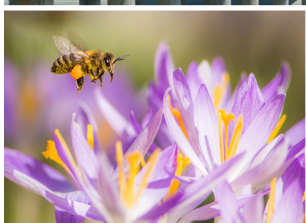
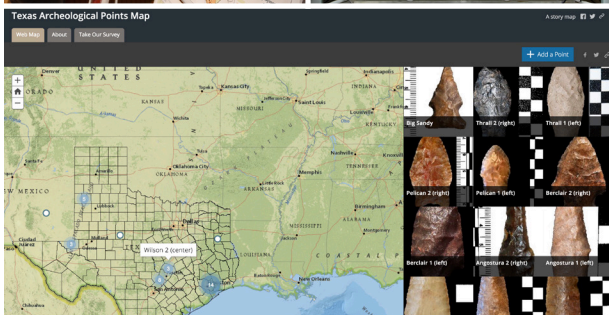
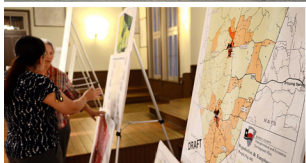


2018 TxDOT Environmental Conference

September 11–13, 2018

Omni Dallas Hotel Park West • 1590 LBJ Freeway • Dallas, Texas 75234



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11		
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration Desk Open	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Exhibit Area
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open	Park West Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	General Session	Park West Ballroom
10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	Break	Exhibit Area
10:35 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	General Session	Park West Ballroom
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	On Your Own
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	General Session	Park West Ballroom
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Break	Exhibit Area
3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	General Session	Park West Ballroom
4:20 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	TxDOT Only/Town Hall Meeting	Park West Ballroom
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Exhibits Reception/Poster Session	Park West Foyer/Trinity I

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12		
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Registration Desk Open	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	Exhibit Area
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Exhibits Open	Park West Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Subject Matter Expert Room	Trinity I
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 1–4	
	Session 1	Texas Learning Center
	Session 2	Park West A/B
	Session 3	Park West C/D
	Session 4	Park West E/F
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break	Exhibit Area
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 5–8	
	Session 5	Texas Learning Center
	Session 6	Park West A/B
	Session 7	Park West C/D
	Session 8	Park West E/F
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	On Your Own
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 9–12	
	Session 9	Texas Learning Center
	Session 10	Park West A/B
	Session 11	Park West C/D
	Session 12	Park West E/F
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	Exhibit Area
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 13–16	
	Session 13	Park West C/D
	Session 14	Park West A/B
	Session 15	Texas Learning Center

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13		
8:00 a.m. – Noon	Registration Desk Open	
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast	<i>Exhibit Area</i>
8:00 a.m. – Noon	Exhibits Open	<i>Park West Foyer</i>
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Workshop/Training Sessions: 1–4	
	Session 1	<i>Park West A/B</i>
	Session 2	<i>Park West C/D</i>
	Session 3	<i>Texas Learning Center</i>
	Session 4	<i>Park West E/F</i>
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break	<i>Exhibit Area</i>
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Workshop/Training Sessions: 1–4 (continued)	
	Session 1	<i>Park West A/B</i>
	Session 2	<i>Park West C/D</i>
	Session 3	<i>Texas Learning Center</i>
	Session 4	<i>Park West E/F</i>
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch	<i>On Your Own</i>
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Workshop/Training Sessions: 1, 2 and 5	
	Session 1	<i>Park West A/B</i>
	Session 2	<i>Park West C/D</i>
	Session 5	<i>Park West E/F</i>
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Break	<i>Exhibit Area</i>
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Workshop/Training Sessions: 1, 2 and 5 (continued)	
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Session 1	<i>Park West A/B</i>
	Session 2	<i>Park West C/D</i>
	Session 5	<i>Park West E/F</i>

WELCOME

Park West Ballroom
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

SPEAKER: Mohamed “Mo” K. Bur, TxDOT

KEYNOTE

Park West Ballroom
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

SPEAKER: Meghna Tare, Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact

Institutions of higher education play a pivotal role in transforming the lives of individuals and community by disseminating knowledge, fostering innovation, and promoting a more resource-efficient economy. They also act as catalysts for sustainability efforts in the cities where they are located by promoting engagement, participation and multi-sector collaborations across campuses and beyond. Such collaborations and networks tend to shift thinking, motivate, and create collective impact and sustainable communities.

