

2021 TxDOT Professional Engineering Procurement Services Conference

December 1–2, 2021



Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center • San Marcos, Texas

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST

Outside Veramendi Salons E–F

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

OPENING SESSION

Veramendi Salons F–J

Lucio Vasquez, PEPS Deputy Division Director

Martin Rodin, PEPS Division Director

Brian Barth, TxDOT Deputy Executive Director for Program Delivery

PRESENTATION OF THE SHINING STAR AWARD

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION: DEVELOPING PROPOSALS

MODERATOR: *Martin Rodin*, PEPS Division Director

PANELISTS:

Kendall Baker, PEPS Rural Service Center Assistant Manager

Luis Nieto, TxDOT Dallas District

Jacob R. Fuentes, Raba Kistner Consultants, Inc.

Susan Nidam, HDR

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

MORNING BREAK

Light refreshments provided outside Veramendi Salons E–F

The breakout sessions are divided into tracks, each track designed for the following targeted audience.

101 SESSIONS	Invoicing and PS-CAMS are two areas that generate a frequent number of questions. Staff will present fundamental information based on frequently asked questions or common themes and will be available to answer questions and/or demonstrate how tasks are completed. Identical information will be repeated each day.
Veramendi Salons C–D	
TRACK 1	These topics are targeted to firms who are new to working with the PEPS Division in TxDOT on engineering, architecture, and surveying contracts.
Veramendi Salons A–B	
TRACK 2	These topics are targeted to both internal and external project managers and firms who are already familiar with PEPS contracting. Presentations and panel discussions will include updates and information on a variety of the most pressing topics regarding PEPS contracting.
Veramendi Salon E	
TRACK 3	These topics are targeted to both internal and external project managers and firms who are already familiar with PEPS contracting. Presentations and panel discussions will include updates and information on a variety of the most pressing topics regarding PEPS contracting.
Spring Lake Ballroom	

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Veramendi Salons C–D

INVOICING 101

Tira Dobrozensky, PEPS Invoice Center

Priscilla Vasquez, PEPS Invoice Center

Veramendi Salons A–B

SCREENING PROCESS TO AVOID DISQUALIFICATION

MODERATOR:

Lynn Daniel, PEPS Rural Service Center

This presentation will cover lessons learned, best practices, and successes for working with CEI contracts.

Noemi Rios, PEPS Service Center for Divisions

Phil Howlett, PEPS Rural Service Center

Veramendi Salon E

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING INSPECTION (CEI)

MODERATOR:

Jaime Vela, PEPS Urban Service Center

This panel discussion will cover lessons learned, best practices, and successes for working with CEI contracts.

Shane Cunningham, TxDOT Tyler District

Daniel Garcia, TxDOT Pharr District

Ryan Smith, Halff Associates, Inc.

Scott Ressler, HNTB

Candido Bocanegra, CONSOR Engineers, LLC

Spring Lake Ballroom

PEPS-SPECIFIC HUB/DBE INFORMATION

MODERATOR:

Gloria Hearn, PEPS Urban Service Center

This presentation will include a discussion of HUB/DBE contract goals, common misunderstood differences, contractual management and compliance, and best practices and resources.

Lisa Merwin, PEPS Center of Excellence

ADMINISTRATIVE QUALIFICATIONS

TxDOT response to Paycheck Protection Program loan forgiveness and the impact to overhead rates

Roy Gonzales, PEPS Business Operations Center

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1

Noon – 1:00 p.m.

LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Veramendi Salons F–J

NEW DIRECTION FOR TXDOT

Marc D. Williams, TxDOT Executive Director

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

BREAK

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Veramendi Salons A–B

HOW TO BECOME A PRIME PROVIDER

MODERATOR:

Jessica Andrews, PEPS
Fort Worth Service Center

This panel will answer questions regarding making the transition from subprovider to prime provider

Christine Graygor, Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc.

Aaron Lauinger, Ulteig

Johnny Flores, Flores Geotechnical, LLC

Veramendi Salon E

PRIME PROVIDER EVALUATIONS

MODERATOR:

Kendall Baker, PEPS Rural
Service Center

This panel will talk through provider evaluation process issues such as the default comment fields, completion statistics, and constraints.

Christopher Johnson, TxDOT, Amarillo District

Matt Brazil, TxDOT, Lufkin District

Robin Handel, CP&Y, Inc.

KD Warach, H.W. Lochner, Inc.

Spring Lake Ballroom

ANNUAL RATE NEGOTIATIONS

MODERATOR:

Chris Franco, PEPS Dallas
Service Center

This presentation will provide an update on annual rate negotiations processes, including renewal of rates, review and validation of rates, profit and escalation, and flexibility for various contract types.

Norma Glasscock, PEPS Negotiation Center

Mark Lorange, Cobb, Fendley & Associates, Inc.

