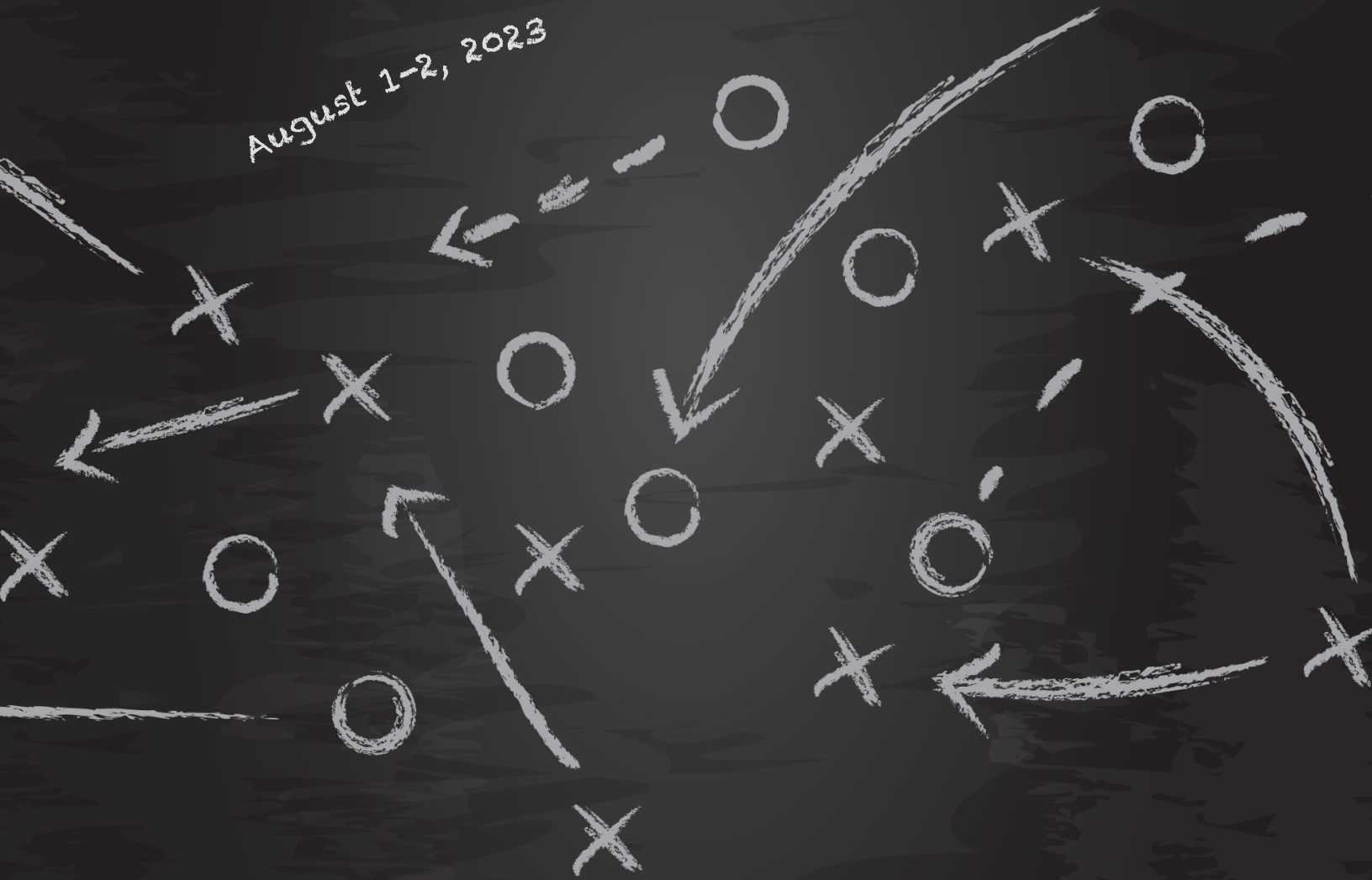




Transportation Project Delivery Conference

Changing the Game Plan

August 1-2, 2023





Transportation Project Delivery Conference

Changing the Game Plan



Tuesday | August 1, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Pre-Game Meetings**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Stassney Campus Stadium Tour** 6230 E Stassney Blvd

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Starting Line-up** Westin in the Domain, 11301 Domain Dr., Austin
Coin Toss
Tucker Ferguson, AUS
National Anthem

