



**American Society of Civil Engineers**

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

May 2007

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### Columbia Section Meeting

**Date:** May 16th, 2007

**Place:** Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

**Meal:** Buffet (Chef's choice) \$15 per person.  
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

**Topic:** Benton Franklin Council of Governments Transportation Plans and a brief summary of the new Columbia River Bridge Concept

**Speaker:** Mark Kushner, BFCOG Transportation Director

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentations will begin at 12:00.

**RSVP:** Paul Harmsen, [pharmsen@mackaysposito.com](mailto:pharmsen@mackaysposito.com) or 509-374-4248 by May 15th, 2007.

President's Remarks:

Dear Members:

Our speaker this month will be Mark Kushner, Transportation Programs Manager/Director for the Benton –Franklin Council of Governments, presenting on short and long range transportation planning for the Benton, Franklin, and Walla Walla Counties. Additionally, he will touch on the new Columbia River Bridge concept. This is sure to be an interesting and relevant presentation! Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this month's Columbia Section lunch meeting.

I would like to thank the Destination Imagination (DI) Team from Amistad Elementary for presenting a unique and very interesting program at the Columbia Section lunch meeting last month. The team gave multi-disciplinary presentation covering structural design, teamwork, creative & critical thinking, theater arts, and architectural design. This Amistad team is headed to Knoxville, Tennessee for the global finals later this month—we wish them the best of luck! The Destination Imagination is the largest creative problem-solving competition in the world; this is an excellent program for developing the next generation of engineers as the students develop important skills such as team work, public speaking, scheduling, and critical thinking. If you are interested in learning more about the Destination Imagination program please visit the website at [www.destinationimagination.org](http://www.destinationimagination.org) for more information.

Hope to see you this month!

Sincerely,  
Paul Harmsen  
ASCE Columbia Section President

***TOPIC:***

**Benton Franklin Council of Governments**

Short Range Transportation Plan 2007-2009,  
Long Range Transportation Plan 2006-2025,  
and a quick summary of a new Columbia River Bridge concept.

***SPEAKER:***

**Mark Kushner**  
Transportation Director

Mark was born, raised, and educated in Washington State. A graduate of Central Washington University in 1977, he holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Land Studies and a Minor in Environmental Science.

Upon graduation from college, Mark was hired as an Engineering Technician for the Washington State Department of Transportation where he was employed until 1988. Plan preparation, special studies, and public transportation planning along the I-82 and I-182 freeway corridor were his specialty.

For the past eighteen years he has been Transportation Programs Manager/Director for the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments. The Federal Highways, Federal Transit Administration, Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and other regional transportation planning programs are within his supervision.

Mark has numerous years of experience with the Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP), a good relationship with elected officials, past Chair of the Washington State Metropolitan and Rural Statewide Planning Committee, past President of the local Chapter of the Benton-Franklin-Walla Walla Counties Good Roads and Transportation Association, and is the current Secretary of the Washington State Good Roads and Transportation Association. He is also a member of the TRIDEC Air Task Force on economic development.

The Council of Governments staff has received numerous compliments for their work on Certifying Transportation Elements under the Growth Management Act, Regional Transportation Plan efforts, and Transit Special studies.