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON BREAK

Light refreshments provided outside Veramendi Salons E–F

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Veramendi Salons C–D

PS-CAMS 101

Mindi Menzel, PEPS Center of Excellence

Gunalini Rajkumar, PEPS Center of Excellence

Veramendi Salons A–B

PREPARING TO WORK WITH TxDOT

MODERATOR:

Mindy Sawyer,
PEPS Dallas Service Center

This presentation will include an introduction on licensing, registration, and precertification requirements for pursuing PEPS contracts with TxDOT.

Clara Carbajal-Sanchez, PEPS San Antonio Service Center

DRIVE PROGRAM

This session will include an introduction to the DRIVE program, followed by a discussion with a panel of participating firm representatives.

Caleb Bryant, PEPS Diverse Relationships for Informative Value Exchange (DRIVE) Program

Ruben Chavez, CEA Group

Taileah Hunter, TJ Hunter Engineering, Inc.

Marques Allen, Shrewsberry & Associates, LLC

Sirisha Pillalamarri, Transcend

Zina Schwartz, CONSOR Engineers, LLC

Donna Adams, Atkins

Veramendi Salon E

TxDOT RULE REVISIONS

MODERATOR:

Shirin Helmi, PEPS
San Antonio Service Center

This presentation will include an overview of the recent rule revisions (43 TAC Chapter 9) impacting various aspects of the PEPS procurement process.

Martha Juch, PEPS Center of Excellence

5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

RECEPTION FOR DRIVE PROGRAM

Spring Lake Ballroom

All conference attendees are invited to join us in wrapping up the first day of the PEPS Conference. Enjoy some live music and refreshments, mix and mingle with conference participants, and learn more about the new DRIVE Program.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

BREAKFAST

Outside Veramendi Salons E–F

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Veramendi Salons C–D

INVOICING 101 (REPEAT OF DAY 1)

Tira Dobrozensky, PEPS Invoice Center

Priscilla Vasquez, PEPS Invoice Center

Veramendi Salons A–B

WORK AUTHORIZATION DEVELOPMENT

MODERATOR:

Geetha Chandar,
PEPS Service Center for
Divisions

This presentation will include an overview of the work authorization development process.

Tamika Griffin, PEPS Service Center for Divisions

ETHICS IN PEPS

This presentation will include a discussion of ethical issues common to contracting.

Kristin Alexander, TxDOT Compliance Division

Veramendi Salon E

PRECERTIFICATION

MODERATOR:

Kori Rodriguez,
PEPS Service Center for
Divisions

This presentation will include an update on new work categories and the status of the CCIS system.

Dan Neal, PEPS Center of Excellence

BONFIRE

This presentation will include an update on the benefits and use of the Bonfire electronic evaluation and submittal tool.

Dan Neal, PEPS Center of Excellence

Spring Lake Ballroom

LEVEL OF EFFORT MAN HOUR ESTIMATES

MODERATOR:

Mark Read, PEPS Urban
Service Center

This presentation will include a proposed method for a fair and equitable negotiation of PEPS contracts.

Cliff Hallford, PEPS Negotiation Center

Michael Haithcock, TxDOT Abilene District

Lauren Garduño, TxDOT Administration

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

MORNING BREAK

Light refreshments provided outside Veramendi Salons E–F

CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Veramendi Salons C–D

PS-CAMS 101 (REPEAT OF DAY 1)

Mindi Menzel, PEPS Center of Excellence

Gunalini Rajkumar, PEPS Center of Excellence

Veramendi Salons A–B

QUALITY CONTROL OF DELIVERABLES

MODERATOR:

Joe Jancuska,
PEPS Dallas Service
Center

This panel discussion will cover best practices associated with quality control of deliverables.

Ashton Strong, TxDOT, Dallas District

Spenta Irani, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

Veramendi Salon E

LEVEL OF EFFORT NEGOTIATIONS

MODERATOR:

Charles Davidson,
PEPS Austin Service
Center

This panel will discuss best practices for negotiating the independent level of effort.

Jesse Bullard, TxDOT, Austin District

Todd Speck, PEPS Austin Service Center

Travis Falls, Volkert, Inc.

Spring Lake Ballroom

TxDOT CONTRACTING AND DocuSign

MODERATOR:

Kathy De Luna,
PEPS Support Services
Center

This presentation will walk through DocuSign applications and use with TxDOT contracting.

Whitney Nalle, TxDOT Contract Services Division

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

BREAK

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Veramendi Salons F–J

TXDOT CUSTOMER SERVICE SOLUTIONS

Anh Selissen, TxDOT Information Technology Division

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

CLOSING SESSION

Veramendi Salons F–J

Martin Rodin, PEPS Division Director

Presentations and recordings



Copies of all presentations will be posted externally on the Consultant Information txdot.gov webpage, and internally on the PEPS Division webpage immediately following the conference. Recordings of each session will be posted to these webpages as soon as they become available.



