

June 2020

ASCE Austin Branch Newsletter

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President's Message by Travis Isaacson, P.E.

Summer has arrived in Central Texas and I am excited about our June Membership Meeting. ASCE Austin wants to continue to bring our members ways to connect and learn during these times of social distancing, so we are holding our June 16th meeting as an online Zoom meeting. I hope you will be able to join us for the meeting to hear a presentation on the Vista Ridge Water Pipeline project.

ASCE Austin Branch is continuing our efforts to raise money for the Central Texas Food Bank so that we can help those in our community that have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We set a goal of raising \$5,000 through membership donations, and to date we have raised \$4,200! We are almost there! Please consider giving today.

I'd like to remind members that we will not hold our monthly luncheons in July or August, as we will be off on summer break. We are hopeful that we will be back live with an in-person luncheon at the Phillips Event Center in September. We also have a number of other events that have been rescheduled for Fall 2020. This includes the YMF Golf Tournament, planned for September 11th at Avery Ranch Golf Club, and our annual Continuing Education workshop, planned for October 9th at the J.J. Pickle Research Center.

We will also be announcing and voting in our new 2020-2021 ASCE Austin Board of Direction in June. Our current Board will wrap up their tenure throughout the summer and the new Board will be installed in September. I'm excited for Bradley East, P.E. to lead the Branch as your new President. Bradley is well prepared to take on the responsibilities for our Branch as he has served Austin Branch for many years in various Board and Committee Chair positions. I know the coming year will be a great one filled with new challenges and exciting endeavors.

As I wind down my Presidential term, I would like to extend a big thank you to our current board members and committee members for their ASCE service this past year. It has definitely been an interesting year with some new challenges, but our Board has risen to the occasion and has continued to provide great service and support to our members and the community. I would also like to thank the Austin Branch membership for your continued support of ASCE. It has been an honor to serve as your Austin Branch President.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Linked In](#) and [Instagram](#) for event recaps, upcoming events, relevant news, and updates. If you have any questions about our Branch, please don't hesitate to contact me at 512-203-8767, tisaacson@rios-group.com. Thank you for everything you do to support ASCE!

Travis S. Isaacson, P.E.



Central Texas Food Bank

by Francisco Arce, P.E.



Central Texas still needs your help!!! We're making progress toward our goal, but we've got a long way to go. Please consider donating to support our local community if you can spare any amount!

In response to the global outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the ASCE Austin Branch is committed to helping the Central Texas Food Bank fund-raise to support people facing hunger in the Central Texas area. The ASCE Austin Branch has made a one-time donation of \$5,000 to the Central Texas Food Bank and has set a goal of raising an additional \$5,000 through membership participation.

The link will take you to a secure website set-up by the ASCE Austin Branch through the [Central Texas Food Bank Virtual Food Drive portal](#). Please consider giving today!

June Branch Meeting by Sam Shorter, P.E.

Please join us for our June virtual branch meeting. We will receive a presentation on the Vista Ridge Pipeline Project from Kim Keefer, PE, with Pape-Dawson Engineers. She will discuss accelerated design, permitting hurdles, construction snafus, and the complexities of building a Public-Private Partnership water transmission main. Representatives from Garney (Contractor) and San Antonio Water System (Owner) are planned to present as well.

Date: 6/16/2020 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Topic: AD²: Alternative Delivery to the Second Power (The Vista Ridge Project)



[Register here](#)



Ms. Keefer is a registered professional engineer with over 35 years of proven expertise in public works engineering solving water, wastewater and stormwater concerns as they relate to design, implementation and funding. After a brief relocation to Georgia, she has returned to Texas and Pape-Dawson as the Managing Vice-President of Water and Wastewater.

June Branch Meeting Sponsor by Augustine Verrengia, P.E.