GENERAL SESSION

Park West Ballroom
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN AIR QUALITY

SPEAKER: Chris Klaus, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

A presentation on how to ensure successful implementation of a regions long range transportation plan and assist in reaching or maintaining compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Learn about MPO requirements under federal law, critical involvement in air quality plans, and implementation of additional emission reduction activities.

GENERAL SESSION

Park West Ballroom
10:35 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

BEYOND REPLACEMENT: EXAMINING COMMUNITY IMPACTS AND MITIGATION ON THE I-70 EAST PROJECT IN DENVER

SPEAKERS: Kirk Webb and Carrie Wallis, Atkins, Inc.; and Venessa Henderson, Colorado DOT

Key members of the project team will discuss the unique challenges encountered and creative solutions implemented on I-70 East EIS project. The project proposed to rebuild the primary east-west corridor through a densely developed part of Denver. The team will discuss public outreach methods, building consensus, and developing mitigation to offset potentially significant community impacts throughout the corridor and particularly in areas with large minority and low-income populations.

GENERAL SESSION

Park West Ballroom

10:35 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND – MEETING THE PUBLIC ON THEIR TERMS

SPEAKERS: Marty Boyd and Jennifer Wright, TxDOT

See how planning early for environmental is critical and helps deliver projects. Learn how TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division has a variety of resources proven to influence positive public engagement outcomes.

GENERAL SESSION

Park West Ballroom

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

MAMMOTH DISCOVERIES AND BIG PUBLIC RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

SPEAKER: TxDOT Media Relations

This presentation will discuss the public relations lessons learned from the reporting on the discovery of a mammoth during investigations for a TxDOT project.

WORKING BEYOND THE ROAD TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

SPEAKER: Laura Cruzada, TxDOT

The Environmental Affairs Division will touch on the work its done for Beyond The Road. ENV will brief everyone about how it is developing tools to help Districts and Divisions share our stories and share public-friendly information about our process, which can help streamline project delivery. ENV will show highlights of the advertising/marketing campaign and also preview the tools that will help public information officers and environmental coordinators talk to the public about NEPA.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SPEAKER: Sue Theiss, TxDOT

TXDOT'S POLLINATOR PROGRAM

SPEAKER: Dennis Markwardt, TxDOT

Learn about TxDOT's award-winning pollinator program that helps support Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, while still meeting infrastructure maintenance needs and requirements.

GENERAL SESSION

*Park West Ballroom
3:00 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.*

**NEPA POLICY AND PRINCIPLES IN THEIR 49TH YEAR:
A WASHINGTON DC PERSPECTIVE**

SPEAKER: Owen Lindauer, FHWA

This presentation will review the core NEPA policies and principles that have been in effect over the past 49 years and were implemented by TxDOT over the past 5 years. Owen will provide a perspective of the implementation of NEPA policy and principles both inside and outside of Texas.

**139(L): TO PREPARE OR NOT TO PREPARE,
THAT IS THE QUESTION**

SPEAKER: Doug Booher, TxDOT

A discussion of managing risk for transportation projects and the value of using the 23 CFR 771.139 – Limitations on actions regulation.

OUR PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

Speaker: Carlos Swonke, TxDOT

POSTER SESSION

*Park West Foyer/
Trinity I
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.*

In this session, TxDOT presents information on a variety of short research and regulatory topics. Posters will be available for viewing for an extended period during the conference. The presenters will also be available at the posters to answer questions during the scheduled poster session.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 1**

*Texas Learning Center
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*

WHAT'S HOT IN YOUR DISTRICT?

SPEAKERS: TxDOT District Environmental Representatives

Join us for a fast-paced session where TxDOT Districts will provide a 2-minute highlight of challenges or issues they are facing, best practices they've identified, curious/interesting things happening in their area, or other interesting topics. This session is meant to be an ice-breaker and encourage discussions outside the session over the course of the conference.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 2**

*Park West A/B
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*

UPCOMING ECOS UPGRADES

SPEAKER: Doug Booher, TxDOT

Discussion of planned upgrades to ECOS in 2019.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 3**

*Park West C/D
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*

MS4 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

SPEAKER: Adrienne Boer, TxDOT

TxDOT is now permitted under a single Statewide MS4 Permit. This presentation will highlight activities under the permit, results from the first and drafted second annual reports, areas of focus throughout the permit's five-year term, and targeted areas for improvement.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 4**

*Park West E/F
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.*

2018 CHANGES TO TXDOT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RULES

SPEAKER: Patrick Lee, TxDOT

This presentation will give an overview of revisions made by TxDOT to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, Chapter 2, "Environmental Review of Transportation Projects".

