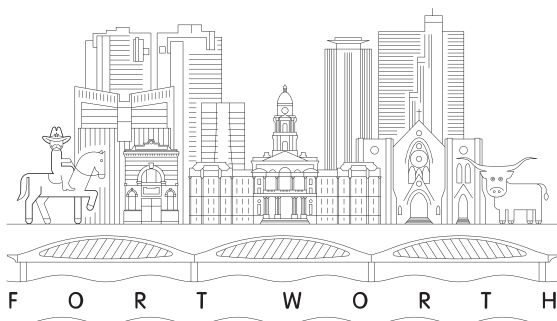


# 2022 TxDOT Environmental Conference

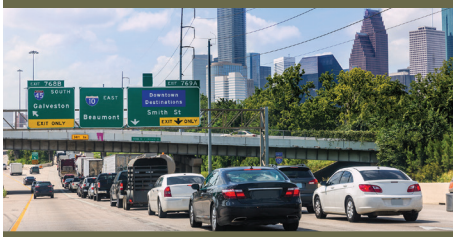
September 20–22, 2022

Hilton Fort Worth ★ 815 Main Street ★ Fort Worth, Texas 76102



**WCS 4  
Coyotes**

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HUSK LOADING  
DATE: 8-3-16



## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Behind the Scenes Tour of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas**  
(contact [becki.perkins@txdot.gov](mailto:becki.perkins@txdot.gov) to secure a slot)

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

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		Promenade	
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	WELCOME		Crystal Ballroom	
10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	BREAK		Exhibit Area	
10:35 a.m. – Noon	GENERAL SESSION		Crystal Ballroom	
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH		On Your Own	
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 1–5			
	Session 1	Crystal Ballroom A	Session 4	Crystal Ballroom D
	Session 2	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 5	OPEN
	Session 3	Crystal Ballroom C		
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	BREAK		Exhibit Area	
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 6-10			
	Session 6	OPEN	Session 9	Crystal Ballroom D
	Session 7	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 10	Texas Ballroom AB
	Session 8	Crystal Ballroom C		
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	TxDOT EMPLOYEE TOWNHALL		Texas Ballroom AB	
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	EXHIBITS/RECEPTION/ POSTER SESSION		Exhibit Area	

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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		Promenade	
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 11–15			
	Session 11	Crystal Ballroom A	Session 14	Crystal Ballroom D
	Session 12	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 15	Texas Ballroom AB
	Session 13	Crystal Ballroom C		
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	BREAK		Exhibit Area	
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 16–20			
	Session 16	Crystal Ballroom A	Session 19	Crystal Ballroom D
	Session 17	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 20	Texas Ballroom AB
	Session 18	Crystal Ballroom C		
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH		On Your Own	
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 21–25			
	Session 21	Crystal Ballroom A	Session 24	Crystal Ballroom D
	Session 22	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 25	Texas Ballroom AB
	Session 23	Crystal Ballroom C		
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	BREAK		Exhibit Area	
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Concurrent Breakout Sessions: 26–29			
	Session 26	Crystal Ballroom A	Session 28	Crystal Ballroom C
	Session 27	Crystal Ballroom B	Session 29	Crystal Ballroom D

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>REGISTRATION DESK OPEN</b>		
8:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>EXHIBITS OPEN</b>	<i>Promenade</i>	
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	<b>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>	<i>Exhibit Area</i>	
8:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>FIELD TRIP OPTION 1: Mustang Creek Mitigation Bank and Available Permittee- Responsible Mitigation Site</b>	<i>Meet in Exhibit Area</i>	
8:00 a.m. – Noon	<b>FIELD TRIP OPTION 2: Cedar Hill State Park Habitat Tour and Networking Walk</b>	<i>Meet in Exhibit Area</i>	

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>REGISTRATION DESK OPEN</b>
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b> ( <i>Exhibit Area</i> )
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	<b>EXHIBITS OPEN</b> ( <i>Promenade</i> )
9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	<b>WELCOME</b> ( <i>Crystal Ballroom</i> ) <b>Doug Booher</b> , <i>ENV Division Director</i>
	<b>Changing Population and Transportation in Texas</b> <b>SPEAKER: Dr. Lloyd Potter</b> , <i>University of Texas at San Antonio</i>  Shifts in the population's size, characteristics, and distribution have implications for transportation. Recent trends in the demographic change in and across Texas will be examined in the context of transportation.
10:20 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.	<b>BREAK</b> ( <i>Exhibit Area</i> )
10:35 a.m. – Noon	<b>GENERAL SESSION</b> ( <i>Crystal Ballroom</i> )  <b>Discussion on Environmental Justice</b> <b>MODERATOR: Mike Chavez</b> , <i>TxDOT</i>  <b>SPEAKERS: Spencer Ward and Susan Howard</b> , <i>TxDOT</i> ; <b>Carlos Swonke</b> , <i>HNTB</i> ; <b>Frances Leigh Jordan</b> , <i>Rifeline</i> ; and, <b>Ceason Clemens</b> , <i>TxDOT</i>  The panel will have an open discussion and take questions on how TxDOT can improve current practice on identifying and addressing project effects on minority and low-income populations to achieve an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens. The discussion will look to focus on methods of providing full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.
	<b>Environmental Affairs Awards Video</b> <b>MODERATOR: Rebekah Dobrasko</b>
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	<b>LUNCH</b> ( <i>On Your Own</i> )