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Opening Kickoff** **Lead-off Spot**
Lance Simmons, ADM

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **1st Quarter: Kicking off with TxDOT Administration** **Safety Game Plan**
Jessica Butler, ADM
Official Game Rules: Texas Legislative Updates
Brenna Lyles, GOV
Project Delivery Peptalk
Mo Bur, ADM
Transportation Programs Division Highlight Reel
Charon Williams, TPD

3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Commercial Break**

3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **2nd Quarter: Knowing Your Position with Project and Portfolio Management (PPM)** **Welcome and Introduction**
Andrea Ranft, PPM Section Director
Tracking Changes and Staying Ahead of the Game - Portfolio Health and STIP Review Process
Deanne Simmons, STR and Lori Morel, TPP
Show me the Money – Increased Costs, Escalation, and Inflation-Impacts on Transportation Projects
Moderator: Darren McDaniel
Panel: Michael Smith, FHWA; Andrew Reid, Burns & McDonnell; and William Allen, AUS

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Reception and Halftime Show**



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Changing the Game Plan



Wednesday | August 2, 2023

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast at the Concession Stand	
8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	3rd Quarter: Touchdown on Technology	<p>Welcome and Introduction Sean Linton, Engineering Ops Support Director</p> <p>The TxDOTCONNECT Story Kelsey Peduzzi, EOS</p> <p>Gaining an Edge with Innovation Benjamin King, STR; Benjamin McCulloch, STR; and James Kuhr, STR</p>
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	4th Quarter: Big Plays in Transportation	<p>Welcome and Introduction John Jameson, Local Government Projects Section Director</p> <p>Discretionary Grant Program Robin Ayers, GOV</p> <p>Bikes, Boats, and Tanks – Transportation Alternatives, Port Program and Military Installation Program Bonnie Sherman, PTN; Travis Milner, MRD; and Amanda Allen, LGP</p>
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Commercial Break	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Overtime: Building a Roster of Transportation Champions	<p>Welcome and Introduction Regaynal Poplion, TPD Center of Excellence Director</p> <p>Preseason Professional Development Moderator: Regaynal Poplion Panel: Alexander Plotkin, Amanda Allen, Benjamin Ramirez, Darren McDaniel, Valerie Iannuccilli, TPD</p> <p>Making it to the Super Bowl Moderator: Regaynal Poplion Panel: Andrea Ranft, TPD; Christopher Young, HRD; John Jameson, TPD; Lori Davidson, Kimley Horn; Raul Ortega, ELP; Ricardo Gonzalez, FTW; and Sean Linton, TPD</p>
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Post-Game Press Conference: Keynote Luncheon Speaker	<p>Lunch</p> <p>Awards Ceremony and Speaker Introduction Charon Williams, TPD</p> <p>Changing the Game Plan: One Reset Moment at a Time Penny Zenker, International Motivational Speaker and Best-Selling Author</p>

TPD Transportation Project Delivery Conference Program



Alexander Plotkin

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Alexander Plotkin, PMP, SCHRМ-CP manages the PMD Training Academy for the Transportation Programs Division, Center of Excellence.

He is responsible for overseeing development and implementation of nine instructor lead courses focused on Transportation Project Management, as well as eight eLearning courses. Alexander also oversees the Project Management Training Community of Practice, bringing training professionals from across TxDOT together for knowledge sharing sessions.

Alexander joined Texas Department of Transportation in August of 2015 as a Program Administrator with Human Resources Division, Workforce Development Section. Later he joined the Management & Staff Development team with HRD-WFD and was a lead trainer until he joined Transportation Programs Division in 2021. Since joining TxDOT, Alexander obtained both SCHRМ-CP and PMP certifications.

Prior to starting his career at TxDOT, he worked in the Higher Education sector both as an administrator and as a professional instructor.

Alexander earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, and his Master's Degree in Music from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.



Amanda Allen

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Amanda Allen serves as a Local Government Projects Coordinator for the Transportation Programs Division and is based in Fort Worth. She is responsible for providing guidance and support to TxDOT district staff and local government representatives on program requirements including compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

She has 16 years of transportation project related experience with the Texas Department of Transportation, with an emphasis in construction administration and local government program guidance. She earned a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from LeTourneau University in May 2013, and a PMP Certification in December 2019. Amanda is an enthusiastic instructor for TxDOT, teaching the LGP101 and LGP102 courses, and serves on the Board of Directors for TxDOT's Instructor Certification Program.