Thank you

for attending the 2021 PEPS Conference.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Please use the QR code to complete the conference survey.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Donna Adams

Donna is a Vice President and Senior Business Development Director for Atkins. She has more than 20 years of experience and leads pursuit strategy and client engagement activities in Atkins' Central Region with the majority of her efforts focused in Texas, and on TxDOT. She enjoys the interaction with clients, team members, and colleagues. Donna has an Associate of Applied Science degree in technical communications.

Kristin Alexander

Kristin is the Compliance Division Director at TxDOT and has been with the department for six years. Her division is responsible for fostering stewardship by preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse and by providing assurance regarding the integrity and performance of programs managed by the Department and TxDOT business partners. Kristin earned a BBA in finance from the University of Texas, and her MBA from St. Edward's University.

Marques Allen, PE, MBA

Marques is a Senior Manager for Shrewsberry and Associates. He is the lead for the Texas transportation group. Additionally, Marques designs ITS, traffic signals, and illumination systems, while planning for the future of transportation technology. He earned his bachelor's in electrical engineering from Prairie View A&M University, and his Executive MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Jessica Andrews, PE

Jessica is the PEPS Fort Worth Service Center Manager. She provides procurement services, quality assurance, and customer service to meet the contracting needs of the Fort Worth District. She also oversees, directs, and supports daily business operations of her center to enable effective execution of the district's contract needs. Jessica has been with the department for five years. She earned her B.S. in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Kendall Baker, PE

Kendall is the Assistant Service Center Manager for the PEPS Rural Service Center, which serves the 11 TxDOT rural districts throughout the state for their procurement and consultant contracting needs. Kendall helps lead the team of



procurement engineers and contract specialists in the center and oversees its consultant communications. She is a 16-year veteran of TxDOT. Kendall earned her bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

Brian R. Barth, PE

Brian serves as Deputy Executive Director for Program Delivery, responsible for overseeing the Transportation Planning and Programming, Right of Way, Environmental Affairs and Professional Engineering Procurement and Transportation Programs divisions. A member of the TxDOT family since 1988, Barth began his career as an engineering assistant in the Dallas District after graduation from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Candido Bocanegra, PE

Candido is the Regional CEI Manager for South Texas for CONSOR Engineers. He is responsible for overseeing and managing the construction engineering inspection contracts in that region. Candido received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Matt Brazil, PE

Matt is the Nacogdoches Area Engineer. He is responsible for overseeing construction and maintenance operations for the Nacogdoches, Shelby, San Augustine, and Sabine Counties within the Lufkin District. Matt has been with TxDOT for 11 years. He earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Texas A&M.

Caleb Bryant, PE, PMP

Caleb is the Director of the Diverse Relationships for Informative Value Exchange (DRIVE) Program. He facilitates mentorships between firms with the goal of building the mentee's capacity to compete on professional services contract

opportunities with TxDOT or other DOTs and local governments. Caleb is a 15-year veteran of TxDOT. He earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Southern University A&M College, and his MBA from Texas Southern University.

Jesse Bullard, PE

Jesse is a project manager in TxDOT's Austin District. He has been with the department for four years. He is responsible for project, contract, and consultant management for the district's Central Design Section. Jesse earned his bachelor's in mechanical engineering from UT and his master's in engineering management from Missouri University of Science and Technology.

Clara Carbajal-Sanchez, PE

Clara is the PEPS San Antonio Service Center Manager. She provides procurement services, quality assurance, and customer service to meet the San Antonio District customers' needs. She also oversees, directs, and supports daily business operations, including document review and quality assurance, to keep procurement tasks on track and contract documents moving towards execution. Clara has been with the department for over 24 years. She earned her B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso.

Geetha Chandar, PE

Geetha is a Lead Procurement Engineer with the PEPS Service Center for Divisions. She oversees the processing and review of consultant selection documentation, contracts and work authorization management, assignment of work authorizations, screening, contract selection and contract negotiations. Geetha is also responsible for leading and training professional and technical staff. She has been with the department for 17 years.

Ruben Chavez, PE

Ruben is a founder and Principal with CEA Group. He is responsible for business operations, business development, and engineering design for the public infrastructure division of CEA. He received his bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Texas-El Paso.

Shane Cunningham, PE

Shane is the Director of Construction for TxDOT's Tyler District. He is responsible for overseeing the construction of the state transportation system for the 8-county district. Shane received his bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. He has been with TxDOT for 15 years.

Lynn Daniel, PE

Lynn is the PEPS Rural Service Center Manager. She is responsible for supporting the 11 Rural Districts in the management of their consultant programs by providing contract procurement services, contract document development and processing, contract administration, and customer service. Lynn has been with the department for 10 years. She earned her B.S. in biological engineering from the University of Georgia.