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (Continued)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 1–5</b>
<b>BREAKOUT 1</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom A</i>	<b>The Tribal Histories Project</b>  <b>Scott Pletka</b> , <i>TxDOT</i> and <b>Turner Hunt</b> , <i>Muscogee Nation</i>  TxDOT and tribal representatives will present an overview of the Tribal Histories Project. They will describe this project and discuss how the products generated from it can be used to proactively evaluate project effects.
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Discussion on Traffic Data for Air Quality and Traffic Noise Analyses</b>
<b>BREAKOUT 2</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom B</i>	<b>David Freidenfeld, Janie Temple, Tim Wood, and Meredith Worthen</b> , <i>TxDOT</i>  TPP staff will provide an overview of how traffic data are developed and ENV staff will discuss how traffic data projections are used for air and noise analyses for transportation projects. Discussion will be followed by questions from the audience.
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Local Government Projects Best Practices for Environmental Compliance</b>
<b>BREAKOUT 3</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom C</i>	<b>Amanda Allen and Jamye Sawey</b> , <i>TxDOT</i>  In this session, we will discuss the critical touch points for environmental compliance within the overall development and delivery of local government projects. We will also highlight some examples of lessons learned and best practices that have been implemented by the Fort Worth district.
1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Statewide Resiliency Plan Overview and DES Division Perspective on Resiliency</b>
<b>BREAKOUT 4</b> <i>Crystal Ballroom D</i>	<b>Carlos Calle and Rosemarie Klee</b> , <i>TxDOT</i>  The first-ever Statewide Resiliency Plan is currently under development, under the leadership of the TPP Division, in collaboration with several districts and divisions. The DES Division is a close partner (along with the ENV Division and others), and will share additional perspective on how we are examining resilience in the context of project design and development processes.



## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (Continued)

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**OPEN**

**BREAKOUT 5**

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

**BREAK** (*Exhibit Area*)

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 6–10**

**BREAKOUT 6**

**OPEN**

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Endangered Species Hot Topics**

**BREAKOUT 7**

*Crystal Ballroom B*

### *Conferencing under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act*

**Omar Bocanegra, USFWS**

Section 7 conferencing provides an opportunity to coordinate potential impacts from federal actions on species proposed for listing through coordination with USFWS. This presentation will provide a general overview of section 7 conferencing from the USFWS perspective with examples from Texas.

### *FM 766 from Initial Presence/Absence Surveys to Relocation – A Lesson in Take Assessments*

**Meghan Lind, Stantec**

The State embarked on a year-long project that included initial freshwater mussel presence/absence surveys in October 2021, formal conference with the USFWS, and a multi-pass depletion salvage effort within proposed critical habitat along the Guadalupe River in July 2022. The project team worked closely to develop a novel methodology for determining take limits for two federally proposed mussel species using the Phase I/II presence/absence data collected during initial surveys. This project represents an interesting case study for how even informed data collection can provide a biased assessment of population estimates within a project-specific timescale.

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (Continued)

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 6–10**

**BREAKOUT 7  
(Continued)**

**Endangered Species Hot Topics**

*Crystal Ballroom B*

### *Big River Woes – Challenges and Solutions to Mussel Surveys and Conferencing on Large Rivers*

**Jeremy Maikoetter, Zara Environmental**

Projects with large aquatic impacts will continue to present challenges regarding consultation and surveys. An important aspect to completing consultations on large-impact projects include properly delineating mussel habitats to determine accurate take estimates. Utilizing fine scale data collected during a Phase 1 and Phase 2 survey is beneficial and necessary to provide concise estimates of impacts and take estimates.

### *Breaking Ground with Programmatic Conferences*

**Amanda Aurora, SWCA**

Programmatic conferences compound the challenges posed by implementing a relatively novel regulatory compliance approach with those posed by working with a species (or set of species) for which the science is still evolving. SWCA reviews lessons learned from its work with TxDOT on individual project conferences and a statewide programmatic conference for freshwater mussels in Texas. Challenges, solutions, and lessons learned prepared by other states and agencies.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 5–9**

**BREAKOUT 8**

**Perfecting the Public Involvement  
Process Road Map**

*Crystal Ballroom C*

**Susan Howard, Seth Howard, and District SMEs, TxDOT**

Are you ready for your PI journey but don't always know what road to take? Join the Public Involvement Section as they host a roundtable discussion and Q&A to help you perfect your PI planning process. Along for the ride will be subject matter experts from the Bryan, Houston, Abilene and El Paso districts. So join us for some knowledge and takeaways that just might help you avoid those PI pitfalls!

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 (Continued)

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 6-10

#### BREAKOUT 9

**Epochs of EPICs – Post Clearance/  
Pre-Construction/During Construction**

*Crystal Ballroom D*

**MODERATOR:** Tracey Janus, *TxDOT*

**PANEL:** Rebekah Dobrasko, Scott Pletka, and Jennifer Carpenter, *TxDOT*

This panel of subject matter experts will discuss how to manage cultural resources before and during construction.

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### How Much Time to Complete Archeology Activities?