Andrea Ranft

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

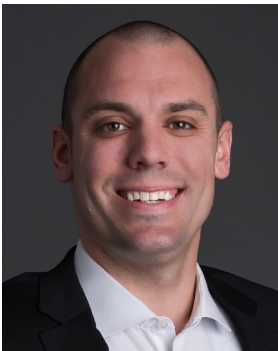
Andrea began her career at TxDOT as a summer intern working for Houston District ROW and Central Design D. After graduation, Andrea joined the Houston District as an engineering assistant in construction at the West Harris Area Office. She worked for Central Design F, and eventually was the Design Supervisor for the Central Harris Area Office before leaving the department.

Andrea worked in the private sector for multiple clients including TxDOT, City of Houston, various counties, and other private clients.

She returned to TxDOT Houston in August 2022 and in May joined TPD as the Project and Portfolio Management Section Director.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Houston.

Andrea is married to Greg Ranft (TxDOT retiree) and has two children, Christopher and Kaitlyn. She enjoys traveling with friends and family.



Andrew Reid

Burns & McDonnell

Andrew Reid, PE, is a Principal and regional manager of Burns & McDonnell's Transportation Global Practice in Dallas, where he is responsible for client development, strategic direction and project execution. He leads a diverse team of engineers, planners and policy specialists across North and Central Texas and previously led the firm's national integrated construction and engineering team, serving as project principal, program manager and project manager for large-scale, award-winning infrastructure projects throughout the country. Andrew received a BS in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University and serves in various leadership roles with the American Council of Engineering Companies including on the Public Policy & TxDOT Liaison Committees, the Board of Directors for the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, and serves as a volunteer with Friends of

the Preston Ridge Trail in North Dallas.



Ben McCulloch

Strategic Planning Division
TxDOT

Ben McCulloch is a Strategic Data Scientist for the Strategic Planning Division. His entire career has been focused around data and how to improve government decisions by using data. His current focus is on joining data together from internal and external sources to make the jobs of TxDOT employees and our partners easier. He is also the TxDOT Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning guru. He has been with TxDOT for 5 years working on TxDOTCONNECT report, Tableau roll out and adoption, and automating reporting to make it more responsive to business needs. Prior to TxDOT he worked at Texas Legislative Budget Board for 10 years and Texas Department of Criminal Justice for about 2 years.



Benjamin King
Strategic Planning Division
TxDOT

Benjamin L. King, P.E., PMP, serves as the Section Director for the Innovations Section of the Strategic Planning Division at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

As the Section Director of the Innovations Section of the Strategic Planning Division, Benjamin is responsible for implementing and managing the “Innovative Transportation in Texas” program. This includes identifying, implementing, and scaling transportation innovations across the agency and with local, state, federal, and private industry organizations. “Innovative Transportation in Texas” includes working with the agency’s districts, divisions, and consortiums to prioritize innovation implementation, Innovative Transportation Training Community of Practice, and a robust recognition program.

Benjamin has 25 combined years of experience in the transportation engineering industry with 14 years with TxDOT and the remainder with private industry.

Benjamin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the Prairie View A&M University in 1998. He is a certified Project Management Professional and a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas.



Benjamin Ramirez
Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Benjamin Ramirez, P.E., PMP, leads the Professional Development Team for the Center of Excellence (CoE) Section of the Transportation Programs Division.

His team is responsible for planning, developing, delivering, and maintaining Project Management Development (PMD) Academy Training courses and PMD Institute Workshops to support transportation project managers statewide. His team also delivers and maintains existing TxDOTCONNECT Training courses and manages the PMP/CAPM Development Support Program.

Ben has served TxDOT for 27 years. Prior to joining the TPD in 2012, he worked in the Austin District and Dallas District. Ben earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the Texas A&M University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and certified as a Project Management Professional.



Bonnie Sherman
Public Transportation Division
TxDOT

Bonnie Sherman, AICP, is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Supervisor at the Texas Department of Transportation, working to promote collaborative development of safer, more connected walking and bicycling infrastructure throughout Texas. She plays a key role in advancing a number of statewide efforts, including active transportation planning, non-motorized count program, modernizing active transportation design, transportation alternatives, and bicycle tourism trails. She has 22 years of experience in active transportation, multimodal, and environmental planning at the local, regional, and state levels, including 6 years in private consulting. She earned her Masters’ in Community Regional Planning and in Public Affairs, as well

as a B.S. in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin.



