



The City of Tacoma: Downtown Broadway Local Improvement District (LID) Project



The Broadway Local Improvement District: a \$15 million project, which utilized the Local Improvement District process that will upgrade the Right-of-Way (ROW) Infrastructure (roadway, curbs/gutters, sidewalks, planting areas, street lighting, etc.), all utilities (sewers, water mains, power supply, cable and communication systems, etc.) and creating a “Urban Village” within a 100-year old section of

downtown Tacoma between South 9th Street & Division Street and Market Street and Broadway Street.

January Meeting

ASCE LUNCH Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 28th

Landmark Convention Ctr

47 St Helens AV, Tacoma

Social: 11:30am

Lunch: noon

Program: 12:30pm

Cedar plank salmon with roasted red potatoes, Caesar salad, and dessert.

Cost: \$30/person; spouses and guests welcome; students half/price

RSVP: Contact Kay Hoke at khoke@ci.tacoma.wa.us or 253.591.5760 by Friday, Jan. 23rd

Speakers

Ralph Rodriguez, and Mark Henry

Ralph Rodriguez has been employed with the City of Tacoma since 1975 and has worked in a variety of sections/divisions within the Public Works Department, including Street Maintenance, Right of Way, Building and Land Use, and, since 1982, Local Improvement Districts. For the last nine years he has administered Tacoma's LID program and is responsible for the formation of a diverse group of LIDs, including, but not limited to: street and alley paving, sidewalks, street lighting, sanitary sewer mains, new underground electrical service as well as the conversion of overhead utilities to underground. Ralph also is responsible for tracking and collecting fees related to all sanitary sewer connection charges.

He has been tapped as a resource by jurisdictions seeking to learn how to create and administer LIDs within the state of Washington as well as in Vancouver, B.C. and has contributed to the 4th & 5th Editions of Washington State Local Improvement District Manual sponsored by Municipal Research and Services Center and the Washington Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Ralph earned an Associate Degree from Green River Community College and a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Pacific Lutheran University.

Mark Henry has considerable private sector construction experience serving in various capacities for 24 years before being employed by the City of Tacoma. The last 14 years Mark has worked as a Project Manager within the Puget Sound Region, primarily in civil construction and specializing in environmental remediation.

He serves as a project construction manager on the Broadway Local Improvement District project. Other notable projects include the 'D' Street Grade Separation and Dock Street Improvements. The 'D' Street overpass, received the Puget Sound Regional Council '20-20' Vision award, the Dock Street project received WSDOT's "2008's Local Programs Best Project".

President's Corner with Jason Moline



I was flipping through television channels a few weeks ago, and stumbled upon the PBS series “*Design Squad*”. It was interesting to see young people working together to tackle engineering challenges, much like our ASCE concrete canoe team did when I was in college. I often see concerns discussed

in the media that not enough young people are pursuing technical careers such as civil engineering. The show seemed to do a good job of pursuing its goal of increasing students’ knowledge of engineering and the design process.

The stereotype of engineers is that we sit in a corner by ourselves, calculating through math and science problems all day long. With the exception of a few design courses, college classes can frequently appear to reinforce this idea. Of course, strong technical skills are important. The collapse of the I-35W Mississippi River bridge in Minneapolis, which was caused in part by undersized gusset plates, is a sad and dramatic example of what can happen when technical issues are overlooked.

However, the reality is the most successful engineers also have business, management, and leadership skills. It is vital that engineers have a way to communicate to their clients—politicians, businesspeople, developers, voters, etc.—that the benefits of their proposals exceed the costs. It is also critical that engineers be able to resolve disagreements with contractors, stakeholders,

employees, and bosses. There is also a lot of practical, hands-on knowledge of how to build something that is gained from experience, rather than from crunching numbers.

Additionally, engineering can make a positive difference in peoples’ lives. To paraphrase ASCE Society President D. Wayne Klotz, water resource engineers prevent the spread of disease, transportation engineers enable people to get to their jobs and be productive, and structural engineers allow people to live and congregate safely. I could go on for paragraphs about all the other specializations within civil engineering, but I don’t think many section members need to think too hard to know the importance of the engineered systems they work on.

Sometimes it is easy to focus on the details of our work so much that we do not articulate the big picture well. Yet, to attract the right mix of skills in future engineering professionals who will be maintaining and expanding the infrastructure we have built, it is necessary for us to communicate what we do.