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 5**

*Texas Learning Center
10:45 a.m. – Noon*

INCORPORATING LAND USE AND TRAVEL FORECASTING LESSONS LEARNED IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

SPEAKER: Jeremy Raw, FHWA

This presentation will summarize lessons learned from an internal FHWA multidisciplinary review of land use and travel forecasting issues in NEPA studies.

BREAKOUT SESSION 6

Park West A/B
10:45 a.m. – Noon

PROGRAM REVIEW FINDINGS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND MAKING APPROPRIATE HMM IMPACT DETERMINATIONS FOR TxDOT PROJECTS

SPEAKER: Douglass Mack, TxDOT

A review of the issues commonly identified during ENV-Program Reviews for Hazardous Materials and how to avoid those same issues on future projects. The speaker will also discuss how to make the appropriate HMM impact determinations for potential HMM issues identified during the Initial Site Assessment (ISA) process. Specifically, how to populate Section 8 of the ISA and what needs to be transferred to an ECOS IIR form.

BREAKOUT SESSION 7

Park West C/D
10:45 a.m. – Noon

ESA CONSULTATION: WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO

SPEAKERS: Jodi Bechtel, Barbara Grahmann, Andrew Chisholm, and Andy Blair, TxDOT; and Charlotte Kucera, USFWS

After a brief overview of the Endangered Species Act Section 7 process, District and US Fish and Wildlife Service staff will share case studies and lessons learned across the state related to ESA consultations and considerations.

BREAKOUT SESSION 8

Park West E/F
10:45 a.m. – Noon

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH THE EYES OF A MILLENNIAL

SPEAKERS: Julie Jerome, TxDOT; Kevin Feldt, AICP and Dr. Lloyd Potter, IDSER

Millennials make up one-third of the U.S. population and their communication habits differ dramatically from their predecessors (Boomers and Generation X, for example). Involving Millennials in our transportation decisions must be an integral part of TxDOT's culture of transparency, and online engagement is a tool for achieving that goal. Learn how TxDOT districts are using online engagement as an innovative and effective strategy of an overall public involvement plan to reach across generations.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 9**

*Texas Learning Center
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.*

NAVIGATING THE 404 PERMITTING PROCESS

SPEAKERS: Susan Shuffield, *TxDOT*; Blake Crosby, *VRX, Inc.*; John Moravec, *TxDOT*; Robin Gelston, *TxDOT*; and Ryan Robol, *Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson, Inc.*

A basic overview of Section 404 requirements under the Clean Water Act will be provided, then the session will focus on project examples and lessons learned across the state related to 404 permitting.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 10**

*Park West A/B
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.*

SUMMARY OF 2018 NOISE POLICY CHANGES

SPEAKER: Ray Umscheid, *TxDOT*

This breakout session is designed for project managers and traffic noise practitioners and will provide an overview of traffic noise policy changes being implemented in 2018's updated Traffic Noise Policy. These changes include: a new cost reasonableness process and costs for noise abatement approved by FHWA, a new minimum threshold for benefiting receivers for noise barrier feasibility determinations, and new public involvement procedures.

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 11**

*Park West C/D
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.*

AIR QUALITY UPDATES

SPEAKERS: Tim Wood, *TxDOT*; and Jeff Riley, *EPA Region 6*

This session will cover updates to the air quality program to include: MSAT traffic data change; conformity assignment of CEs; hot-spot POAQC threshold changes; updated guidance; current AQ issues; update on 1997 ozone NAAQS lawsuit and implications; update on 2015 ozone NAAQS designations and implications

**BREAKOUT
SESSION 12**

*Park West E/F
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.*

TRIBAL CONSULTATION FOR FHWA UNDERTAKINGS

SPEAKERS: Laura Cruzada and Scott Pletka, *TxDOT*; and Tribal Representatives

TxDOT's Archeological Studies Branch works with federally-recognized tribes, many of whom are not based in Texas. Participants will hear from tribal representatives who will share their perspective on the history of tribes in Texas. This portion of the presentation will provide context for why TxDOT and tribes consult, how TxDOT addresses tribal concerns, and the various steps taken to ensure tribes are afforded early opportunities to participate in project development. Environmental coordinators and consultants can expect to gain a better understanding of consultation requirements and the documentation necessary for compliance with Section 106.