#### BREAKOUT 10

*Texas Ballroom AB*

**Brittney Gregory, *TxDOT***

TxDOT staff will provide guidance on the expected duration of various archeological investigation activities. This guidance will help project managers develop realistic and attainable clearance schedules.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

### TxDOT EMPLOYEE TOWNHALL (*Texas Ballroom AB*)

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### EXHIBITS/RECEPTION/POSTER SESSION (*Exhibit Area*)

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

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 (*Promenade*)

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 11–15

#### BREAKOUT 11

**Mastering Public Involvement Using Innovative  
and Digital Solutions**

*Crystal Ballroom A*

**Kimberly Sims and Christi Vitello, *HNTB***

We will explore how public involvement strategies can be applied in our post-pandemic world using innovative approaches paired with digital solutions. We will discuss equitable event strategies and methods that have been utilized by projects, explore how utilizing innovative approaches to gathering engagement data provides project teams a way to understand and assess the stakeholders, and show how these solutions can provide a project team the insight needed to identify engagement gaps, allowing them to adjust strategies.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### Tales of Toads and Trenches

#### BREAKOUT 12

*Crystal Ballroom B*

**Mark Fisher, Brittney Gregory, and Barbara Obelgoner, *TxDOT***

This talk will highlight the intersection of archaeology and endangered species presenting expectations and a practical example. Focus will be on Yoakum district and ENV sections working together to satisfy distinct and rarely combined NEPA requirements.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### Prepping for Futures Unknown: Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

#### BREAKOUT 13

*Crystal Ballroom C*

**Sonya Hernandez, Mimi Horn and Jackie Ploch, *TxDOT*; Andrew Cooper, *Jacobs Engineering*; and Casey Carlton, *WSP***

This panel session will discuss pilot projects with the Austin District, El Paso District and ENV to develop a project-level Climate Change and GHG Technical Report and answer audience questions. We'll also offer a peak at draft tools under development (Tech Report Template, Climate Talking Points, Climate Sharepoint site, and other surprises). If federal policy has been issued by the ECC, that too will be covered!

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (Continued)**

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 11–15****BREAKOUT 14****Integrating Unmanned Aerial Systems into Environmental Affairs***Crystal Ballroom D***Sergio Roman, TxDOT**

An overview of the rules and regulations surrounding UAS, their utilization on environmental projects, and the adoption of UAS within TxDOT.

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Air Quality Conformity Report Form Best Practices****BREAKOUT 15***Texas Ballroom AB***Glendora Lopez, TxDOT**

This session will demonstrate how to prepare the Conformity Report Form, including the ENV validation review and appropriate attachments. Learn how the air quality team reviews the Conformity Report Form and see exemplars.

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**BREAK (Exhibit Area)**

10:45 a.m. – Noon

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 16–20****BREAKOUT 16****Coming Soon? Preview of the Future! Traffic Noise Model 3***Crystal Ballroom A***Ray Umscheid and Meredith Worthen, TxDOT**

This session will preview and demonstrate use of Traffic Noise Model (TNM) version 3, the future replacement for the currently required TNM 2.5 software. *Note: TNM 3 is NOT approved for use on TxDOT projects.*

10:45 a.m. – Noon

**PEL Fireside Chat: From PEL to NEPA – The HOW and WHY****BREAKOUT 17***Crystal Ballroom B***Amy Redmond and Anita Bradley, TxDOT and Kirk Fauver, FHWA**

Join us as we have a high-level conversation about Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Studies. We will discuss what makes a PEL unique, agency and stakeholder involvement, types of projects suitable for a PEL, and the differences between “inform vs. adopt.” As we open up the floor, topics such as what can be saved in terms of years and dollars for a properly run PEL and new guidance materials will be joined by more questions and feedback.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (Continued)**

10:45 a.m. – Noon

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 16–20****BREAKOUT 18****Environmental Affairs Contracting Process***Crystal Ballroom C***Lauren Young, TxDOT**

This presentation is designed for TxDOT ENV project managers, TxDOT district environmental staff, and TxDOT ENV consultants to gain a broader understanding or serve as a refresher on ENV contracts, including roles/responsibilities and helpful tips to navigate the contracting process.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

**A Day in the Life of a TxDOT Inspector – Ensuring Compliance on TxDOT Jobs****BREAKOUT 19***Crystal Ballroom D***Heather Carman, TxDOT**

This session will go over common BMPs used to comply with the CGP and EPIC requirements.

10:45 a.m. – Noon

**Asbestos and Lead-in-Paint Abatement Updates****BREAKOUT 20***Texas Ballroom AB***Terry Dempsey and Douglass Mack, TxDOT**

This session will review the new and updated asbestos and lead-in-paint abatement guidance documents. Additionally, we will discuss the different contracting options available for district to abate asbestos and lead-in-paint on TxDOT bridges.

Noon – 1:30 p.m.

**LUNCH (On Your Own)**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (Continued)**

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 21–25****BREAKOUT 21****Air Quality Updates***Crystal Ballroom A***Tim Wood, TxDOT**

This session will provide an update of changes coming down the regulatory pipeline and what to expect for air quality compliance in the future.