Regards,

Jason Moline

2008-2009 Section President

ASCE Tacoma-Olympia

Jason Moline has worked for the City of Tacoma for the past six years. He is currently a Professional Engineer for the Supply section of Tacoma Water. He holds degrees in Civil Engineering from Stanford (MS '02) and the University of Washington (BS '01).

Help Guide the Future of Our Nation’s Infrastructure – Renew Today!

Have you renewed your 2009 ASCE membership? ASCE dues were due on Dec. 31, 2008, which means if you haven’t renewed your 2009 membership, you run the risk of losing your valuable ASCE benefits, such as membership in your local ASCE Section or Branch. Plus, 2009 has the potential to be a significant year for ASCE and civil engineers. As we prepare to welcome a new president who has promised to place infrastructure renewal at the forefront of domestic issues, the Obama administration has already tapped ASCE to play a leading role in deciding where money from the stimulus package would best be spent.

Take pride in your role in educating the public and policy leaders about the importance of infrastructure

to our nation's safety and economic security. And support the fight to renew our nation’s infrastructure by renewing your 2009 ASCE membership.

You can renew your ASCE and Section/Branch membership today by going to (<http://www.asce.org/renewal>) .

Thank You!!

Many thanks to the section members who participated in our raffles last year. At the September section meeting with SEAW, we raised \$55 for the American Red Cross for the hurricane relief. Also, at the November section meeting, we raised \$77 for the Salvation Army Food Bank.

“Engineers Make the *Difference*...
They Provide the *Quality* of Life!”

SECTION CALENDAR and ENGINEERING RESOURCES



Section Calendar

Tacoma/Olympia
ASCE Section
Meetings/Activities

Meetings are **generally** held the second Tuesday of each month*. This is a tentative meeting schedule. Please call any board member if you have questions.

Friday, February 20, 2009 – Engineer's Week dinner at St. Martin's University, Lacey

Thursday, March 12, 2009 – Lunch with Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 – Dinner at St. Martin's University, Lacey – Light Rail Extension into Tacoma

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 – Dinner in Tacoma – Lake Tapps Water to Bellevue

June-August 2009 – Summer recess

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 – Dinner with Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW)

Tuesday, October 13, 2009 – Dinner in Tacoma
*DATE/TIMES/LOCATIONS TO BE

ANNOUNCED/VERIFIED

Tacoma/Olympia ASCE Board Meetings:

Local Board Meetings are open and generally held the first Monday of the month at 5:30pm. Locations vary. Please check the WEB site, this calendar, or contact the president for confirmation.

See Your AD Here!

Advertise in our newsletter!

Post a business card sized ad in our newsletter for \$200 per year. **Interested?**

Contact:

Jason Moline...253.396.3383
jmoline@cityoftacoma.org

Younger Member Forum Activities And Update

Younger Member Newsletter

www.asce.org/inside/cym_pubs.cfm

For more information on Upcoming Events & Activities for Younger Member programs, contact: Brook Maples at brookm@gmail.com

Continuing Ed

For scheduled seminars in your geographic area are available on ASCE's website at www.asce.org/conted/seminars.

These in-depth, practice-oriented programs are produced by ASCE's Continuing Education Department and may be of interest to many ASCE members in your Sections and Branches. We would greatly appreciate if you would consider positing information on these seminars in your newsletters and on your websites.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact:

Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education Registrar at kjarvis@asce.org or

Michael Cook at mcook@asce.org.

TRANSPEED Courses

For a complete list of courses, visit the website at <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/Transpeed/index.html> for specific course descriptions and dates. **Click on the specific course link to view the course outline.** or contact:

Julie Smith

Engineering Professional Programs

Phone: 206-543-5539

Toll-Free: 1-866-791-1275

2009 Professional Development Short Courses

For a complete description of the course and registration information visit our website

<http://www.engr.washington.edu> or call us at: Engineering Professional Programs, University of Washington, phone: 206.543.5539

(fax) 206.543.2352 or

(toll free) 1.866.791.1275

Stephanie Strom, Program Mgr:
ssstrom@u.washington.edu

Positions Wanted/ Positions Open

Members, contact Jason Moline to post your job opening or your resume in this newsletter.



Tacoma/Olympia Section Board 2008 - 2009

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contact any board member for info

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