Pape-Dawson Engineers, Inc. provides professional civil engineering consulting in the areas of land development, surveying, transportation, environmental, water resources, hydrology/hydraulics, and geographic information systems. Pape-Dawson opened its Austin office in 2004, and since that time has delivered economically feasible and environmentally responsible solutions for such projects as Domain South End; City, County, and TxDOT survey, roadway, and drainage projects; Living Spaces in Pflugerville; Austin ISD; and more than 75 residential subdivisions throughout the region. With a unique understanding of area issues and positive relationships with various stakeholders, Pape-Dawson provides effective, efficient, and high-quality civil engineering solutions to meet the growing needs of Central Texas.

Support State DOT Revenue Needs Amid Pandemic

ASCE has urged Congress to provide \$50 billion in immediate, and necessary relief for state departments of transportation (state DOTs) as a way to ensure vital transportation projects can continue.

As the current COVID-19 pandemic continues, state DOTs are unable to generate the revenue needed to prevent major disruptions in their ability to operate and maintain their transportation systems. to impact ASCE members and creates prolonged economic uncertainty.

Under the current pandemic, individual state revenues are estimated to be impacted by 45% in the next 18 months. This is a result of expected decline of 50% for state motor fuel taxes, a 67% decline in toll road traffic, and a 77% decline in ferry traffic. Because of this sharp decline, state DOT's ability to provide a match for federal funds will be constrained and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has estimated that state DOTs require \$50 billion in order to continue to operate.

ASCE's 2017 Infrastructure Report Card identified an investment gap of \$2 trillion, half of which is for our nation's surface transportation infrastructure. Now is the time to urge your Members of Congress to support our nation's surface transportation infrastructure and our state DOTs by providing emergency relief.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

ASCE Austin Branch 2020 Continuing Education Workshop by Jason Garza, P.E. and Jane Ellen Carter, E.I.T



Mark your calendars! The Continuing Education Workshop has been rescheduled for October 9th, 2020 at the JJ Pickle Research Center. We are working with the presenters for the rescheduled date. We will continue to monitor the situation through the summer months.

ASCE Austin Branch Sponsorship Opportunities Now Available! by Augustine Verrengia, P.E.

2020-2021 ASCE Austin Branch Sponsorship Opportunities are STILL Available!

We ask that all members consider supporting your local ASCE branch during these uncertain and difficult times. Almost all the functions of the organization are dependent upon these sponsorships and we cannot do all the great things that we do, without YOUR SUPPORT!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

- Annual Sponsors (\$300)
 - Valid for 1 Year after date of purchase.
 - Company logo is displayed on newsletters, mailers, and at ASCE branch meetings.
 - Free postings on the ASCE job board.
- Monthly Branch Meeting sponsors (\$350)
 - Company highlight in event promotion emails.
 - Special recognition at branch meeting event.
 - Opportunity to give a brief introduction of your Company during the event.
- Continuing Education (2021) Event (\$300)
 - Company highlight in event promotion emails.
 - Several additional levels of sponsorship available.
- SPECIAL BUNDLE RATE (\$850)
 - Save \$100 when you pledge to support all three!
 - Includes Annual Sponsorship
 - Includes one credit for monthly branch meeting sponsorship.
 - Includes sponsorship at Continuing Education event.

For more information about the benefits of sponsorship visit <https://www.austinasce.org/sponsors>. If you have any questions or for more information please email sponsorship@austinasce.org.

Thank you,
Augustine Verrengia, P.E.
Sponsorship Chair, ASCE Austin Branch

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASCE May Luncheon

[June 16, Zoom](#)

EWRI Conference

[Postponed Until Summer](#)

SET Talks

[Postponed Until Fall](#)

ASCE YMF Golf Tournament

[Postponed Until September 11](#)

ASCE Continuing Ed Workshop

[Postponed Until October 9](#)

ASCE Job Board

Attention ASCE Austin Branch sponsors! Did you know the ASCE Austin branch has a [JOB BOARD?](#) If you're looking to add new talent to your team, consider advertising on our website. Public entities (cities, counties, TxDOT, etc.) are also invited to post job openings. If you're interested, please contact [Lily Aung](#).

