

Annual Meeting of the City Engineers Association of Minnesota

January 31 – February 2, 2024

DoubleTree Hilton, Bloomington, Minnesota



Wednesday, January 31, 2024

7:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 **Welcome**

Mark DuChene, City of Faribault, CEAM President

8:35 **Keynote – Hand Over Fist: Overcoming the Five Main Challenges to Change (0.150 CEU)**

Moderator: Eric Seaburg

Presenter: *George Hawkins*, Founder and CEO, Moonshot Missions

10:05 Refreshment Break

10:20 **Smart Cities – The What and Why (0.833 CEU)**

Moderator: Jennifer Edison

Presenters: *Marc Culver*, Director of Smart Cities Initiatives, Bolton & Menk, *Ross Bintner*, Engineering Services Manager, City of Edina, *Phil Olson*, City Engineer, City of Minnetonka

Smart Cities is a new catch phrase buzzing around our industry. In this session, we will explore what Smart Cities is today, how other states and cities are implementing new technologies and applications and how this initiative can be scalable for even the smallest community. We will also learn about two local projects that have used sensors and software to become smarter in one area and improve their operations.

11:10 **LRRB: Your Genius/Your Dollars (1.166 CEU)**

Moderator: Jen Desrude

Presenters: *Susan Miller*, Director, SRF Consulting Group, *Rena Kuehl*, Director of Safety and Research, SRF Consulting Group

This quick hitting ‘what you need to know’ session shares how LRRB projects can help you and your city along with a preview of the upcoming LRRB concurrent session track.

11:20 Awards & Scholarship Recognition

12:20 Lunch

Concurrent Sessions A (0.125 CEU)**1. When Do Ponds Work? How Do You Know? What Should You Do?****Moderator:** Michael Thompson**Presenters:** *John Gulliver*, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota, *Poornima Natarajan*, Research Associate, University of Minnesota, *Ross Bintner*, Engineering Services Manager, City of Edina, *Ryan Johnson*, Environmental Manager, City of Roseville, *Tom Wesolowski*, Director of Public Works, City of Shoreview, *Ben Janke*, Research Associate, University of Minnesota

Stormwater ponds and wetlands across a wide variety of characteristics (e.g., watershed history, age, size, depth, aquatic vegetation) are used to treat stormwater or manage pollutant flux to downstream waters, removing a significant portion of sediment and associated pollutants in runoff (e.g., phosphorus, nitrogen, hydrocarbons, and metals) prior to the runoff being released downstream. There is recent evidence that many wetlands and old stormwater ponds are releasing phosphorus from bottom sediments and likely exporting phosphorus to downstream surface water bodies. The potential for phosphorus re-release from accumulated sediments in wetlands and ponds and factors related to climate, watershed, pond characteristics that regulate phosphorus release or burial are important in controlling phosphorus dynamics in ponds, and returning them to their full water quality treatment function. Retention of phosphorus is critical because phosphate, a dissolved form of phosphorus, sustains algal and cyanobacteria growth and causes a wide range of water quality impairments in the ponds and downstream waters including algal blooms, excess floating plants, taste, and odor problems.

After an introduction of the issue, the panel will address pond management examples, describe a Pond Assessment Tool developed to identify and evaluate ponds at risk for poor phosphorus water quality and export of phosphorus to receiving water bodies, and discuss stormwater pond maintenance and wetland management based on project results and data synthesis of construction and maintenance costs.

2. A Smarter Approach to Intelligent Signs and Pedestrian Crossing Improvements**Moderator:** Paul Sandy**Presenters:** *Nicole Bitzan*, Safety and Research Lead, SRF Consulting Group, *Chris Brown*, Transportation Planning Lead, SRF Consulting, *John Maczko*, Traffic Lead, MSA Professional Services, Inc., *Bryce LeBrun*, Project Manager, Dakota County

This LRRB focused concurrent session will encompass the benefits and key insights from the recently completed LRRB study focused on the best use of active warning devices (like RRFBS- Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons) and how to evaluate and evaluate intelligent devices to improve pedestrian crossings.

3. Intersection Control 101: What You Need to Know About Intersection Control Evaluations (ICE)**Moderator:** Andjela Tomovic**Presenters:** *Kenneth Hansen*, District 3 Traffic Engineer, MnDOT, *Zachary Whitley*, Assistant District 3 Traffic Engineer, MnDOT, *Jon Hagen*, Transportation Operations Engineer, City of Maple Grove

The presenters will go through principles of Intersection Control Evaluations (ICE). An ICE is typically performed when a traffic control change is considered. ICE guides an agency through various alternatives to the best performing intersection type. What is an ICE, why do we need it, and when should we plan this study

for a given project are just some of the answers you will receive. The presentation will run through a recent ICE example from the trunk highway system, allowing for your questions. Most importantly MnDOT will provide tips to what MnDOT is looking for when local agencies propose changes on the trunk highway. We will also talk about performing an ICE on a city and/or county intersection, how that might vary from a Trunk Highway evaluation and also present some examples that resulted in a signal or a roundabout and explain why.

4. Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): What City Engineers Need to Know

Moderator: Janna Kieffer

Presenters: *Brian Rivers*, Compliance Engineer, Minnesota Department of Health, *Scott Kyser*, Engineer, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, *Andri Dahlmeier*, 3M Settlement Technical Coordinator, MPCA

Known as the “forever chemicals” Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals that have the strongest carbon-fluorine bonds in organic chemistry. In other words, they don’t break down naturally. Because of their persistence, and the potential health risks to humans and the environment, some PFAS have been, or are being, phased out from use in many parts of the world. There are useful applications for PFAS in consumer and industrial products, but there are also drawbacks when considering their impact on the environment and the health of people, plants, and animals. State agencies in Minnesota are working together to manage the state’s growing problem of PFAS substances. These chemicals have been found in groundwater and surface water throughout Minnesota and have seeped into some drinking water systems. The State of Minnesota considers PFAS hazardous substances and has developed long-term comprehensive strategies to address PFAS contamination.

State agency representatives from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will update city engineers on the PFAS-related topics below as well as participate in a Q & A session.

- Implementation of the state’s PFAS Blueprint
 - What was learned from the MDH PFAS sampling of public water systems
 - Impacts of new drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs)
 - Considerations for municipal wastewater treatment, including costs of PFAS treatment
- Monitoring and site-specific surface water quality criteria for PFAS

5. Electric Vehicle Charging Strategies and Experiences

Moderator: Will Manchester

Presenters: *Erin Kayser*, Program Coordinator – Electric Vehicle Carshare and Public Charging Network, City of Saint Paul, *Amy Hanson*, Fleet and Facilities Manager, City of Plymouth, *Emily Ziring*, Sustainability Manager, City of St. Louis Park, *Adam Burr*, Account Manager, Xcel Energy

Public and private electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure continues to be a growing issue as the nation’s use and demand for electric vehicles continues to grow. This session will share the strategies and experiences of three Minnesota cities working with and implementing EV infrastructure. We will also hear from a representative from Xcel Energy to share information about implementation along with anticipated changes with upcoming legislation.

Concurrent Sessions B (0.125 CEU)**6. Stormwater BMPs – Innovative Tools to Improve Inspection and Maintenance Prioritization****Moderator:** Janna Kieffer**Presenters:** *Jessica Wilson*, Water Resources Manager, City of Edina, *Paige Ahlborg*, Watershed Project Manager, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, *Kristin Seaman*, Environmental Resources Coordinator, City of Woodbury

Over the past decades, thousands of stormwater best management practices have been constructed across our communities to protect our water resources. Cities and their local government partners, such as watershed districts, are utilizing innovative prioritization approaches and implementing more rigorous and consistent inspection, operations, and maintenance programs to evaluate and address the dozens of types of stormwater practices previously installed. This session will feature the work of several organizations, including:

1. Development of an inspection program for publicly- and privately-owned stormwater practices using mobile inspection protocols and a GIS-based inspection dashboard to help city staff monitor inspection progress and maintenance resolution.
2. Using mobile inspection tools with a condition scoring system to prioritize infrastructure maintenance.
3. Using existing modeling tools to prioritize inspection and maintenance of ponds to maximize water quality benefits.
4. Using asset management software system(s) to manage stormwater BMP inspection and maintenance.

7. Effectively Establishing and Utilizing Traffic Safety Committees – A Follow-Up to the LRRB**Technical Report****Moderator:** George Bender**Presenters:** *Erik Henriksen*, Project Engineer, City of Chanhassen, *Seng Tongvanh*, City Engineer/Utilities Director, City of Savage, *Tom Sachi*, Project Manager, SRF Consulting Group, *Matt Hardegger*, Transportation Engineer, City of Richfield

This presentation will include a panel discussion from various City's that have established Traffic Safety Committee's to service the Public. Presenters from the City's of Chanhassen, Farmington, and Savage will share information on how they process and respond to a traffic-related concern brought forth from a member of the Public. This presentation will include a discussion related to how the LRRB Guidance Document published in December 2017 and titled 'Addressing Citizen Requests for Traffic Safety Concerns' was utilized in the development and continued refinement of the panel City's Traffic Safety Committees. This will include best practices implemented and lessons learned. A member of the LRRB technical report team will also be on the panel to offer discussion and thoughts related to the development of the guidance document.