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Overview of TxDOT's Environmental Review Process (Part 1 of 2)****BREAKOUT 22***Crystal Ballroom B***Patrick Lee and Mike Chavez, TxDOT**

This presentation is designed for transportation professionals who would like to better understand TxDOT's environmental review process for highway projects. It is intended to be beneficial for those with little or no environmental background, as well as those who would like a refresher on the basics of TxDOT's environmental review program. Part 1 will provide an introduction to some of the major environmental laws that govern TxDOT's environmental review process such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Workshop: New SWP3 Guidance and Template (Part 1 of 2)****BREAKOUT 23***Crystal Ballroom C***Heather Carman and Tracey Janus, TxDOT**

This workshop will cover the new SWP3 guidance document, summary sheet, and binder templates.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (Continued)**

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 21–25****BREAKOUT 24****Emerging Research on Biological Resources***Crystal Ballroom D****Use of Highway Infrastructure as Night Roosts by Bats in the Trans-Pecos Ecoregion of Texas*****Richard Stevens, Texas Tech University**

This talk will present new results using acoustic detection methods to characterize bat night roosting on bridges in the Trans-Pecos.

***Effect of Microsite Characteristics on Roost Selection by Bats in Bridges in the Trans-Pecos*****Holly Wilson, Texas Tech University**

This talk will present new results about how bats select microclimates for roosting locations on 13 bridges in the Trans-Pecos.

***Repatriation of Illegally Collected Alligator Snapping Turtles Back to Native Texas Waters*****Connor Adams, Stephen F. Austin State University**

This talk will discuss efforts to reintroduce alligator snapping turtles that were seized from poachers into their native Texas watersheds, and post-release monitoring efforts.

***Multiyear Monitoring of a Wildlife Road Mortality Mitigation Project on SH 100 in Cameron County, Texas*****Kevin Ryer, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley**

In May 2018, construction completed on a 6.9-mile wildlife road mitigation project which included multiple new underpass structures, wildlife guards, wing walls, a modified culvert, and 6.9 miles of continuous fencing. Monitoring of the mitigation structures with wildlife cameras was continuous for over 4 years. Many of the native wildlife species have benefitted greatly from the construction of the wildlife crossing structures and helped evaluate their effectiveness for future road mitigation projects in Texas and around the world.

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**Section 4(f) Roadmap: Journey to Compliance****BREAKOUT 25***Texas Ballroom AB***Michelle Lueck and Rebekah Dobrasko, TxDOT**

Section 4(f) is a crucial element of the environmental review process. This session will address the Section 4(f) process for parks and historic properties and resources available to assist in identifying and preparing the appropriate documentation. Learn about appropriate timeframes, successful mitigation, and hear case studies to help you along your journey!

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 (Continued)

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **BREAK** (Exhibit Area)

3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSIONS: 26–29**

**BREAKOUT 26** **What's the Deal with Water?**

*Crystal Ballroom A*

### **Water Hot Topics**

**Jennifer Walker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Fort Worth District, and TxDOT**

Come learn what the experts have to say about the current state of regulatory changes, USACE permitting, and water-related TxDOT guidance.

### **Predictive Wetland Model – Come Demo a Model in the Making**

**Ryan Robol, JMT and Jason Kord, TxDOT**

Watch a demo of TxDOT ENV's model for predicting wetland and stream mitigation needs! Coming soon to a district near you!

**BREAKOUT 27** **Overview of TxDOT's Environmental Review Process (Part 2 of 2)**

*Crystal Ballroom B*

**Patrick Lee and Mike Chavez, TxDOT**

Continuation of Part 1. Part 2 will focus on the process by which TxDOT uses its Environmental Compliance Oversight System (ECOS) to document compliance with these laws.

**BREAKOUT 28** **Workshop: New SWP3 Guidance and Template (Part 2 of 2)**

*Crystal Ballroom C*

**Heather Carman and Tracey Janus, TxDOT**

Continuation of workshop covering the new SWP3 guidance document, summary sheet, and binder templates.

**BREAKOUT 29** **Environmental Affairs Film Festival**

*Crystal Ballroom D*

**MODERATORS: Rebekah Dobrasko and Jennifer Carpenter, TxDOT**

**PANEL: Douglas Boyd, Stantec; Maryellen Russo, Blanton & Associates; Angela Davis, Museworks, and more!**

Join *Beyond The Road* as we celebrate some of TxDOT's accomplishments via film! Learn about the engineering of Harbor Bridge and see clips from its 1959 construction. Go back in time to visit a stop on the Chisholm Trail in Denton, and more!. The producers and creators of some of ENV's recent films will be on hand to give behind-the-scenes glimpses into this powerful outreach medium.

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 a.m. – Noon **REGISTRATION DESK OPEN**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** (Exhibit Area)

8:00 a.m. – Noon **FIELD TRIP OPTION 1:**

**Mustang Creek Mitigation Bank and Available Permittee-Responsible Mitigation Site**

**Jennifer Walker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers–Fort Worth District; and Tamara Wood and Troy Madrigal, Ironwood Resource Advisors**

Join us on a trip to Mustang Creek! Learn from Jennifer Walker about the mitigation bank establishment process and how to use an adjacent PRM site. Learn from Tory Madrigal how to navigate the site selection process and consider the unique ecology of the site.