Charles Davidson, PE, CTCM

Charles is the PEPS Austin Service Center Manager. He provides procurement services, quality assurance, and customer service to meet the Austin District's contracting needs. Charles has 23 years of service with TxDOT. He earned a bachelor's in civil engineering with a minor in business administration from the University of Tennessee.

Kathy De Luna, CTCM, CTCD

Kathy is the PEPS Division's Support Services Center Manager. She oversees, directs, and supports daily operations of her center through the supervision of contract staff. Kathy provides continuous training to ensure effective execution of contract documents, compliance reviews, and project manager changes. She also provides resources and development opportunities to foster job growth potential of team. Kathy attended Westminster College and has been with the department for 23 years.

Tira Dobrozensky

Tira is the PEPS Invoice Center Manager. She is responsible for managing a group of 14 invoice specialists who process all invoices managed by the PEPS Division. The Invoice Center was the first break off group from the PEPS Service Centers that Martin Rodin created to better PEPS' processes by establishing a more uniformed process with PEPS invoices. Tira has been with TxDOT for six years.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Travis Falls, PE

Travis is a Vice President over engineering operations for the Texas Region of Volkert. He serves as the Project Manager for the IH35 Capital Express north project in Austin, TX. He earned his Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Science from Vanderbilt University.

Johnny F. Flores, PE

Johnny is President of Flores Geotechnical, LLC. He provides overall management of Flores Geotechnical's services and serves as project manager for TxDOT related projects. Johnny earned his bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas A&M, and his MBA from Texas State.

Christopher A. Franco, PE

Chris is a Portfolio Project Manager with the PEPS Dallas Service Center. In this role, he is responsible for helping lead a team of procurement engineers and contract specialists in the procurement, negotiation, and execution of contracts in support of the Dallas District. Chris has been with TxDOT for over 12 years. He earned his civil engineering degree from UTEP.

Jacob R. Fuentes, PE

Jacob is a project manager with Raba Kistner, Inc. He is based out of San Antonio and focuses on construction engineering inspection services. Jacob began his career out of high school as a construction inspector for the San Antonio District. He then went on to UTSA to gain his civil engineering degree before becoming a professional engineer.

Daniel Garcia, PE

Daniel is the Director of Construction for TxDOT's Pharr District. He has oversight of construction operations for the district, which includes ensuring construction is on time and on budget, monitoring the efficient use of materials, focusing on high risk projects, and ensuring efficient usage of both TxDOT and consultant resources. Daniel is a 15-year veteran of TxDOT. He earned his civil engineering degree from Texas A&M-Kingsville.

Lauren Garduño, PE

Lauren is a 36-year veteran of TxDOT. His current role is as a Project Advisor for TxDOT Administration. In this position, he provides support to district leadership in areas of strategic planning, engineering operations, and staff development. Lauren holds a bachelor's in

civil engineering from Texas Tech, a master's in management from Abilene Christian, and a master's in civil engineering from Texas A&M.

Norma Glasscock, PE

Norma is the PEPS Negotiation Center Manager. In that role, she leads the negotiations for the annual rate process and the processes that support the annual rate negotiations, such as renewal of annual rates, the development of the rate data, and the validation of rates process. Norma is a 21-year veteran of TxDOT. She earned her Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Roy Gonzales, MBA

Roy is the PEPS Business Operations Center Manager. He oversees the operations of the PEPS Division to include resource management of staffing, operating and consultant contract budgets, supply chain goods, and administrative qualifications. He has been with the department for nine years. Roy earned his MBA in management information systems and his MSPM in project management from St. Edward's University.

Christine Graygor, PE

Christine is a Vice President with Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. She leads Pape-Dawson's DFW Transportation practice. She also serves TxDOT as GEC Project Manager to deliver an evolving concession project, the North Tarrant Express. Christine earned her bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas A&M University, and her MBA from UT Arlington.

Tamika Griffin

Tamika is the Contract Administrator for the PEPS Service Center for Divisions. She assists PEPS with managing all TxDOT Division professional service contracts. She provides customer service to both internal and external customers. Tamika also provides technical assistance to plan, develop, implement, and monitor an effective contract program, including handling complaints, and resolution of discrepancies and problems regarding contracts, billing, and payment processing. She has been with TxDOT for 21 years.

Michael A. Haithcock, PE

Michael is the Director of Transportation Planning and Development for TxDOT's Abilene District. He manages the Planning, Programming, and



Preconstruction, Plan Development, and Project Management for the Abilene District. He also oversees Advanced Transportation Planning (including the 4-year STIP and 10-year UTP), Consultant Contract Administration, and Advanced Project Development. Michael earned his bachelor's architectural and civil engineering from Southern Polytechnic University and a Master's in Business Administration from Georgia State University.

