



American Society of Civil Engineers

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

# Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

## Newsletter

December, 2009

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### Columbia Section Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009

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

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

**Topic:** Status of the ARRA projects and the upcoming  
Columbia River Crossing project

**Speaker:** Mark Kushner, Transportation Director  
Benton Franklin Council of Governments

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentation will begin at Noon.

RSVP to: Paul Smith, [Psmith@mackaysposito.com](mailto:Psmith@mackaysposito.com) or 509-374-4248  
by December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### President's Remarks

Dear Members:

In years past we have not met during the month of December due to all of the additional preparation, planning and travel that most of us face during the holiday season. This year is different and I hope that you will be able to attend our lunch meeting next week.

Last month I passed on the goals that were established by the officers for 2009/2010. We are going to need your help in getting these things accomplished. Please consider what role you can take in helping us get these things accomplished.

If I don't get to talk to each of you personally next meeting, I hope you and your family have a Merry Christmas. Thanks again for your support of the Columbia Section.

Sincerely,

Jay Marlow, P.E.  
Columbia Section, President

## Presentation

### **Federal/State Economic Stimulus Packages (ARRA and the Tiger Programs) and the upcoming Columbia River Crossing project.**

Mark will discuss the current status of the economic stimulus program (ARRA) and the regional transportation projects that received funding this summer.

In addition, the seven TIGER grants submitted to congress by the governor and local jurisdictions will be discussed.

ALSO the BFCG Board has moved forward on the study to select a location for the next Columbia River bridge crossing...Come hear the latest!

## Speaker

### **Mark Kushner, Transportation Director Benton Franklin Council of Governments**

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 twenty 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 President 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.