BREAKOUT SESSION 13

Park West C/D
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES: TITLE VI VS. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

SPEAKERS: *Nicolle Kord and Christopher Amy, TxDOT*

This session will outline the basics of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Environmental Justice Executive Order. The instructors will highlight how they are different and in what ways they are similar. They will also discuss how TxDOT addresses these regulations and provide case studies on transportation projects from TxDOT and other State DOTs that have faced Title VI and EJ challenges.

BREAKOUT SESSION 14

Park West A/B
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES: HOT TOPICS!

SPEAKERS: *Alan Glen and Clover Clamons, TxDOT*

The latest emerging issues in the natural resource arena will be discussed, such as status updates on Migratory Bird Treaty Act interpretation, the Waters of the U.S. rule, and proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act. In addition, NRM staff will review common problems seen in ESA consultation documents in the development and review stages and how to avoid them (this discussion is highly recommended for consultants!).

BREAKOUT SESSION 15

Texas Learning Center
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

SPEED LEARNING SESSION

SPEAKERS: *Various TxDOT SMEs*

The goal of this breakout is to give participants a venue to learn from a variety of Subject Matter Experts (SME). The session is divided into six 10-minute segments allowing participants to receive more personal attention from the SMEs and more information in a short amount of time. This flexible format gives participants multiple opportunities to exchange thoughts and questions with the SMEs in a small group setting. The sessions will run concurrently with other speed learning sessions within the same room. Each speed learning session is assigned to a roundtable that holds 8–10 participants.

WORKSHOP/ TRAINING 1

Park West A/B

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SECTION 106: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR COMPLIANCE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

SPEAKER: *Terry Klein, SRI Foundation*

Nationally recognized as an expert in DOT project planning for cultural resource issues, Terry Klein returns to Texas with insights into successfully integrating public engagement for cultural resources into the overall NEPA framework. The training is highly interactive and built on actual TxDOT case studies. Whether you are a new district environmental staffer or a consultant who works for them, don't miss this chance to explore how to deliver your project more effectively.

WORKSHOP/ TRAINING 2

Park West C/D

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

INTERPRETATIVE WRITING FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

SPEAKER: *Erin McClelland, Erin McClelland Museum Services*

Back by popular demand, museum expert Erin McClelland will lead a day-long workshop on interpretive writing for cultural resources. This workshop is designed for historical and archeological consultants interested in working with TxDOT to tell stories around the archeology and history uncovered beyond the road. The workshop will incorporate exercises and examples based on historic places and transportation history and will give you a chance to try your newly-found skill in interpretation.

WORKSHOP/ TRAINING 3

Texas Learning Center

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

ASSESS THIS! WOUS ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGIES IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS RAPID ASSESSMENT METHOD (TXRAM)

SPEAKER: *Fred Land, USACE*

TXRAM is a conditional assessment methodology approved for use on projects within the USACE Fort Worth and Tulsa Districts that have unavoidable stream and wetland impacts requiring mitigation. The training will provide insight on using the method for conditional assessment of streams and wetlands.

**WORKSHOP/
TRAINING 4**

Park West E/F

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

ENV 125 - FUNDAMENTALS OF TRAFFIC NOISE

SPEAKER: Ray Umscheid, *TxDOT*

This training will introduce recent updates to TxDOT's Traffic Noise Analysis process, and provide a general overview of the Traffic Noise process with a concentration on documentation and interpretation of TNM modeling results. This class is designed for Project Managers and those with no traffic noise experience.

**WORKSHOP/
TRAINING 5**

Park West E/F

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ENV 411: HOW TO WRITE RIGHT

SPEAKER: Melissa Neeley, *TxDOT*

This module is about using Plain Language in environmental documents. Attendees will learn the basics of Plain Language and why using it in environmental documents is important.



**Save the Date:
September 10–12, 2019**

Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol

2019 TxDOT Environmental Conference

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Christopher Amy

Christopher has a BS in Biology and a MS in Environmental Science from the University of Texas San Antonio. He currently works as a Title VI Program Administrator with TxDOT Civil Rights Division. Before coming to TxDOT, Christopher worked over 17 years in the environmental consulting industry. At TxDOT 8 years, Christopher was the Corpus Christi Environmental Coordinator for 6 years until he moved to the district's advanced project delivery office for the Harbor Bridge Project. Christopher serves as the TxDOT liaison in the implementation of the Voluntary Resolution Agreement between FHWA and TxDOT, a role which supported the resolution of the Title VI complaint filed on the Harbor Bridge project. He is currently responsible for implementing the statewide Title VI Program for TxDOT.