Estimated Roundtrip: 45-minute drive, 1-hour presentation, 45-minute drive

8:00 a.m. – Noon

**FIELD TRIP OPTION 2:**

**Cedar Hill State Park Habitat Tour and Networking Walk**

Visit the TxDOT-funded prairie restoration project site and explore Blackland Prairie and White Rock Escarpment plant communities at Cedar Hill State Park. Bird watch and network while identifying field indicators of Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat at the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center.

Details will be emailed to the registered attendees. Limited to 40 attendees, contact becki.perkins@txdot.gov to secure a slot.





## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### Adams, Connor S.

Connor is a research associate at the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture at Stephen F. Austin State University. He received his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University in 2013, and a MS in Forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2021. He is currently involved in a study investigating the influence of forest management on functional diversity and food-web dynamics in upland pine systems as well as a multiyear study on the spatial ecology, behavioral ecology, and conservation of the alligator snapping turtle.

### Allen, Amanda

Amanda has been a Local Government Projects Coordinator with the TPD Division as of January 2020 and is based in Fort Worth. She has been with TxDOT since July 2007, with her career beginning with the FTW District's North Tarrant Area Office and Project Delivery Office. Amanda received her undergraduate degree from LeTourneau University in May 2013, and obtained a Project Management Professional certification in December 2019.

### Aurora, Amanda

Amanda is SWCA's Natural Resources Technical Director for Endangered Species Act Services with 25 years of experience providing strategic permitting and compliance services related to endangered species and other protected wildlife in Texas and across the nation. She excels at the application of science to the regulatory process and resolving complex issues or novel questions involving the Endangered Species Act. She is a frequent presenter at regional and national conferences on matters related to the ESA, including new

listings, regulatory and policy changes, and trends in compliance strategies.

### Bocanegra, Omar

Omar coordinates the Branch of Environmental Review, Classification, and Recovery for the USFWS's Arlington, Texas Field Office. Omar has worked for the Service for over 20 years on endangered species issues, as well as fish and aquatic insect studies, coordination of terrestrial wind energy projects, and development of national guidance on compensatory mitigation under the Endangered Species Act. He received both his BS in Environmental Biology and MS in Biology from the University of Texas. His Master's research focused on sexual selection in the desert firetail damselfly. Omar is a local expert on dragonflies and damselflies and speaks at workshops in Texas on their biology and identification.

### Booher, Doug

Doug is the Environmental Affairs Division Director.

### Boyd, Douglas

Douglas is a senior archeologist with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. Boyd began his archeological career in the 1970s while in junior high and high school, volunteering and working on several archeological projects for West Texas State University and the Llano Estacado Museum. He has a BA from West Texas State University and a MA degree in Anthropology from Texas A&M University. Boyd spent 33 years at Prewitt and Associates, Inc., serving as project archeologist, project manager, or principal investigator on many cultural resources management projects throughout the state.



## CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

### Bradley, Anita

Anita is an environmental specialist and project delivery manager with the ENV Division for the last 8 years. Previous to TxDOT, she served as Sr. Policy Advisor to the US House of Representatives as their Environmental Quality, Clean Air Act, and NEPA subject matter expert.

### Calle, Carlos

Carlos has been with TxDOT since March 2012, and in his current role since July 2020. He is involved with the Statewide Resiliency Plan and the Long Range Transportation Plan. He is also involved with the submittal of federal performance measures, manages the Federal Land Access Program, and is responsible for the Annual Transportation Report. He also manages the Scenic Byways Program. Carlos previously worked in the State Legislative Affairs section of the Government Affairs Division. He assisted with the implementation of TxDOT's Sunset bill (SB 1420) from the 82nd Regular Session and then on the most recent Sunset review in 2017 (SB 312) during the 85th Regular Session. He was also the State Legislative Affairs TPP liaison. He has a BA and MPA in Public Administration from Texas State University.

### Carlton, Casey

Casey leads the Planning Practice for WSP in Texas. He has over 15 years of experience in NEPA documentation, corridor planning, and environmental studies. In addition to previous consulting roles, Casey also served as a Transportation Planning and Environmental Coordinator at the FHWA Texas Division Office. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a BS in Biology and received his MBA from West Texas A&M University.

### Carman, Heather

Heather is an Environmental Specialist in the Operations Compliance Section of ENV Division. Her main responsibilities are TxDOT's Construction Stormwater Program and the EPIC Monitoring Program. Heather started with TxDOT in 2015 and worked as an Environmental Coordinator in both the Rail Division and Austin District. Prior to relocating to Texas, Heather worked 20 plus years in South Florida and the Florida Keys doing coastal,



wetland, endangered species, and water resource permitting and compliance work. She received a BA in Biology and Spanish from the University of Richmond. She also received a MS in Marine Biology and Coastal Zone Management from Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center. She holds an environmental certification from Florida International University, multiple SCUBA certifications, an Arborist certification, and various wetland and stormwater certifications.

### Carpenter, Jennifer

Jennifer is an environmental protection specialist (historian) with ENV's Cultural Resource Management Section. She reviews transportation projects for compliance with state and federal laws and contributes to the *Beyond the Road* outreach campaign. Her previous experience includes positions with Texas State Parks, the Raleigh Historic Development Commission, and the Supreme Court of the United States. She graduated from Wake Forest University and received her MA in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland.