Cliff Hallford, PMP

Cliff is a Portfolio Manager for PEPS Negotiation Center. His primary responsibility is to negotiate rates with consultants for labor, unit costs, and other direct expenses. He has been with TxDOT for 29 years. Cliff earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in management.

Robin Handel, PE

Robin is a Transportation Practice Director and Senior Project Manager with CP&Y, Inc. He is responsible for strategic growth and operations of the practice, and for coordination and execution of projects throughout Texas. Robin has been with CP&Y for 26 years and is a Texas A&M graduate.

Gloria Hearn, CTCM

Gloria is a Contract Administrator for PEPS Urban Service Center. She is responsible for managing the execution and subsequent assignment of contracts for that Center. She has been with the department for five years. Gloria earned her bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in sociology.

Shirin Helmi, PE, PMP, CFM

Shirin is a Portfolio Project Manager for the PEPS San Antonio Service Center. In this role, she provides assistance and support to the Service Center Manager. Shirin earned her bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been with TxDOT for six years.

Phil Howlett, PE

Phil is a Procurement Engineer with the PEPS Rural Service Center. He has overseen and coordinated the procurements of numerous multi-million-dollar state and federally funded Indefinite Deliverable and Specific Deliverable contracts, enabling the department's district and divisions to obtain the most qualified consultants to deliver their specific project development needs. Phil has 20 years of service with TxDOT. He received his bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Texas San Antonio.

Taileah "Tai" Hunter, PE

Tai is the President of TJ Hunter Engineering, Inc. She is the marketing coordinator, production staff, accounting manager, administrative manager, human resources manager, and business manager. Tai is enthusiastic, driven, and always open to learning. She holds a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering.

Spenta F. Irani, PE

Spenta is a Transportation Market Director with Jacobs, responsible for maintaining sustainable growth in the transportation market, and ensuring the implementation of delivery excellence of all Jacob's projects. Spenta holds a master's in civil engineering and has over 28 years of experience in the design and preparation of construction documents for complex highway projects.

Joseph (Joe) Jancuska, PE

Joe is the PEPS Dallas Service Center Manager. He is responsible for supporting the contracting needs of the Dallas District, including getting the contracts executed and then processing WA, SWA and SA for said contracts. Joe earned his bachelor's in civil engineering from UT-Arlington. He has worked for the department for 34 years, having spent 25+ years working in the Dallas District's Roadway Design Section on many great projects.

Christopher K. Johnson, PMP

Christopher is a technical project manager with TxDOT's Amarillo District. He is responsible for managing Schematic and PS&E development on several large design projects, oversight of district utilities and permitting, contract development and execution, and all evaluations. He has been with the department for four years. Christopher earned his bachelor's in business administration from Northern Arizona University.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

Martha Juch, PE

Martha is a Portfolio Project Manager in the PEPS Center of Excellence. She provides support to the PEPS COE Manager and coordinates with other PEPS COE staff in the support of the section's programs and goals. She has over 30 years of experience in the public and private sector, working as a water resources engineer and planning manager for her own firm, international consulting firms, and the Harris County Flood Control District. Martha holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University, a Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Rice University, and a Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University.

Aaron Lauinger

Aaron is the Market Director for Ulteig Engineers, Inc. He is responsible for Ulteig's vision and strategic growth within the transportation sector across the nation; including strategy, market plans, initiatives, and associated implementation plans in existing and new markets. He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

Mark Lorange, PE

Mark is a Principal and North Texas Transportation Manager for CobbFendley & Associates. He is responsible for managing multiple schematic and PS&E projects across the state. He is the main point of contact for rate negotiations for all TxDOT contracts for CobbFendley. He earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Mindi Menzel

Mindi is a Performance Measurement Analyst with the PEPS Center of Excellence. She is the PS-CAMS administrator and creates ad hoc reports for all of PEPS' customers. Mindi is the main source for information on the PS-CAMS system and how it works. Customer service is her credo. She has been with TxDOT for 22 years and received her BBA in management from UT Austin.

Lisa Merwin

Lisa is a Management Analyst in the PEPS Center of Excellence. She manages projects to support the PEPS Division, including creating and updating forms, guidance documents, and processes. She serves as PEPS' subject matter expert on the HUB program and is responsible for

HUB and DBE goal coordination and compliance. She assists engineers and contract specialists during the procurement process and creates and delivers internal training to the PEPS division. As a web coordinator, she maintains and develops both internal and external web content for PEPS. Lisa earned her B.S. in business administration and management from St. Edward's University.

Whitney Nalle

Whitney is the Contract Support Section Director in TxDOT's Contract Services Division. She oversees the development of contract templates, policy, and process. She is also involved in the development, maintenance, and support of the systems TxDOT uses in contracting, such as PeopleSoft, DocuSign, and OnBase. Whitney has been with TxDOT for 7.5 years. She earned her bachelor's from Texas A&M, and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas.