8. Financing 101**Moderator:** Bob Simmons**Presenters:** *Michael Thompson*, Public Works Director, City of Plymouth, *Deb Heiser*, Engineering Director, City of St. Louis Park, *Julie Long*, City Engineer, City of Bloomington, *Luke Lortie*, Metro State Aid Programs Engineer

Cities finance their projects in a variety of different ways, including General Fund, Federal Aid, State Aid, Special Assessments, Tax Increment Financing and Tax Abatement, Franchise Fees, and Utility Enterprise

Funds, to name a few. A panel of experts in financing construction projects will expand upon how cities fund projects, giving real world examples of project funding breakdowns, and when you can and cannot use particular funding sources. This session will expand upon the Project Funding session that was presented at the 2023 CEAM Conference.

9. STRIPES: Retroreflective Pavement Markings

Moderator: Jennifer Edison

Presenters: *Renaë Kuehl*, Director of Safety and Research, SRF Consulting Group, *Jon Jackels*, Project Manager –ITS/CAV, SRF Consulting Group

Rules Rules Rules - this LRRB focused concurrent session will help you understand the new FHWA retroreflectivity rules and will include an overview of the recently completed LRRB study along with a tool developed by the LRRB that guides decision making and the best investment in STRIPES.

10. The Art of Persuasion

Moderator: Eric Seaburg

Presenters: *George Hawkins*, Founder and CEO, Moonshot Missions

4:30 Reception

Thursday, February 1, 2024

7:00 a.m. Past Presidents' Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. **Welcome**

8:05 **County Engineer's Update (0.025 CEU)**

Moderator: Jen Desrude

Presenters:

8:20 **Legal Issues for Cities (0.125 CEU)**

Moderator: Mark DuChene

Presenters: *Jeffery Coleman*, Attorney, Coleman & Erickson, LLC

Communities and city engineers face many different forms of legal issues in day-to-day work and on public infrastructure projects. Public officials have a duty to manage risk to the community while balancing the protection of health, safety, and welfare of the general public. This topic will include discussion, case studies, and best practices on hot button legal issues including but not limited to personal liability in public duty; public immunity; approaches and best practices with liquidated damages; risk management in construction contracts; prescriptive rights; indemnity; and other legal issues and case studies that many of us as public officials have or will face in a career of public service. Attorney Jeff Coleman focuses his legal practice on construction law, professional liability defense, concrete construction, and general business law, including insurance and coverage. In addition to handling major cases, much of his practice involves advising his clients on contracts, contract negotiations, claims avoidance and early resolution of potential claims. Jeff's afternoon concurrent session titled "Contracts 101" will cover the nuts and bolts of well written and executed construction contracts revolving around bid law, bonds, insurance and other contract related topics.

9:30 **Ethics (0.100 CEU)**
Moderator: Joe Rhein
Presenter: *Chad Weinstein*, President, Ethical Leaders In Action,

Chad Weinstein holds a PhD in ethics and is Founder and President of Ethical Leaders in Action. He is a practical ethicist and consultant who has worked with numerous clients in both the private and public sectors, including several cities. Chad has developed dozens of hours of ethics curriculum, drawing upon a basis of authentic stories. He has presented at the CEAM Conference several times and his sessions consistently rank at or near the top score on conference evaluations.

Professional ethics encompasses many aspects – trust, relationship building, collaboration and teamwork, problem solving, and decision making. Chad will provide an engaging, thought provoking and entertaining session on these elements, allowing attendees to employ the information in their work. The content of this session will also count toward the continuing education requirement for ethics in Minnesota PE licensure.

10:30 Refreshment Break

10:50 **Lead Service Line Inventory (0.116 CEU)**
Moderator: Steve Winter
Presenter: *Corey Mathisen*, Principal Engineer, Minnesota Department of Health, *Kaitlin Swanson*, Professional Civil Engineer, Saint Paul Regional Water Services, *Jeff Powell*, GIS Team Leader, MSA, *Dale Reed*, Public Works Director, White Bear Township, *Dan Nesler*, Group Manager, TKDA

All Public Water Systems must complete and submit to the state a lead service line inventory by October 16, 2024. We will have a panel discussion to include the following:
Minnesota Department of Health with Compliance and Guidance.

Community examples using GIS inventorIntersection and progress.

LSL Inventory and Replacement Programs from Saint Paul Regional Water Service ‘Lead Free SPRWS - A 10 Year LSL Replacement Program’ and St. Cloud Utilities ‘St. Cloud LSL Inventory Process’

12:00 Lunch

1:10 **Concurrent Sessions C (0.125 CEU)**

11. Navigating MS4 Permitting – Stormwater Management BMP’s for Linear/Urban Projects
Moderator: Will Manchester
Presenters: *Emily Jennings*, Senior Water Resources Engineer, SEH, *Todd Smith*, Principal Engineer, MPCA, *Eric Vogel*, Water Resources Engineer, Transportation Project Delivery, Hennepin County

With the new linear MS4 permit requirements in place for the past few years, join us for a session discussing policy overview and what creative municipalities and counties are doing to meet these regulations.