Brenna Lyles

Government Affairs Division
TxDOT

Brenna Lyles is the Assistant Director of State Legislative Affairs at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and helps lead and manage legislative activities and outreach to the Texas Legislature during and outside of the legislative session. Brenna previously served as a legislative liaison in TxDOT State Legislative Affairs and, prior to her time at TxDOT, worked in public sector consulting and at The Sacramento Bee as a reporter. Brenna received a Master's in Public Affairs from the LBJ School at University of Texas, Austin (Hook 'em) and a Bachelor's in Communication and Professional Writing at the University of California, Davis.



Charon Williams

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Charon Williams serves as director of Transportation Programs.

She oversees day-to-day operations related to project and portfolio management, local government projects, and transportation programs operations and reporting in support of project and program delivery. This is done by establishing efficient business practices, consistent standards, and procedures, and developing technological solutions to achieve outstanding safety, planning, design, construction, and maintenance performance.

Her career with TxDOT began in 2006 as a utility coordinator in the Right of Way Division. In 2010, she rotated to the Design Division's Plan Development section. After her engineering rotation, Williams transitioned back to the Right of Way Division, serving as an engineering specialist. In 2014, she moved to the Local Government Projects Office as a local government projects coordinator.

In 2016, Williams transitioned to what is now known as the TxDOTCONNECT project team as business operations project manager. That same year, she was named Utility Portfolio Section (UPS) Director, bringing her back to the Right of Way Division, where she and the UPS team worked tirelessly to turn the Utility Accommodations Program around.

Prior to her current role, Williams served as the deputy director of the Right of Way Division, where she was responsible for managing all aspects of the portfolio of right-of-way projects.

Williams has played a strong role in implementing transformational improvements, having participated in many of TxDOT's program improvement initiatives in diverse areas like partnering, agency modernization, program management, transportation research, and software development - earning her two Journey Towards Excellence awards in transportation and the Raymond E. Stotzer, Jr. Award.

She also contributes to the transportation and engineering industries at the national level. She participated as a contributing member of the Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities Committee of the Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) - which published the new ASCE/UESI/CI 38-22 Standards.

Williams earned her bachelor's degree from Texas Southern University and her master's degree from St. Edward's University. She's also a graduate of the AASHTO Leadership and Graduate Leadership programs and the WTS International Signature Leadership Program.





Chris Young

Human Resources Division
TxDOT

Chris Young serves as the director of Workforce Development, a section of the Human Resources Division at the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

After serving in the U.S. Army and completing undergraduate work at the University of Texas, Chris served as a diplomat for the State Department where he led training programs overseas for foreign governments. In 2008, he left the State Department and went to work for a small business as a consultant in Washington D.C., building and implementing training programs for the intelligence community, before moving back to Austin and joining TxDOT in 2015.

Chris has undergraduate degrees from the University of Texas, an MBA from the University of Colorado, and a PhD in industrial-organizational psychology from Grand Canyon University. Chris is the current Vice Chair of AASHTO's Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council (TC3), an alternate representative to both the Knowledge Management and HR Committees, and is a member of 2 Transportation Research Board committees.



Darren McDaniel

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Darren McDaniel, P.E., PMP serves as a Program Manager for the Center of Excellence Professional Development Team in the Transportation Programs (TPD) Division at the Texas Department of Transportation.

As a Program Manager, he is responsible for supporting TxDOT Project Managers statewide with the development and delivery of the Project Manager Development (PMD) Institute. He teaches PMD Institute workshops and assists the Professional Development Team with the planning, development, and implementation of project and portfolio management training.

He has worked for TxDOT for 29 years. Prior to joining the TPD Division in 2018, he served as the Speed Zone Engineer and the Highway Safety Engineer for the Traffic Safety Division.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Texas, a Project Management Professional (PMP), and a TxDOT Certified Adjunct Instructor.