Dan Neal, PE, PG, CTCM

Dan is the Section Director of the Center of Excellence within the PEPS Division. In this role, he is responsible for the development, implementation, and improvement of the PEPS program for qualifications-based engineering, surveying, and architecture contracts. Dan has been with the department for 20 years. He previously worked for TxDOT's Environmental Affairs Division and the Texas Water Commission and its successor agencies. Dan holds a B.S. in petroleum engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Susan Nidam

Susan is a Senior Vice President for HDR Engineering and serves as the South Central Transportation Regional Business Development Leader. She has been with HDR for over 13 years and leads business development and oversight for the HDR transportation program within the three-state region (Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana) that includes over 560 transportation professionals. Susan began her career 21 years ago with the Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District as a transportation planner and has worked on some of the largest transportation projects throughout the region.

Luis Nieto, MBA, MSCE, PE

Luis is a Roadway Design Engineer with the Dallas District. He is responsible for mentoring engineers-in-training, overseeing the efforts

of the Plan Review Team, Utilities and Survey Sections, and supervising PS&E development of four in-house Design Sections in the district. Luis has been with the department for 8.5 years. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Oklahoma, and his MBA from UT-Dallas.

Sirisha Pillalamarri, PE, PTP

Sirisha is a co-owner and principal transportation engineer with Transcend Engineers & Planners, LLC. She is responsible for project management for transportation planning projects, office administration, operations management, and business development. She earned a master's degree in civil engineering.

Gunalini Rajkumar

Gunalini is a Performance Management Analyst in the PEPS Center of Excellence. Her responsibilities include supporting the PS-CAMS database. She designs, builds, implements programs and/or queries for spreadsheet or database software to create reports and import/export data and ad hoc reports in response to customer change requests. She has worked for TxDOT for 20 years. Gunalini earned a bachelor's in civil engineering from UT Austin.

Mark Read, PE

Mark is a Portfolio Project Manager for PEPS Urban Service Center. He helps manage procurements for the 8 urban districts, assists districts with budgeting, contracts and work authorizations, and supports the districts in all areas related to professional engineering services. Mark has been with the department for over 14 years. He holds a bachelor's in civil engineering and an MBA.

Scott Ressler, PE

Scott is a CEI Project Engineer with HNTB. He currently serves as owner representative on a city owned airport, overseeing the reconstruction of a runway and new construction of taxiways. He is responsible for managing and ensuring the contractor is following contract documents. Scott earned his B.S. in civil engineering from Purdue University.

Noemi Rios

Noemi is a Contract Administrator for PEPS Service Center for Divisions. She serves as the Procurement Lead for the Center's contract staff.

Noemi oversees and monitors the execution and administration of contracts for the divisions by providing technical assistance and guidance to plan, develop, implement, and monitor effective and efficient contracts. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from St. Edward's University.

Martin Rodin, PE

Martin currently serves as the PEPS Division Director. He is responsible for the procurement of over \$1 billion annually in professional services contracts for engineering, architectural, and surveying needs statewide. He works with all 25 TxDOT districts and with 16 of the TxDOT divisions to translate their needs into professional services contracts, while also overseeing the management of TxDOT's annual consultant contracts budget and serving as the department's liaison with the ACEC. Martin holds an MBA from West Texas A&M University and a B.S. in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

Kori L. Rodriguez, PE

Kori is the PEPS Service Center for Divisions Manager. She is responsible for supporting the divisions in utilizing qualifications-based selection processes to choose the best consultant to deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system. Additionally, Tamika Griffin and her team aide in the development of all contract documents for the professional contracts utilized by TxDOT Divisions. Kori earned her bachelor's in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Mindy Sawyer, PE

Mindy is a Lead Procurement Engineer in the PEPS Dallas Service Center. In that role, she is responsible for facilitating the selection process of solicitations for the Dallas District. She advises and guides the Consultant Selection Team, ensure policies and procedures are followed, and oversees the entire procurement process up to contract execution. Mindy has been with TxDOT for 8 years. She earned her B.S. in architecture and her B.S. in civil engineering from Texas Tech University.

Zina Schwartz, PE

Zina is a Texas Regional Director with CONSOR Engineers. She is responsible for managing the transportation practice for Texas, which includes business and project development and

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

overseeing the regional offices. Zina received a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Anh Selissen

Anh serves as Chief Information Officer and the director of the Information Technology Division for TxDOT, overseeing information security, infrastructure, strategic direction and the personnel and vendor activities of the Information Technology Division. She has led enterprise IT systems and staff in both the public and private sectors, having previously held positions as CIO at NuStats Inc. and director of enterprise systems at the University of Texas at Austin. Most recently Anh served as deputy CIO at the Texas Comptroller's Office.