ASCE Austin Leadership Opportunities

If you're looking for ways to get more involved with your local ASCE branch, you're in luck! We're actively recruiting for 2021-2022 Committee Chairs, as well as multiple open positions for EWRI, SEI, and more.

If you are interested in any of our committees, please contact our and our Nominations Committee Chair, Kacey Paul, at kpaul.pe@gmail.com.

ASCE Austin Branch

Continuing Ed Committee

Contact: president@austinasce.org

Community Outreach Committee

Contact: Francisco Arce

communityoutreach@austinasce.org

EWRI

Contact: ewri@austinasce.org

SEI

Contact: sei@austinasce.org

Government Affairs Update by Austin Messerli, PE

With much of society starting to open again, we can see glimmers of life getting back to normal. Unfortunately, there is quite a bit of dust to settle over the next couple of months for the Civil Engineering industry. A significant piece will be seeing the negative impacts on funding and what the State and Federal legislature will do to solve these anticipated shortfalls. ASCE's Key Contact Program works at the grassroots level to advocate and inform members of both State and Federal legislatures on issues impacting our industry. Bills regularly reach members for voting, and the louder the voice our community has, the more impact we can make for the better. Just this week, the "Great American Outdoors Act," which would address billions in deferred maintenance in our National Parks and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation fund, went to the Senate for vote. Correspondence from Key Contact members adds up to a louder voice, but we need your help to make it happen. Visit ASCE's Key Contact Program page and get registered (<https://www.asce.org/keycontacts/>); it only takes a few minutes. Along with the Key Contact Program, if you or someone you know would be interested in being part of the Government Affairs Committee do not hesitate to reach out the GovernmentRelations@austinasce.org.

City of Austin Disparity Study Call for Help

by Sebastian Puente

As part of the City of Austin's Disparity study to examine its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Minority- Women-owned Business Enterprise programs, the study consultant, Colette Holt & Associates, would like to hear about your experiences with the City of Austin's contracting practices. We encourage you to participate in the small group meetings scheduled for September 2020. For more information visit the study website, austin.disparity-study.com or contact the study email austin-study@mwbellow.com.

What is a Disparity Study?

A disparity study involves compilation of evidence to determine whether the City of Austin has a strong basis for implementing race- and gender-conscious contracting remedies for City contracts. To make this determination, the study looks at quantitative as well as qualitative data.

What kinds of Study Data is collected?

There are two types of data gathered during the study: Contract data such as dollars awarded over a particular time period that are analyzed statistically and anecdotal data that is gathered from focus groups, such as Business Owner Interviews that we will be conducting in September.

We are a prime/majority/non-MWBE firm. This study does not pertain to us.

We want to hear from a broad cross-section of firms that includes prime contractors, sub-contractors, certified and non-certified businesses that have done work or potentially could seek work with the City of Austin. It is important to the study to hear all points of view and experiences.

2019-2020 ASCE Austin Branch Officers

PRESIDENT

Travis Isaacson
The Rios Group
(512) 580-5440
president@austinasce.org

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Bradley East
DeSimone Consulting Engineers
(512) 971-3911
presidentelect@austinasce.org

VICE PRESIDENT - PROGRAMS

Sam Shorter
Miller Gray, LLC
(512) 861-5300
vicepresident@austinasce.org

SECRETARY

Roxanne Cook
City of Austin
(512) 974-7995
secretary@austinasce.org

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Paul Hahn
Aguirre & Fields
(512) 609-1526
communications@austinasce.org

TREASURER

Kat Lauer
Texas Engineering Solutions
(512) 904-0505
info@austinasce.org

TREASURER-ELECT

Tyler Dube
Pape-Dawson Engineers
(512) 454-8711
info@austinasce.org

TEXAS SECTION DIRECTOR

Genest Landry
City of Austin
(512) 974-8749
texassection@austinasce.org

YOUNGER MEMBER DIRECTOR

Leanne Cantalupo, EIT
Garver
(512) 485-0020
ymfdirector@austinasce.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Kacey Cubine Paul
City of Marble Falls
(830) 798-6260
pastpresident@austinasce.org

COA Disparity Study Cont'd

How can my members or I participate?