### Chavez, Mike

Mike is the Deputy Director of the Environmental Affairs Division. He holds a BA in Anthropology and a MS in Applied Geography from Texas State (go Bobcats!). Mike brings close to 25 years of experience in environmental planning, documentation, regulatory compliance, and project management, both in the private sector and with the State. Over his career, he has worked as an archeologist and principal investigator, NEPA specialist, environmental

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task lead, TxDOT project delivery manager, and project manager and has been involved with a variety of projects such as Rethinking I-94 EIS in Minnesota, SH 45SW EIS in Austin, and US 281 EIS in San Antonio, among others. Mike has recently returned to TxDOT in his current role and looks forward to continuing efforts to improve ENV processes and supporting project implementation.

### Cooper, Andrew

Andy is an air quality specialist and senior project manager for Jacobs Engineering Inc. and has 30 years of experience in government and the private sector on federal, state, and local projects. He has worked on large-scale planning, and environmental projects involving high-profile and controversial issues throughout the US and extensively focused on air quality, including the original MSAT analysis and Greenhouse Gases-Climate Change Technical Reports in Texas. He graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a BS in Environmental Management.

### Davis, Angela

Angela is the Director of Experience at MuseWork Exhibits. She has over 20 years of experience creating engaging and educational experiences for audiences at museums, cultural heritage sites, nature centers, and more. Angela served as the writer and director of the Harbor Bridge video.

### Dempsey, Terry

Terry is an Environmental Specialist working to resolve hazardous materials contamination and waste issues at the ENV Division since 1996. Terry has a BS in Geology and an MS in Natural Sciences from Stephen F. Austin University, and is a licensed Professional Geoscientist in Texas.

### Dobrasko, Rebekah

Rebekah is the Cultural Resource Management Section Director for the ENV Division. She has been at TxDOT since 2013. Prior to coming to TxDOT, Rebekah worked at the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office for 10 years. Rebekah has a BA in history from Tulane University and a MA in public history from the University of South Carolina. She is the co-founder of TxDOT's *Beyond The Road* campaign

and is an enthusiastic champion of public engagement.

### Fauver, Kirk

Kirk is a 34-year veteran of the FHWA, and currently serves as a Planning & Research Engineer within the FHWA Texas Division with oversight of the SPR Subpart B university research program and Texas Local Technical Assistance Program (TxLTAP). He also serves as lead for resiliency/climate change, electric vehicle infrastructure program, highway statistics, and PEL for the FHWA Texas Division. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville's Speed Engineering School and obtained a BS and MS of Civil Engineering from this university. He has held various FHWA federal-aid assignments in California, Iowa, and Illinois Divisions and also served as a member of the FHWA Office of Environment and Planning (Air Quality Policy Team) in Washington, D.C.

### Fisher, Mark

Mark is an ENV Division NRM biologist with many years of experience developing and implementing state/federal environmental regulations that address water quality, water quantity, and biological resource issues.

### Freidenfeld, David

David serves as the Director of Data Management and Traffic Analysis within TPP Division and has been at TxDOT for almost 10 years. David has (gulp) 30 years' experience in transportation planning which has been split between Texas and Massachusetts, largely working in the realm of GIS, roadway inventory, and traffic data. He also hopes the New England Patriots will soon return to dominance.

### Gregory, Brittney

Brittney received degrees in Applied Anthropology (BS), Geography (MS), and Geology (PhD) respectively. She worked as a contract geoarchaeologist for 7 years before joining TxDOT in 2021. Her specialization is in the interpretation of geology and its application to archaeological sites.

### Hernandez, Sonya

Sonya is an environmental program manager in the TxDOT Austin District. She has been with TxDOT since 2006. During her time at the ENV Division, she served as a project delivery manager, working on major projects such as the Harbor Bridge Project (CRP) and the South Padre Island Second Access Project (PHR). At the Austin District, she currently serves as the environmental program manager for Mobility 35, including the Capital Express North, South, and Central Projects. Sonya has a BS in Geology from Colorado College and a MS in Geological Sciences from Indiana University.

### Horn, Mimi

Mimi is the environmental coordinator for the ELP District. She has 25 years' experience in NEPA documentation, public involvement, Air Quality and PM-10 consultation process. She began working at TxDOT in 1996 and holds a BS in City and Regional Planning from New Mexico State University.

### Howard, Seth

Seth is a Public Involvement Specialist with the Public Involvement Section in the TPP division. He serves the Abilene, Amarillo, Atlanta, Austin, Lubbock, and Tyler districts. He also serves as the lead for the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) and the co-lead for the Trade, Freight, and Connectivity section.

### Howard, Susan

Susan is the Director of the Public Involvement Section in the TPP Division. She has been at TxDOT for almost 10 years and began her career as a Public Involvement Specialist before becoming director. Susan has more than 25 years' experience in developing and managing all areas of communication strategies, including public involvement, community relations, stakeholder facilitation, teaching/training, and news media; and more than 18 years' experience in process design and conflict resolution. Susan is also a member of the TRB Standing Committee on Public Engagement and Communications and routinely serves on panels for PI research projects.

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### Hunt, Turner

Turner is the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer with the Muscogee Nation. He has worked for Muscogee Nation in the Historic and Cultural Preservation Office since 2018. Previously, he worked as a Civil Affairs Specialist with the US Army.