Ryan T. Smith, PE, CMQ/OE

Ryan is a Construction Services Practice Leader for Halff Associates, Inc. He is responsible for overseeing the daily operations and development of the Construction Services teams and projects statewide. Ryan earned his bachelor's in civil engineering from Louisiana Tech University, and his master's in engineering from UT Austin.

Todd Speck, PE, CTCM

Todd is a Procurement Engineer in the PEPS Austin Service Center. He is responsible for supporting the Austin District in the procurement, negotiation, and execution of PEPS contracts. Todd has worked for TxDOT for 9 years, after spending 19 years as a consultant. He received his bachelor's in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University, and his master's in structural engineering from UT Arlington.

Ashton Strong, PE

Ashton is a Project Delivery Office Supervisor in TxDOT's Dallas District. She oversees the 37 employees engaged in Project Delivery for the TxDOT Dallas District. This group is involved in the management of schematics, PS&E, hydraulics and hydrology, as well as the management of consultant contracts and budgets. Ashton is a 12-year veteran of TxDOT. She received her B.S. in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

Lucio Vasquez, PE

Lucio is the PEPS Deputy Division Director. In that position, he is responsible for assisting the Division Director in directing short and long-term initiatives and managing the overall

operations of the PEPS Division. Lucio has been with TxDOT for over 21 years. He holds both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Civil Engineering.

Priscilla Vasquez

Priscilla is a Contract Administrator for the PEPS Invoice Center. She co-leads and oversees the Center, manages both Invoice Center PEPS email accounts, co-assigns over 13,000 invoices on a yearly basis and serves as a guide to any pertinent work in question. Priscilla also provides leadership and instructions to others in the Invoice Center so they can complete tasks quickly and effectively. She is focused on providing excellent customer service to the private sector and all TxDOT Districts/ Divisions. Priscilla holds a bachelor's degree in communication disorders.

Jaime A. Vela, Jr., PE

Jaime is the PEPS Urban Service Center Manager. He provides support to eight urban districts in the areas of procurement of professional engineering, surveying, and architectural services. Jaime leads a team that provides support to the respective districts in the areas of both procurement and contract management. He has been with TxDOT for 16 years and earned his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering from Texas A&M University.