There are several ways to participate:

1. They or you can visit the Study website and submit comments, <http://austin.disparity-study.com/>
2. They or you can submit comments to the study email: austin-study@mwbela.com
3. They or you can attend one of the Business Owner meetings that are tentatively scheduled for the middle of September. Invitations will be going out around the beginning August.

SEI Update by Eric L. Sammarco, PhD, P.E.



**STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE**

Austin Chapter

Greetings from the SEI Austin Chapter! We hope everyone is staying safe and healthy amidst the current COVID-19 situation. As we all try to make the best out of these challenging and uncertain times, we need to remain united and strong as both a community and profession. On that note, we

would like to extend a sincere thank-you to everyone who joined us for our first virtual professional meeting last week. Our very own Mr. Sumanth Cheruku, P.E. from Thornton Tomasetti led a riveting discussion on improving the durability of Texas' reinforced concrete (RC) bridges. The first half of the presentation focused on understanding corrosion mechanisms and leveraging that knowledge to design new bridges with a longer design life, and the second half of the presentation focused on testing to identify and locate corroding reinforcement in existing RC bridge structures.

Structural Engineering Talks (SET) 2020:

It was a tough but necessary decision to postpone SET 2020. The Austin Chapters of SEI and SEAoT, along with our partners TxDOT and the University of Texas at Austin, are currently exploring options for rescheduling the event this fall. It is not possible to know for sure what the future entails regarding the current COVID-19 situation; however, we are tentatively planning for an Oct./Nov. timeframe. Please stay tuned for additional details and updates toward the end of the summer.



As always, you can stay plugged into the SEI Austin Chapter via our [website](#), where you'll find the latest and greatest on upcoming events and chapter leadership. We always welcome your thoughts on future technical and other special events – particularly during these challenging times. If there is something you'd like to do, then we'd like to hear about it. Please drop us a line at sei@austinasce.org.

2019-2020 ASCE Austin Committee Chairs

COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORD
Francisco Arce
communityoutreach@austinasce.org

GOVT RELATIONS COORD
Austin Messerli
governmentrelations@austinasce.org

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
Colton Fisher
membership@austinasce.org

SCHOLARSHIPS COORDINATOR
Genest Landry
scholarships@austinasce.org

SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR
Augustine Verrengia
sponsorship@austinasce.org

WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Lily Aung
webmaster@austinasce.org

EWRI INSTITUTE
Will Huff
ewri@austinasce.org

SEI INSTITUTE
Scott Wallace
sei@austinasce.org

YMF FORUM
Leanne Cantalupo
yfm@austinasce.org

Younger Member Forum News by Katherine Smith, EIT

Keep an eye out for more upcoming events this spring. We look forward to meeting you! If you are interested in learning more about ASCE YMF Austin, please contact our president Marita Moya at marita.moya@halff.com

We awarded our YMF scholarship to Shanti Ramsingh and Ariana Sanchez, congratulations!

A new date has been chosen for the Golf Tournament: Friday, September 11th. Mark your calendars!

If you are interested in joining the YMF leadership team reach out to us, we're excited to meet you!

We can't wait to see everyone soon, until then stay safe!



The graphic features a blue and white color scheme. On the left, there is a logo for the ASCE Texas Student Symposium, which includes a stylized bridge and a sailboat. The text 'ASCE Texas STUDENT SYMPOSIUM' is positioned below the logo. On the right, a photograph shows three people in kayaks on a body of water. The text 'Innovation. Building the Future Together' is written diagonally across the bottom of the photo. In the bottom right corner, the ASCE logo is displayed with the text 'Hosted by ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER University of Texas at Austin'. At the bottom left, the text 'Save The Date' is written in a large, bold font, followed by 'April 15-17, 2021 // Austin, Texas' and 'For more information contact utexas.asce@gmail.com'.

Thank You To Our Branch Sponsors!



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