a transportation project's logical termini and independent utility, to demonstrate that a project is not improperly “segmented”.</p> <p>Breakout 8: Section 4(f) & Chapter 26, Michelle Lueck & Renee Benn</p>

	<p>A review of the Section 4(f) and Chapter 26 procedures for historic sites and publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife or waterfowl refuges. Information and tips on determining the appropriate 4(f) documentation and coordination requirements.</p>
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)
1:30 pm to 2:45 pm	<p>Breakout 9: Progress and Preservation: Working with Native American Tribes on Federal Projects (part 1), Laura Cruzada & Tribal Representatives</p> <p>This session will focus on government-to-government consultation and tribal perspectives on natural and cultural resources. Offers a unique opportunity to discuss the principals of consultation, when to consult, and how it can impact project delivery.</p> <p>Breakout 10: Consultants, Districts, & ENV: Document Production for Complex Projects, Mike Chavez</p> <p>Will cover best management practices for complex/high-profile projects (D-list CEs, EAs, & EISs), current guidance, mandatory & supplementary documentation, and how to file pertinent documentation.</p> <p>Breakout 11: Effective Public Involvement Through Collaboration with Consultants, Julie Jerome, Kim Johnson, Shannon McCord & Ruben Landa</p> <p>True collaboration among the district, consultant and Transportation Planning and Programming Division's Public Involvement section can make a dramatic difference in the effectiveness of a project's public involvement effort. A strategy for innovation plus the supporting tactics and techniques make up the roadmap to implementing TxDOT's Public Involvement Policy, "...to encourage broad participation reflective of the needs of the state's population."</p> <p>Breakout 12: Maintaining Project Consistency (part 1), Bryan Ellis & Michelle Conkle</p> <p>A discussion on the importance of consistent plans, programs, and investment decisions as related to performance-based planning and programming under the FAST Act.</p>
2:45 pm to 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm to 4:30 pm	<p>Breakout 13: Developing a Good Purpose & Need/Independent Utility & Segmentation, and Connected Actions (repeat), Lisa Mitchell & Patrick Lee</p> <p>This session will explain how to draft a concise purpose and need statement, which is an essential component of environmental documentation. Also covered is how to explain a transportation project's logical termini and independent utility, to demonstrate that a project is not improperly "segmented".</p> <p>Breakout 14: Progress and Preservation: Working with Native American Tribes on Federal Projects (part 2), Laura Cruzada & Tribal Representatives</p> <p>This session will cover the topic of historic properties, Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) and cultural landscapes/viewsapes. Offers a better understanding of what are TCPs and the importance of integrating tribes as stakeholders early in the planning process to reduce impacts to project delivery.</p> <p>Breakout 15: Maintaining Project Consistency (part 2), Bryan Ellis & Michelle Conkle</p> <p>This session will cover how ENV determines your project meets the planning consistency requirements. We'll define the methods ENV uses to indicate that a project is planning consistent and ready to receive</p>

environmental clearance.

Breakout 16: SM Wright Project: Translating Hazmat Impacts to Construction Solutions, Douglass Mack

This session will review a construction project in the Dallas District with multiple complex contamination issues that were successfully mitigated during construction as a result of early planning and coordination

Thursday, September 14, 2017

8:00 am to Noon	Registration Desk Open
8:00 am to Noon	Exhibits Open
8:00 am to 9:00 am	Continental Breakfast
9:00 am to 10:15 am	<p>Workshop/Training 1: Successfully Navigating Section 106 and Section 4(f) for Local Project Sponsors, SRI Foundation</p> <p>This updated version of FHWA’s intro course (ENV 117) targets the basics for avoiding pitfalls in completing cultural resource coordination. The training is highly interactive, built on actual TxDOT case studies and pays special attention to the challenges of local government sponsored projects. Instructor Terry Klein is nationally recognized as an expert in DOT project planning for cultural resource issues. Intended audience includes new district environmental staff, local government project managers and the consultants who work for them.</p> <p>Workshop/Training 2: MS4 Coordinators – Preparing the MS4 Annual Report & Program Updates and Announcements, Adrienne Boer</p> <p>This training session will include an introduction to the MS4 permit reporting requirements, discussion of the annual report, and how each district’s MS4 Coordinator can complete the annual report template. MS4 program updates and upcoming plans will also be included in this training.</p> <p>Workshop/Training 3: Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment Training, Douglass Mack & Terry Dempsey</p> <p>This workshop will review the Hazardous Materials Management (HMM) process as it relates to NEPA and will cover the recent changes to the Initial Site Assessment (ISA) document.</p> <p>Workshop/Training 4: ENV 125: Traffic Noise Basics, Ray Umscheid</p> <p>This course is tailored to district staff with no noise experience to enable them to have a basic understanding of acoustics and the noise analysis process.</p>
10:15 am to 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am to Noon	<p>Workshop/Training 1 cont: Successfully Navigating Section 106 and Section 4(f) for Local Project Sponsors, SRI Foundation</p> <p>Workshop/Training 2 cont: MS4 Coordinators – Preparing the MS4 Annual Report & Program Updates and Announcements, Adrienne Boer</p> <p>Workshop/Training 3 cont: Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment Training, Douglass Mack & Terry Dempsey</p> <p>Workshop/Training 4 cont: ENV 125: Traffic Noise Basics, Ray Umscheid</p>
Noon to 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm	<p>Workshop/Training 1 cont: Successfully Navigating Section 106 and Section 4(f) for Local Project Sponsors, SRI Foundation</p> <p>Workshop/Training 5: Indirect & Cumulative Impacts (ICI) Workshop, Nicolle Kord & Brandy Huston</p> <p>The Subject Matter Experts will address some common issues with indirect and cumulative impacts analysis such as encroachment alteration effects, changes to access and travel patterns and more. The SMEs will also introduce an upcoming resource to assist with ICI analysis in the Edwards Aquifer area.</p>
2:45 pm to 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm to 4:30	<p>Workshop/Training 1 cont: Successfully Navigating Section 106 and Section 4(f) for Local Project Sponsors, SRI Foundation</p> <p>Workshop/Training 5 cont: Indirect & Cumulative Impacts (ICI) Workshop, Nicolle Kord & Brandy Huston</p> <p>Stump the Experts! Come ready with your questions on indirect and cumulative analysis.</p>