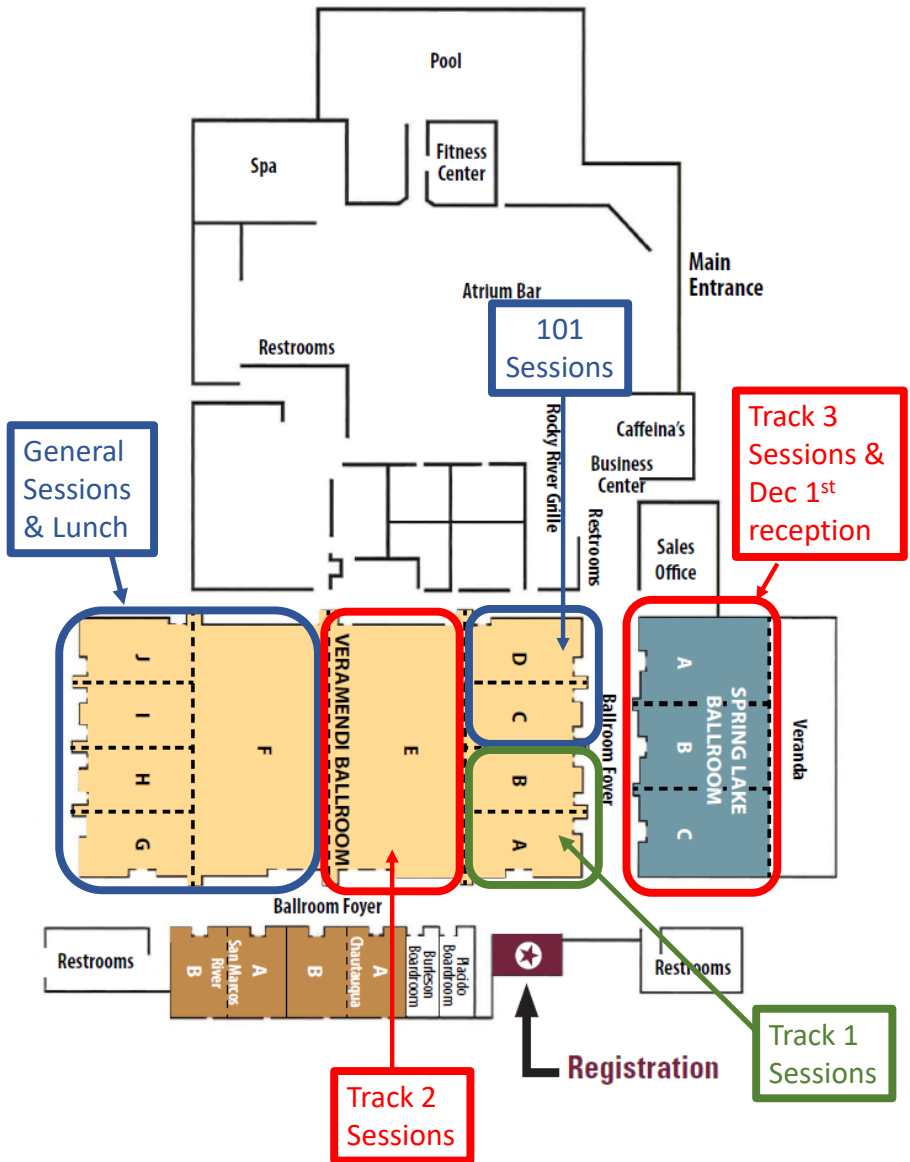
K.D. Warach, PE

K.D. is Vice President with H.W. Lochner. He is the Construction Engineering Inspection Office Manager, responsible for Lochner's CEI program in Texas. K.D. earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Nevada-Reno. He worked for Caltrans and the Nevada DOT before moving to Texas in 2010.

Marc D. Williams

Marc serves as executive director of the Texas Department of Transportation. His career experience in transportation planning and program efforts includes public- and private-sector organizations involving state, county and local jurisdictions. He has served in leadership positions with two state departments of transportation and has worked with national, private-sector transportation engineering organizations. His professional assignments have included directing statewide transportation planning and programming efforts as well as managing project-specific highway and multimodal transportation plans and programs.

CONFERENCE MAP



2021 TxDOT Professional Engineering Procurement Services Conference

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

December 1-2, 2021 • Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center • San Marcos, TX

Name _____

District/Division/Company _____

Mailing Address _____

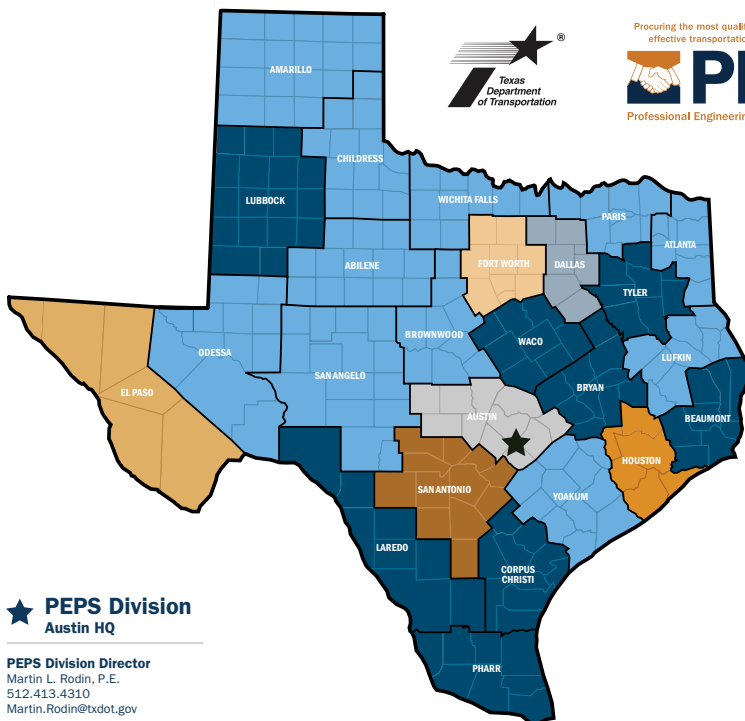
✓	SESSION TOPIC	HOURS
	Invoicing 101	1.5 hours
	Screening Process to Avoid Disqualification	1.5 hours
	Construction Engineering Inspection	1.5 hours
	Prime Provider Evaluations	1.5 hours
	How to Become a Prime Provider	1.5 hours
	Annual Rate Negotiations	1.5 hours
	PEPS-Specific HUB/DBE Information	.75 hours
	Administrative Qualifications	.75 hours
	PS-CAMS 101	1.5 hours
	Preparing to Work with TxDOT	.75 hours
	DRIVE Program	.75 hours
	TxDOT Rule Revisions	1.5 hours
	Work Authorization Development	.75 hours
	Ethics in PEPS Contracting	.75 hours
	Precertification Updates	.75 hours
	Bonfire (Electronic Submittals)	.75 hours
	Level of Effort Man Hour Estimates	1.5 hours
	Quality Control of Deliverables	1.5 hours
	Level of Effort Negotiations	1.5 hours
	TxDOT Contracting and DocuSign	1.5 hours

Signature (Your signature certifies your attendance at the sessions indicated)

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING PROCUREMENT SERVICES



Procuring the most qualified consultants to deliver effective transportation solutions for Texans



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