Deanne Simmons

Strategic Planning Division
TxDOT

Deanne Simmons is a Project Development Advisor working on various project delivery initiatives for the Director of Project Development. This role allows her to work with all the districts and many divisions on exciting efforts and initiatives geared towards managing and delivering TxDOT's substantial portfolio of transportation projects. Upon graduation from Texas A&M University, Deanne began her TxDOT career as an Engineering Assistant in the Atlanta District and enjoyed her time working there for 22 years, serving as the District's Advance Planning Engineer for 12 years and the Director of Transportation Planning, and Development for 4 ½ years. Deanne also had the privilege of working with the TxDOTCONNECT team for a brief period before transitioning

to her current role in December 2022.



James Kuhr

Strategic Planning Division
TxDOT

James is a Project Portfolio Manager at the Texas Department of Transportation where he leads a team tasked with implementation of the Cooperative and Automated Program Plan. This plan touches on many emerging transportation technologies and he and the team must weave them together into one seamless future that maximizes the benefits of safety and roadway efficiency. James started at TxDOT in the research program, where he oversaw innovative University research that touched all aspects of road development. Before that, James was a researcher at the University of Texas Center for Transportation Research, where he managed projects related to connected and automated vehicles, 5G communications and transportation planning. In addition

to his experience with emerging technology, James spent five years leading proposal teams for large design build finance operate and maintain infrastructure concessions. James has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M and a J.D. from the University of Texas.



Jessica Butler

Engineering and Safety Operations
TxDOT

Jessica Butler, P.E., serves as director of Engineering and Safety Operations. In this role, she is responsible for the management and control of the Bridge, Construction, Maintenance, Materials and Tests, and Traffic Safety divisions.

Butler started her career with TxDOT in 2005 in the Design Division where she coordinated the development of transportation projects from conceptual to final design phases. In 2011, she worked in the Letting Management Section of the Finance Division. Butler then held several leadership positions within the Transportation Planning and Programming Division overseeing

the development of the department's Unified Transportation Program and portfolio management process. In August 2018, she was appointed the deputy division director in the Design Division. In September 2020 she became TxDOT's director of the Transportation Planning and Programming Division.

Butler graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in architectural engineering, in addition to graduating from Saint Edwards University in 2012 with a master's degree in human services with a concentration in conflict resolution, management, and leadership.



John Jameson

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

John Jameson, CTCM serves as the Director of the Local Government Projects (LGP) Section within the Transportation Programs Division. He provides guidance and support to TxDOT district staff and local government representatives on program requirements including compliance with federal and state laws and regulations. John has worked for TxDOT for more than 22 years including 12 years in the Construction Division and 10 years with LGP. He is a 1984 graduate of The Colorado College with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and is a Certified Texas Contract Manager.



Kelsey Peduzzi

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Kelsey Peduzzi is a Business Applications Strategist within the Engineering Operations Support Section in the Transportation Programs Division. She has her Master's in Library & Information Science and has been with TxDOT for almost 5 years. In her time at TxDOT, she has focused primarily on changing business processes by implementing technological solutions and has been a champion for TxDOTCONNECT, specifically related to Right of Way & Utilities functionality.



Lance Simmons

Chief Engineer
TxDOT

Lance W. Simmons, P.E., serves as chief engineer, responsible for the management and control of the Engineering and Safety Operations and District Operations.

A 28-year TxDOT veteran, Simmons began his career in 1994 in the Atlanta district's Design Office; after working three summers in the Atlanta area office. Through the Young Engineers' Rotation Program, Simmons also worked in the Advance Planning, Traffic and Atlanta area offices. From 2001 to 2009, Simmons served as the Atlanta district's Bridge/Special Projects Engineer before being selected as its director of operations in 2010. He was named district engineer in the

Bryan district in March 2015. Since August 2021, he has served as TxDOT's director of engineering and safety operations.

In 2014, Simmons was honored with the Luther DeBerry Award at the Transportation Short Course.

As a Terry Scholar at Texas A&M University, he earned his bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1994.



Lori Morel

Transportation Planning and Programming Division
TxDOT

Lori has worked in the Transportation Planning and Programming Division of TxDOT for more than 20 years managing the Department's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the Economically Disadvantaged Counties Program (EDCP), and the review and approval of Statewide Infrastructure Bank (SIB) applications for projects to be included in the STIP.

As the lead Program Manager of the STIP, Lori was instrumental in the development of the first electronic STIP – the current e-STIP Portal – that has been in use by TxDOT Districts, MPOs, and FHWA since 2013. She and her teammates also manage the entry and maintenance of STIP data within TxDOT Connect.

