

2022 WTS Professional Development Seminar

September 23, 2022



Austin, TX

It Takes a Village: Spotlighting the Broad Range of Roles in Transportation

Friday, September 23, 2022

8 am - 2 pm at Maggiano's in the Domain

Panels:

Marketing and Communication | Environmental | Engineering | Planning

The 2022 Professional Development Seminar will include four sessions focused on different disciplines within the transportation industry: Marketing and Communication; Environmental, Engineering, and Planning.

During each session, representatives from different local agencies and firms will discuss how they collaborate across disciplines and at different career stages to improve our transportation systems. They will share lessons learned from their experience and explore how to best prepare our workforce for the future. Our keynote speaker, Rob Spillar, will share from his experience as the former Director of the Austin Transportation Department, highlighting insights on how the transportation community can work together effectively to accomplish needed transportation improvements.

Panelists will include speakers from all levels of transportation: entry level, mid-level, and upper-level management.

Schedule

8:15 am - Check-in

8:30 am - Coffee and Continental Breakfast

8:50 am - Welcoming Remarks

9:00 am - 9:45 am: Panel 1

Marketing and Communications

- Shuronda Robinson (Adisa Communications, CEO)
- Sylvia Shelton (Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority, Communications Manager)
- Lori Reza (Freese and Nichols, Inc., Marketing Coordinator)

9:45 am - 10:30 am: Panel 2

Environmental

- Shari Cannon-Mackey (Burns & McDonnell, NEPA/Environmental Planning for Transportation Project Manager)
- Scott Pletka, Ph.D. (TxDOT, Supervisor, Archaeological Studies Branch)
- Meghan Lind (Stantec, Technical Services Manager/Senior Ecologist & Project Manger)

10:30 am - 10:45 am: Break

10:45 am - 11:30 am: Panel 3

Engineering

- Akila Thamizharasan, PE, PTOE, PMP (TxDOT Austin District, Director of Advance Project Development)
- Santiago Araque, PE (Kimley-Horn, Traffic Engineer)
- Christine Cheng, EIT (HDR, Traffic Engineer)

11:45 am - 12:45 pm: Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Keynote Speaker

- Rob Spillar, PE (STV, Smart Cities National Director)

12:45 pm - 1:00 pm: Break

1:00 pm - 1:45 pm: Panel 4

Planning

- Annick Beaudet, MPA, AICP (Project Connect, Mobility Officer)
- Jacob Calhoun, AICP (Austin Transit Partnership, Director of Program-Wide Contracts)
- Cecley Hill (Asakura Robinson, Urban Planner)

1:45 pm - 2:00 pm: Closing Remarks

Attendees can earn four (4) CE hours from the American Planning Association for participating in the 2022 Professional Development Seminar.