Jodi Bechtel

Jodi is the Section Director of Natural Resource Management in TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division. She has over 20 years of natural resource experience working for local government, consulting and nonprofit organizations. She holds a BA in Anthropology and a MA Public Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Andrew Blair

Andrew has been the District Biologist for TxDOT's Austin District since September 2017. Prior to that, he worked for 8 years as an Environmental Specialist in the Natural Resources Management Section at TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division. Andrew has over 14-years of experience dealing with a variety of natural resource issues throughout Texas with an emphasis on rare, threatened, and endangered species. Andrew holds a BS in Biology from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and a MS in Population and Conservation Biology from Texas State University.

Adrienne Boer, CFM, CPESC, PMP

Adrienne manages the Operations Compliance Branch. She has over 25 years of experience in water quality analysis and planning, stormwater permitting, and project and program management. She received her MS in Environmental Resource Management from Texas State University and her BS in Environmental Science from Concordia University.

Doug Booher

Doug is the Deputy Director of TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division.

Marty Boyd

Marty is the Director of Advanced Transportation Planning in the El Paso District. Marty's office oversees the district's Programming, Scheduling, MPO Coordination, Local Governments, Environmental, Transportation Planning Studies, Traffic Data and Modeling. She has been part of the TxDOT family for the past 23 years. She is a graduate of New Mexico State University and the University of Texas at El Paso, where she received her BS in Civil Engineering in 1994. Prior to her career at TxDOT, she was an architectural designer for 12 years in the private sector. She is an avid cyclist and enjoys the outdoors with her family.

Mohamed "Mo" K. Bur, P.E.

Mo is the Dallas District Engineer. He oversees the state transportation system for the seven-county Dallas District. He previously served as the district's Deputy District Engineer. A 21-year TxDOT veteran, Mo began his career in 1997 in the San Angelo Area Office. He received his Professional Engineer's license and transferred to the Dallas District Roadway Design Section in June 2002. In 2011, Mo was appointed as the Project Delivery Office (PDO) supervisor. In 2013 Mo was named as the PEPS Division Central Service Center Manager, and then selected as the district's Director of Transportation Planning and Development in 2014. Mo earned a BS in Civil Engineering, with an emphasis on transportation and hydraulics, from the University of Maryland in 1996.

Andrew Chisholm

Andrew is the Environmental Coordinator for the Brownwood District and has been in this position for 16 years. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University with a degree in Environmental Science (2002) and received a MBA from Howard Payne University (2012).

Clover Clamons

Clover is an Environmental Specialist for TxDOT ENV's Natural Resources Management Section. She serves as TxDOT's liaison to the USFWS Service and is focused on process improvement for Endangered Species Act consultations. Clover joined TxDOT ENV in 2018 bringing over 20 years of experience working on multidisciplinary teams to deliver challenging projects throughout Texas. She holds a MS in Geology from Baylor University.

Blake Crosby

Blake serves as TxDOT's Environmental Project Manager for the Border West Expressway project. Blake has over 10 years of experience in government and local coordination, natural resource management, and stormwater permitting and implementation. He holds a BS in Marine Science/Anthropology from the University of Hawai'i. His diverse experience in NEPA, design, construction inspection and environmental coordination and inspection provide him with a unique view of environmental considerations during all aspects of projects.

Laura Cruzada

Laura is a public involvement specialist for TxDOT ENV's Cultural Resources Management Section. She is responsible for programmatic outreach and consultation for the Archeology and History programs, bridging a gap between what people know about TxDOT and how they can get involved in the historic preservation process. Laura brings communications expertise from a 10-year career in public health where she worked on award-winning national public health campaigns. She is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin.

Kevin Feldt

Kevin Feldt, AICP, is a transportation planner with over 25 years' experience in both the private and public sectors. Kevin joined the North Central Texas Council of Governments in October 2008 as a Program Manager and is responsible for oversight of The North Central Texas Region's Mobility Plan as well as automated transportation system and high-speed rail projects. Kevin has previously served as a City of McKinney Planning and Zoning Commissioner. After receiving a BS degree in Broadcast Journalism from Bowling Green State University, Kevin received a MS degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Florida State University.