Lori works extensively with local, state, and federal planning partners to provide policy, procedural, and technical guidance via formal training and on a continual basis to the MPO and TxDOT District planning and programming staff members. Guidance is focused on use of the planning and environmental legislative requirements for TIP and STIP development, content, and approval, as well as the entry into and maintenance of data in the e-STIP Portal.

In addition, Lori is responsible for posting public hearing notices in the Texas Register and holding public hearings for the adoption and revision of the STIP, and for STIP reporting to the Texas Legislature, TxDOT Administration, FHWA/FTA, and various planning partners around the state.



Michael Smith

Federal Highway Administration

Michael Smith works at the FHWA Resource Center in Atlanta Georgia on the Construction Project Management Team.

He began his career in 1991 in Washington DC at the Agency's Highway Research Center and later worked in the HQ Pavement Division in the mid 90s, and relocated to Southern Resource Center in 1999 in Atlanta, GA. Since 2007 he has worked at the Resource Center Construction and Project Management Team.

Throughout his career, Michael has been a technical resource to Headquarters, Divisions, and State partners. Most notably, he helped integrate a probabilistic approach to pavement type selection in the late 90s and participated in the delivery of national LCCA workshops. Last year he helped NHI launch their self-paced eBook training on Probabilistic Risk-based Estimating. Last year he started the delivery of a new onsite PRBE workshop that highlights a free application tool to implement the PRBE concepts and processes.

Michael is an active member of the AASHTO Technical Committee on Cost Estimating, Transportation Estimator's Association, and the Cost Risk Estimating Management (CREM) community of practice.

He is a graduate of Auburn University where he received his Bachelor's and Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a specialty in asphalt technology.



Mo Bur

Project Development
TxDOT

Mohamed "Mo" Bur, P.E., serves as the director of Project Development. In this role, he is responsible for the management and control of the Alternative Delivery, Design, Environmental Affairs, Professional Engineering Procurement Services, Right of Way, and Transportation Programs divisions.

Bur began his career as an intern for three summers with the Maryland State Highway Administration. He joined TxDOT in 1997 in the San Angelo Area Office and transferred to the Dallas District Roadway Design Section in June 2002. There, he managed the SH 161 project in Grand Prairie, the Spur 366/Woodall Rodgers Extension, and Project Pegasus. Bur also managed the design team for the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, a cable-stayed suspension bridge that was the first of its kind in north Texas.

In 2011, Bur became the Dallas District Project Delivery Office supervisor. In 2013, Bur was named the central service center manager for the Professional Engineering Procurement Services Division, serving the needs of all 19 non-metro districts and 14 divisions. He rejoined the Dallas District in 2014, as director of transportation planning and development. In July 2017, Bur was named the Dallas deputy district engineer. He became the district engineer in June 2018 and oversaw a portfolio of planning projects valued at \$24 billion, a construction portfolio of traditional construction projects valued at more than \$2 billion, and multiple district-led design-build projects in procurement and construction valued at almost \$5 billion.

Bur is a recipient of the DeWitt C. Greer Award. He served on the House Bill 20 Committee that set guidance for project selection for Proposition 1 and 7 funding, and served on a committee to establish a new software program for project delivery support.

Bur is a 1996 graduate of the University of Maryland with a bachelor of science in civil engineering with an emphasis on transportation and hydraulics.



Penny Zenker

Speak Inc

Penny Zenker is a sought-after fun, interactive and engaging motivational speaker, strategic business coach, and best-selling author. As a master NLP practitioner and Neuro-strategist, she integrated elements of thought, communication, and behavior to provide strategies for boosting productivity and maximizing results for business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Penny's Expertise is derived from building and later selling a multi-million dollar technology business, managing strategic projects at one of the world's largest Market Research firms, and later working to double business growth for companies around the world as a Tony Robbins business coach.

Penny's proven and practical tools and techniques help people to get results quickly.



Raul Ortega

El Paso District
TxDOT

Raul Ortega, P.E., is the Director of Transportation Planning & Development in the TxDOT El Paso District.

Raul's TxDOT career spans nearly two decades and started as a summer hire for the El Paso District in 2003. The Conditional Grant Student worked three consecutive summers before starting his full-time career as an Engineering Assistant with the district.

In 2013, Raul joined the newly formed Professional Engineering Procurement Services (PEPS) Division and participated in the inaugural Leadership and Engineering Advancement (LEAD) Academy.