### Janus, Tracey

Tracey is the Operations Compliance and Stormwater environmental program manager for the Environmental Resource Management Section of ENV. Her team is responsible for managing TxDOT's MS4 and Construction Stormwater Program, EMS Program, EPIC Monitoring Program, and the Facilities Compliance Program. Tracey has been with TxDOT since 2016 starting out in the AUS District and later moving to the ENV Division. Prior to TxDOT she was an environmental investigator in the TCEQ Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. Tracey is a Texas licensed Professional Geologist.

### Klee, Rosemarie

Rose Marie is the H&H Section Director in the DES Division. She has 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors. Her tenure at TxDOT has included BRG Division, the AUS District, and DES Division working in roles ranging from Bridge Project Management to utilities to acting as a liaison to the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority. Her private sector work involved acting as project manager and project engineer for a diverse array of water resources projects. Rose Marie studied at the University of Texas at Austin and has a BS in Architectural Engineering and an MS in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering.



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### Kord, Jason

Jason is a GIS professional with more than 25 years of GIS experience. He has worked in both the private and public sectors with experience in publishing, energy transmission, water resources and transportation. Jason creates maps and processes data but also works to create tools and applications to assist ENV in navigating the NEPA process. He has four kids ranging in age from 5 to 25 and will therefore be working at TxDOT until he is 95 years old.

### Lee, Patrick

Patrick holds a BS in Environmental Studies from Connecticut College and a law degree from the University of Texas at Austin. He has over 20 years of experience working on environmental issues in the private sector and state government. Patrick has been with TxDOT ENV for the past seven years.

### Lind, Meghan

Meghan is a senior ecologist and principal at Stantec Consulting Services Inc., where she manages the technical services team and co-leads the natural resources group. She began her career in Texas nearly 10 years ago as an environmental specialist with the ENV Division and has focused primarily on linear infrastructure-related environmental clearance and agency coordination/permitting since 2013. Meghan has a MS in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Hawaii and a BS in Biology from Old Dominion University.

### Lopez, Glendora

Glendora is an environmental specialist in air quality with the Environmental Resources Management Section of the ENV Division. Prior to beginning her career with TxDOT, Glendora worked as an environmental investigator and air quality scientist in the oil and gas sector. Glendora has a BS in Biology from the University of Texas – Pan American and a MS of Public Health with a focus on Environmental and Occupational Health.

### Lueck, Michelle

Michelle is a project delivery manager with the ENV Division. She has been with TxDOT 22 years.

### Mack, Douglass

Douglass is an environmental program manager with the Hazardous Materials Section in the ENV Division.

### Maikoetter, Jeremy

Jeremy is a malacologist and project manager for Zara Environmental. He has a BS in Aquatic Biology and a MS in Aquatic Resources from Texas State University. He has seven years of experience with freshwater mussels, with four of those years in private consulting. His mussel experience includes hundreds of hours of survey time on both TxDOT and research projects, including work on the Central Texas Mussels Research Program and Species Status Assessments during his time at Texas State University.

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### Obelgoner, Barbara

Barbara is an environmental specialist in the YKM 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.

### Pletka, Scott

Scott is the archeology environmental program manager for the Cultural Resource Management Section of the ENV Division. He has overseen the daily archeological operations of the section for more than 15 years. Scott earned his PhD in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2001.

### Ploch, Jackie

Jackie is the human environment program manager in the Environmental Resources Management Section of the ENV Division. She has a BS in Biochemistry from UT Austin and an MPA from Texas State. She has over 35 years environmental management experience in the public and private sector, including 16 years with TxDOT.

### Potter, Lloyd

Lloyd was appointed State Demographer on June 4, 2010. Dr. Potter holds a PhD in Demography and Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Public Health Degree from Emory University, a Master of Science in Education from the University of Houston at Clear Lake, and a Bachelor of Science 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 working as an applied demographer in several settings.

### Redmond, Amy

Amy has civic engagement engraved in her DNA. Her passion for public service has taken her to every corner of the Lone Star State working on initiatives for Texas State University, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and TxDOT. Engaging as a Public Involvement Specialist at TxDOT, she has



had the opportunity to partner with 10 of the 25 Districts, Division efforts including the SLRTP, UTP and STIP, and serves on the Steering Committee for the Public Involvement Communities of Practice.

### Robol, Ryan

Ryan has 20 years of natural resource management and environmental consulting experience, with 13 years being in Texas. He has a BS from the University of North Carolina in Biology with a minor in Marine Science and a MS in Environmental Studies from the College of Charleston. Ryan spent the early third of his career performing wetland and waterway delineations on large tracts of land in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina to support the residential development industry. Since arriving in Texas, Ryan has primarily focused on providing environmental consulting services to transportation and water resources markets.

### Roman, Sergio

Sergio has 13 years of drone operations experience flying and managing everything from small quadcopters to large MQ-1 drones spanning over 6,000 flight hours, an 8-year career with 6 combat deployments as a drone Pilot Instructor in the United States Army, and 5 years in the private sector as a drone pilot. He holds degrees in UAS operations and Organizational Leadership. Today, Sergio serves as the TxDOT UAS coordinator charged with developing and managing pilot training, aircraft procurement, and the integration of UAS into TxDOT's daily operations.