Robin Gelston

Robin has served as the TxDOT Pharr District Environmental Coordinator since 2010, and has been with TxDOT since 2009. She earned a BS in Biology from the University of California, San Diego, and a MS in Environmental Science from the University of Texas, Dallas. She has over 30+ years of experience at the USEPA and the private sector working on hazardous material superfund sites, wetland delineations, permitting and mitigation, community impact analysis, and natural resource analysis and consultation.

Alan Glen

Alan has widely-recognized expertise in various areas of federal environmental law, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Alan is one of TxDOT's outside counsel on environmental issues.

Barbara Grahmann

Barbara is an Environmental Specialist in the Yoakum District. She began working at TxDOT in 2014. Barbara holds a BS in Resource and Environmental Studies and an MS in Geography, both from Texas State University-San Marcos.

Vanessa Henderson

Vanessa has 20 years of environmental management experience working for consulting organizations and local and state governments. She has been with the Colorado DOT since 2007 and currently serves as the I-70 Mountain Corridor Environmental Manager. Vanessa previously served as the I-70 East Environmental Manager and statewide NEPA Program Manager at the Colorado DOT. She holds a BS in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

Julie Jerome

Julie is a regional analyst in the public involvement section of the Transportation Planning and Programming Division. Working with the seven districts in West Texas, she supports and guides public involvement efforts throughout the life of projects. Prior to joining TxDOT in 2013, she enjoyed 14 years in school district communications. She has a BS in Journalism and Economics from University of North Texas.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Terry Klein

Terry from the SRI Foundation is a nationally recognized expert on the successful integration of Section 106 and Section 4(f) issues into the NEPA process to streamline project delivery goals. He works closely with national organizations such as TRB, DOTs across the nation and is intimately familiar with the TxDOT planning process. As a result he offers a distinctive national perspective.

Chris Klaus

Chris has been on staff in the Transportation Department of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, since July 1994. He is a Senior Program Manager managing the department's Air Quality Planning and Operations activities, which respond to federal air quality requirements and work towards reaching attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Chris received his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1994, and his MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2003.

Nicolle Kord

Nicolle is an Environmental Specialist in the Environmental Affairs Division. She serves as a subject matter expert in Community Impacts, Indirect Impacts, and Cumulative Impacts. She has been with TxDOT for 5 years. Prior to this she worked as a NEPA specialist for the Colorado DOT. She has a BS in Rangeland Management and Ecology from Texas A&M University.

Charlotte Kucera

Charlotte is the Texas Transportation Liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She has statewide responsibility for Section 7 consultations and mitigation for transportation projects across Texas. Prior to her employment with the Service, she worked for the National Marine Fisheries Service and TxDOT. She holds a BS in Biology from the University of Notre Dame and a MS in Marine Science from the University of Texas.

Fred Land

Fred is a Regulatory Project Manager and Wetland Ecologist for the United States Army Corps of Engineers with over 23 years' experience in aquatic assessment, wetland delineation, and permit evaluation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. He is the USACE Fort Worth District subject matter expert for compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and is a wetland delineation instructor for the Great Plains Region.

Patrick Lee

Patrick is an Environmental Specialist with TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division.

Owen Lindauer

Owen is the Federal Highway Administration's Chief Archeologist and possesses a PhD, MA, and BA in the field of anthropology with a specialization in archeology. With more than 30 years of experience developing and publishing archeological research, he is an expert in the Section 106 process and in conducting tribal consultation. He came to HEPE eleven years ago and has worked preparing and providing guidance on environmental regulation for categorical exclusions, Section 4(f), streamlining through programmatic approaches, and NEPA assumption. He has extensive NEPA and project development experience, working at DOTs in Arizona and Texas, as well as in HEPE.

Douglass Mack

Douglass has been with TxDOT 20 years, working in the Hazardous Materials Section of the Environmental Affairs Division. He received his BS in Environmental Studies from Texas State in 1993.

Dennis Markwardt

Dennis is the Director of Vegetation Management for the TxDOT Maintenance Division. Dennis has 30 years' experience in right of way vegetation management. He is responsible for the Mowing Program, Pest Management Program, Seeding Operations, Wildflower Program, Erosion Control Program, Pollinator Program, Pit and Quarry Program, and De-icing Operations. He has a BS in Range Science from Texas A&M.