The UTEP grad made his way back to the El Paso District as District Design Engineer in 2019, where he was responsible for a letting volume of about \$226M for Fiscal Year 2020.

As the current Director of Transportation Planning and Development, Raul manages a \$2 Billion 10-Year UTP portfolio for the six counties of the El Paso District.



Regaynal Poplion

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Regaynal has served as a public servant for 20 plus years in local and state government, with over 15 years at TxDOT. She began her career in the Advanced Project Development section at the Dallas District, where she worked for over 7 years. Then she worked for a local government as the Capital Improvement Program Engineer. She returned to TxDOT in 2015 and has held positions both in the Right of Way Division and Transportation Programs Division (TPD) where she currently serves as TPD's Center of Excellence Director.

She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Southern University and a master's degree from University of Texas, in City and Regional Planning. She hosts many certifications in the areas of engineering, GIS mapping, planning, professional team building, DAM Safety, and project management, including the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification.

Regaynal is married to her high school sweetheart Alex for 27 years! She has three adult children Leon, Alexis and Amber. In her spare time, she enjoys a good book, gardening, and Louisiana cooking.



Ricardo Gonzalez

Fort Worth District
TxDOT

Ricardo Gonzalez is the transportation planning development director for the Fort Worth District of the Texas Department of Transportation.

A TxDOT employee since 1995, Gonzalez began his career as a summer hire in the El Paso District's design section and survey crew. After graduating in 1997 from Texas Tech University with his bachelor's degree in civil engineering, he began working in Bridge Design and earned his license as a professional engineer in 2002. Gonzalez then spent the next three years in the Inspection Branch where he coordinated all international bridge inspections with corresponding

officials from Mexico.

Gonzalez transferred to the Fort Worth District in 2006 as a construction engineer. In 2009, he was named deputy project construction manager for the \$1billion DFW Connector public-private partnership. In 2011, he was promoted to North Tarrant County area engineer. During that time, he oversaw the \$4billion North Tarrant Express, including the procurement and construction of I-35W, and the successful delivery of the West 7th Street bridge, the world's first pre-cast network bridge. After being selected as the director of maintenance in 2014, he oversaw a \$120million maintenance program and worked to improve the district's four-year pavement management plan. Gonzalez was named transportation planning and development director in 2018.

As director of transportation planning and development, Gonzalez oversees the district's Bridge Design, Bridge Inspection, Central Design, District Design, Public Transportation, Right of Way and Transportation Planning and Development offices. Under Gonzalez' supervision, the district oversees more than \$400million in awarded contracts each year in cooperation with the North Central Texas Council of Governments and our regional partners. Gonzalez created a comprehensive engineering consultant contract that has been implemented across the state. During his tenure, the district's consultant budget has nearly doubled to \$90million as work has accelerated to utilize Proposition 1 and 7 funds. In addition, Gonzalez is currently overseeing the district's Texas Clear Lanes congestion relief projects including the \$2.1billion Southeast Connector.



Robin Ayers

Government Affairs Division
TxDOT

Robin Ayers is a Senior Federal Liaison for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). During her almost 16 years with TxDOT, her accomplishments include leading TxDOT's implementation effort of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided TxDOT over \$2.5 billion in federal stimulus funds. For this effort, she was nominated for the Outstanding Women in Texas Government Award in 2010. In addition, Robin leads TxDOT's selection and application process for Federal discretionary grants. In her three years leading this effort, TxDOT has successfully received grants totaling over \$250 million.

She also serves as a key TxDOT staffer, having worked with Congress and the federal government on the development and implementation of the last four (SAFETEA-LU, MAP-21, FAST Act, IIJA) surface transportation bills. In 2014, Robin served on the National Academy of Science Transportation Research Board Synthesis Panel for Emergency Preparedness.

Robin began her career at the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, DC, focusing on healthcare and human services. After relocating to Texas, she was the Government Relations Associate at the Federation of State Medical Boards in Euless. Robin worked with the states and Congress to implement policy positions on behalf of the Federation, and its 70-state medical and osteopathic medical board members. Robin is a graduate of Texas Christian University with a degree in Political Science. She resides in Austin with her husband and two children.



Sean Linton

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Sean Linton serves as director of the Transportation Programs Division's Engineering Operations Support section (EOS). In this role, he is responsible for the preliminary technical requirements gathering and controls for applications and systems integrations, in addition to overseeing data management, reporting, and business analytics - in support of the agency's project letting and engineering operations.