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### Russo, Maryellen

Maryellen is the Cultural Resources Director at Blanton & Associates in Austin and has 22 years' experience in cultural resources management. Based on her extensive research on the Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge and numerous interviews with retired bridge engineers about the bridge in the 2000s, Maryellen served as the consultant project manager and historic bridge expert for the Harbor Bridge video.

### Ryer, Kevin

Kevin is a Research Associate II at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley researching wildlife road mitigation on SH 100 in Cameron County since 2016. He received his MS in Wildlife Sciences from Auburn University before moving to the Rio Grande Valley.

### Sawey, Jamye

Jamye is the FTW District Environmental Supervisor. She began her TxDOT career as a summer employee in 1990. After earning a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from St. Mary's University, she worked in both the Fort Worth and Dallas District laboratories before joining the Fort Worth District Environmental section in 2000. With over 22 years of experience in environmental documentation and public involvement, Jamye is responsible for the successful coordination, permitting, and clearance of transportation projects for a nine-county area.

### Sims, Kimberly

Kimberly is the Director of Public Involvement for HNTB's Northern California offices. She has more than 20 years of communications and government, media and community relations experience. In this role, she leads a team that supports transportation and urban planning projects with communication and outreach strategies. She currently serves as the Engagement and Outreach Manager for BART's Link21 Program. She has a BA in Mass Communications and a MBA from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

### Stevens, Richard

Richard is the President's Excellence in Research Professor and Professor of Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University. He is also the Assistant Curator of Mammals at the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University. He obtained all of his degrees (BS, MS, and PhD) from Texas Tech University. Dr. Steven's research interests are in the basic ecology of mammals, in particular bats and rodents and he has studied these professionally for 15 years. Recently, he became interested in the roosting ecology of bats and in particular how human infrastructure facilitates the distribution and abundance of bats.

### Swonke, Carlos

Carlos' nearly 35 years of experience includes 11 years at TxDOT, 13 years as a consultant, a return to TxDOT for almost 10 more years, and his current position at HNTB where he has been for one year.

### Temple, Janie

Janie is the Transportation Analysis Branch Manager for the Traffic Analysis Section of the TPP Division. The Transportation Analysis Branch supports transportation analysis for pavement and geometric design for TxDOT Districts, the urban travel demand model program, the statewide analysis model and big data program, the travel survey program and the team supports air quality emissions analysis and participates in air quality conformity reviews.

### Umscheid, Ray

Ray has been the traffic noise specialist at TxDOT ENV for ten years. He has statewide responsibility for traffic noise policy and review. He has a BS in Geography from Texas State University and he has participated on NCHRP panels 25-25, 25-44 and 25-52.

### Vitello, Christi

Christi leads the Engagement and Community Solutions section of HNTB's Technology Solutions Center. She has 17 years of experience in the transportation industry. Throughout her career, she has held various

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responsibilities, including event and project coordination, report production, as well as communications and graphics lead on public involvement efforts for various transportation agencies and local municipalities. She holds a BA in Graphic Design and a MA in Management along with a Communications Certificate from North Park University in Chicago, Illinois.

### Walker, Jennifer

Jennifer is the Chief of the Evaluation Branch, Regulatory Division, FTW District, USACE. Her background is in Biology and Ecology, and she has spent the last 35 years working in the arena of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. She first became interested in stream mitigation at the age of 7 when she and other family members and friends worked to install habitat structures on a channelized reach of trout stream in Northeastern Pennsylvania. At age 11, with the help of friends, Ms. Walker constructed and planted a small experimental wetland. From that point on, her career aspirations became focused on working in the field of stream and wetland ecology.

### Ward, Spencer

Spencer is a community impacts specialist for ENV Human Environment team. He has returned to his home state to work with TxDOT after spending time throughout the Pacific Northwest. He received a degree in Environmental Policy from Western Washington University, and has since worked with environmental nonprofits from Bellingham to Portland.

### Wilson, Holly

Holly obtained a BS in Natural Resources Ecology and Conservation from Lubbock Christian University and a MS in Biology from Fort Hays State University. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Wildlife, Aquatic, and Wildlands Science and Management at Texas Tech. Holly's research interest is in applied ecology and she has studied this topic related to bats for five years. Currently, she is focusing on the use of bridges and culverts by bats in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas for my dissertation work.



### Wood, Tim

Tim joined the ENV Division in November 2010 and currently serves as air quality specialist. Prior to TxDOT, he worked for the TCEQ 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. He is also currently the Vice Chair for the Air Quality Climate Change and Energy Subcommittee (AQCES) of The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

### Worthen, Meredith

Meredith has been an environmental specialist for the ENV Division since 2018. She serves as a subject matter expert in traffic noise and has 10 years of experience with traffic noise analyses for transportation projects. Prior to TxDOT, she worked for an environmental consulting firm, for the Texas Water Development Board, and for TCEQ. Meredith graduated in 1999 from The University of Texas at Austin with BS degrees in Biology and Microbiology.

### Lauren Young

Lauren has a BS in Marine/Field Science and MS in Biology, both from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. Lauren joined TxDOT ENV's Business Operations Section as an environmental specialist in June 2018. Prior to joining TxDOT, she worked as a project manager for the TCEQ TMDL Program.



# Thanks to our Exhibitors