Erin McClelland

Erin is Founder and Principal of Erin McClelland Museum Services, a full-service firm providing interpretation and exhibition development services in Austin, TX. She earned her MA in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin, where she concentrated on heritage tourism and cultural landscapes. Today she assists museums and historic sites of all sizes with interpreting their collections, landscapes, and stories for the public. In recent years, she has worked with the Texas Historical Commission, National Park Service, and Bullock Texas State History Museum.

John Moravec

John is the District Environmental Coordinator for the ten county Bryan District. Before joining the Bryan District, John spent the first 8 plus years of his career with the Waco District serving in the Environmental Section and later in the IH-35 Special Projects Office. Currently, with the support of the Bryan District Administration and the help of the outstanding District Environmental Section, John is responsible for the successful clearance, permitting and compliance of planning/design projects, construction projects as well as maintenance activities. He has a BS in Plant and Soil Science from Tarleton State University.

Melissa Neeley

Melissa has more than 30 years of experience in environmental planning of transportation projects. She has a BS in Political Science and a MS, both from Texas A&M University.

Emily Parks

Emily has spent her career building relationships between people and the public sector. As the Social Media Coordinator for TxDOT, Parks channels her technical writing, public relations, social media and executive advisory experience to share TxDOT's message in just under 140 characters every day. A former print journalist and public education communications director, Parks is a state- and nationally-recognized, award-winning public relations professional who understands and champions the value of public involvement.

Lloyd Potter

Lloyd was appointed State Demographer in June 2010. Dr. Potter holds a Ph.D. in Demography and Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin, a MS Public Health Degree from Emory University, a MS in Education from the University of Houston at Clear Lake and a BS from Texas A&M University. He is a professor in the Department of Demography at The University of Texas at San Antonio where he also serves as the director of the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research (IDSER). He has extensive experience as an applied demographer in several settings.

Jeremy Raw

Jeremy works in the FHWA Office of Planning where he has reviewed numerous traffic and land use forecasts for NEPA studies. He recently led a team that updated instructions for FHWA staff reviewing such forecasts. Jeremy also coordinates research and deployment of advanced modeling and data analysis techniques for transportation planning. His other recent work areas have included data collection, analysis and modeling for bicycle and pedestrian transportation; planning for connected and automated vehicles; and developing strategic planning models. Jeremy holds degrees in philosophy, literature, engineering, and city planning.

Jeff Riley

Jeff is an environmental scientist with the EPA Region 6 Air Branch in Dallas, Texas, overseeing the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Mr. Riley has worked in the Air Program since 2006, as a regional transportation conformity and general conformity specialist, as well as coordinating State Implementation Plan activities for the State of Arkansas and the El Paso, Texas border area. Previously, he worked EPA's Resource Conservation Recovery Act Permitting Program as a human health risk assessor, risk modeler, and GIS specialist.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Ryan Robol

Ryan is the Section Head for the Texas environmental services group at Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson ("JMT"). He has 16 years of experience in the field of natural resources management, including 14 years as an environmental consultant.

During his consulting career, Ryan has focused on wetland delineation, permitting, and mitigation. He has conducted wetland delineations throughout the southeastern U.S. and Texas gulf coast and has extensive experience coordinating with the USACE to procure wetland jurisdictional determinations and both Nationwide and Individual Section 10/404 Permits. He has primarily worked within the geographical limits of the Galveston and Fort Worth Districts for the previous nine years. Ryan has a BS in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a MS in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston.

Elizabeth Shelton

Elizabeth obtained a BS degree in Marine Biology from Texas A&M University at Galveston in 2003 and a MS of Marine Resource Management from Texas A&M University at Galveston in 2007. Elizabeth began her environmental career as a Research Assistant for the Galveston Bay Information Center, a library resource, for the Galveston Bay Estuary program in 2004. While working on her Master's degree, she participated in and presented to several local environmental outreach organizations, co-authored findings on an economic valuation study around Galveston Bay, and assisted with the development of GIS maps for two land conservation projects.