Linton joined TxDOT in September 2017, as a lead financial analyst in the Public Transportation division. His TxDOT journey included service as a technology contract administrator in the Information Technology Division (ITD), and as a local government liaison at the Austin District HQ. Prior to his current role, he served as the technical operations manager for TxDOT's Communications Division - where he led the redesign and rebuild of TxDOT's website, TxDOT.gov, and the migration of over 40 external microsites. Prior to TxDOT, Linton served 8 years in the United States Marine Corps. During that time, he commanded as a non-commissioned officer and served in various military assignments receiving the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM), the Operations Desert Shield medal and the Sea Service Deployment Medal.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BIT) and a Master of Arts in Business Administration (MBA). Sean is also a project management professional (PMP) with a six-sigma certification and various other technology related certifications.



Travis Milner

Maritime Division
TxDOT

Travis Milner brings nearly two decades of experience with the Texas Department of Transportation. His time with the Department began with the Houston District where he was responsible for developing financial plans for highway projects and project portfolio initiatives. From there, Travis took a position involving transportation planning, oversight of Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and contract administration. His time with the Maritime Division began seven years ago, where he was responsible for managing the Division's budget and contract activities. For the last four years, Travis has functioned as the Planning & Strategy Section Director for the Division where he is responsible for addressing the needs of TX ports and

promoting waterborne commerce.

Travis holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Texas A&M University and an MBA with an emphasis on finance from the University of Houston.



Tucker Ferguson

Austin District
TxDOT

Tucker Ferguson, P.E., is the district engineer for the Austin District of the Texas Department of Transportation. Appointed to the position in June 2019, he is responsible for the management, direction and administration of all planning, design, construction and maintenance, and operations programs for nearly 9,500 miles in the 11-county region of central Texas (Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Gillespie, Hays, Lee, Llano, Mason, Travis and Williamson counties).

Tucker is overseeing the largest reconstruction of I-35 in more than 50 years. The multi-billion-dollar Capital Express Program will add one to two managed lanes from SH 45 North to SH 45

Southeast.

Prior to moving to Austin, Tucker served eight years as district engineer for TxDOT's Beaumont District. There, he led the response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

Before joining TxDOT in 2011, Tucker served in a variety of engineering positions over a 22-year career at the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology in 1988. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Texas and in Pennsylvania, and has served on numerous AASHTO technical committees and task forces.

Tucker has been married to his wife Lisa for more than 30 years.



Valerie Iannuccilli

Transportation Programs Division
TxDOT

Valerie joined TxDOT in May 2022 as the Program Training Specialist for the Transportation Program Division. She is the instructor for TXDOTCONNECT and RULIS training.

Valerie has a wide range of experiences including working with Texas Health and Human Services, The University of Texas at Austin, 2nd Nature Entrada (a wilderness therapy program for troubled teenagers and young adults in the mountains of Utah) and working in the space program at Kennedy Space Center. She loves spending time with her husband, and enjoys mountain biking, kayaking, and quilting. She has 2 granddaughters and a grandson on the way.



William Allen

Austin District
TxDOT

William Allen is a Project Estimator for the Austin District at the Texas Department of Transportation. He grew up in Corpus Christi, Houston and San Antonio and graduated in 1986 from Texas A&M with a BS Degree in Building Construction.

Allen started his career in Houston working for Zachry Construction on the US 59 / Beltway 8 Interchange as a traffic control (moving barrels and barricades!) then on a survey team.

He moved to the DFW area and worked on President George Bush Turnpike, SH 78, US 67 Bypass in Cleburne, US 75 and North Dallas toll road projects as Project Controls.

Allen worked in Clarendon, Jamaica for two years as a Project Coordinator on a Mudlake for Jamalco and worked on the estimating teams of and on between projects.

He moved to Austin in 1999 with JD Abrams and worked on the estimating team for the US 183 / 620 project and then transitioned to the field as Project Controls. He worked for a while at Texas Parks & Wildlife in their Infrastructure Division as a project scheduler.

Allen also worked as an estimator for Greater Austin Development on several Central Texas public and private projects. His most recent work experience before coming to TxDOT in 2018 was working as an estimator for 3LW Construction, estimating small to medium sized TxDOT projects all over Texas.