Elizabeth began her Federal civil service career in 2008 at the Galveston District Corps of Engineers in the Regulatory Branch Evaluation Unit as a Regulatory Specialist. She was

responsible for timely review and evaluation of increasingly complex permit applications within the Galveston District Regulatory Division Areas of Responsibility. During this timeframe, Elizabeth was also designated as the liaison for TxDOT projects in 2012 and assumed the responsibilities of a project manager for the TxDOT WRDA 214 agreement in 2015. After completing a five month detail with the HQUSACE Civil Works Operations and Regulatory Division Regulatory Program, she was promoted to a Regulatory Project Manager. In her current position, she evaluates complex permit applications and mentors fellow employees so they can develop their technical knowledge of the Corps Regulatory program.

Susan M. Shuffield

Susan graduated with a BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Utah State University. She went on to work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and later started her own environmental consulting practice. Susan worked for herself and other firms in the private sector for 12 years, specializing in NEPA project management and wildlife ecology. Susan has been with TxDOT for the past 10 years, and is currently serving as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Liaison in the Natural Resources Management Section of the Environmental Affairs Division.

Carlos Swonke

Carlos Swonke is the Director of the Environmental Affairs Division at TxDOT, a position he has held since 2012. Carlos has 31 years of environmental/NEPA experience.

Sue Theiss

Sue is a Deputy Director of the Environmental Affairs Division at TxDOT. She has over 38 years of experience in the environmental field from working both public and private sector positions. Sue's primary responsibility is managing the State of Texas' NEPA Assignment program and its coordination with FHWA. Sue is a current member of the Transportation Research Board's Standing Committee on Environmental Analysis in Transportation – ADC10.

Meghna Tare

Meghna is the Executive Director for the Institute for Sustainability and Global Impact at the University of Texas at Arlington where she works collaboratively with faculty, staff, the student body and community members to address opportunities to promote sustainability in several areas including greening facility operations, promoting innovative research, supporting and encouraging student initiatives, implementing an environmentally and sustainability-focused curriculum. She recommends policies and strategies to advance the university's commitment to being a leader in campus sustainability.

She is a TEDx UTA speaker, serves on several Advisory Boards, including the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Sciences, Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), and Women Economic Forum. She was featured as Women in CSR by Triple Pundit, and awarded Women of the Decade in Corporate Social Responsibility by the Women Economic Forum. She graduated with an MBA in Sustainable Management, MS in Environmental Science, and MS in Chemistry.

Ray Umscheid

Ray Umscheid has been TxDOT's Noise Specialist at ENV for 7 years and he has a total of 13 years' experience performing noise analyses for transportation projects. He is on NCHRP panels 25-44 and 25-52.

Carrie Wallis

Carrie is the West Sector Manager for the Department of Transportation Business at Atkins North America, with 18 years of transportation planning, engineering, and project management experience. Making metropolitan Denver a great place to live, work, and play is, in part, why Carrie became a transportation planner and engineer. She knew she could directly and positively impact our communities by bringing a sensitive and sustainable approach to transportation engineering with an emphasis on livability and community-focused solutions.

Carrie was the Consultant Project Manager for the I-70 East Environmental Impact Statement, a project that will be the largest transportation endeavor ever undertaken by the Colorado Department of Transportation. These days, she brings her experience and wisdom to some of

the biggest transportation projects currently under way.

Kirk Webb

Kirk is the technical director for Atkins national transportation NEPA planning practice. Kirk provides technical expertise, project management, and quality reviews for transportation NEPA and planning projects, including NEPA, feasibility, and Planning and Environmental Linkage studies. He assists various offices across the country with resource balance and provides technical advice to clients and project managers.

Prior to joining Atkins, Kirk was employed as NEPA Program Manager at the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Region 1. He was responsible for review and approval of technical analyses and reports for NEPA projects within the busiest region in CDOT.

He coordinated with engineering staff and specialty units within the agency and with resource agencies outside of CDOT on environmental issues to foster project streamlining.

Tim Wood

Tim joined TxDOT in November 2010 and currently serves as the Air Quality Specialist for ENV. Prior to TxDOT, he worked for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in the air quality section and, before that, the Leaking Petroleum Storage Tank section. He graduated from the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio with a BS in Environmental Science.

Jennifer Wright

Jennifer is the Public Affairs Officer for TxDOT Communications Division serving the El Paso District. She is responsible for helping the District Engineer communicate with elected officials, community and business leaders, and the general public regarding local projects. She also fulfills the responsibilities of a Public Information Officer, working with media, outside contractors, and magazine outlets. She has been a communications and marketing professional for over 30 years.

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