12. LRRB Potpourri – Research Implementation for Cities

Moderator: Jen Desrude

Presenters: *Mike Marti*, Director, SRF Consulting Group, *Sue Miller*, Director, SRF Consulting Group, *Katherine Stanley*, Training and Technical Assistance Manager, Center for Transportation Studies

This LRRB focused concurrent session will highlight and take a deeper dive into numerous recent LRRB projects that are tailored to the needs of cities. The speakers will share the research, best practices, and implementation of multiple recently completed LRRB studies including mini roundabouts, boulevard trees, and workforce development.

13. Contracts 101

Moderator: Bob Moberg

Presenters: *Jeffery Coleman*, Attorney, Coleman & Erickson, LLC

Well written and sound contract documents between owners, engineers/architects, and contractors are one of the most important parts of a successful project. On the contrary, poorly written or executed contracts can lead to increased risk on projects and often increases the likelihood of litigation or spendy legal fees, especially when things start to go south. In this introductory contracts 101 session, Attorney Jeff Coleman, PE, FACI will get into the basics of well written contract documents, with focuses on statutory thresholds based on estimated costs, required and optional bonds, insurance requirements, simple form agreements for smaller projects, and a bevy of additional contract related topics.

14. Title VI – Do You Have a Plan?

Moderator: Eric Seaburg

Presenters: *Don Simmons*, Title VI Coordinator | Office of Civil Rights, MnDOT, *Deb Heiser*, Engineering Director, City of St. Louis Park

If your agency receives funds from the federal government, your agency should have a Title VI plan. If you just asked yourself, what is a Title VI plan? This is the session for you!

Creating a Title VI plan is not hard if you know what to expect, but there can be challenges and potential pitfalls if you don't. This session highlights how your agency can achieve Title VI compliance.

The presenters will explain the process while interweaving stories and experiences from developing a Title VI plan to help you leave the session with confidence to guide your agency through the process.

15. City of Robbinsdale WTP: Planning, Design, Construction, and Start-Up

Moderator: George Bender

Presenters: *Richard McCoy*, Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of Robbinsdale, *Aaron Vollmer*, Client Program Leader, Ae2S

The City of Robbinsdale recently determined there was a need to construct a new WTP facility in order to better serve their residents. This presentation will encompass the entire duration of the project. Specifically it will discuss the initial planning and feasibility of a new facility, the scoping of the new improvements necessary to service the City, funding for the planned assets, overall communications with the public and City Council, the design of the facility, numerous photographs from the construction of the facility, and initial start-up and operation of the new WTP.

2:25 Refreshment Break

2:50 **SS4A Funding – Preventing the Worst By Putting Safety First (0.100 CEU)**

Moderator: Steven Prusak

Presenters: *Kristi Sebastian*, Safety & Traffic Operations Engineer, FHWA | Minnesota Division Office, *Tony Kutzke*, Assistant Engineering Director / City Engineer, City of Woodbury, *Matt Leonard*, Public Works Director/ City Engineer, City of Monticello

Local road safety action plans are gaining attention as a tool for reducing roadway fatalities and serious injuries. In this session you will hear from FHWA Minnesota Division on the importance of a Local Road Safety Action Plan and the funding available through Safe Streets for All (SS4A) to help local agencies develop and implement these plans. You will then hear from city representatives who have applied for and received this federal funding and are at varying stages of developing their Local Road Safety Action Plan. They will share their experiences with the plan development, distribution, and use of the federal funds, and how they plan to use their action plans, once completed.

3:50 **State Demographer Center Update (0.100 CEU)**

Moderator: Tony Kutzke

Presenters: *Megan Dayton*, Senior Demographer, MN State Demographic Center

Changing demographics impact industry workforce planning, preparation and recruiting. Senior Demographer Megan Dayton will provide an update on demographic trends and projections.

Megan Dayton is a Senior Demographer at Minnesota's State Demographic Center. Since 2012, she has been responsible for preparing demographic projections for the State of Minnesota, 13 Economic Development Regions, and 87 counties. Serving in this role, Megan is Minnesota's state representative to the Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Projections (FSCPP) with the U.S. Census Bureau. Megan's work involves the creation of school district estimates upon request for intercensal levy cycle funding and providing data analysis for state agencies, councils, and legislators.

4:50 Reception

Friday, February 2, 2024

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. **Welcome**

8:05 **State Aid Update – (0.050 CEU)**

Moderator: Kristine Elwood

Presenter: *Ted Schoenecker*, PE, Assistant Division Director, MnDOT State Aid

State Aid staff will provide an update on various items and activities that impact, affect, and benefit local agencies.

8:35 **MnDOT Commissioner of Transportation Update (0.050 CEU)**

Moderator: Kristine Elwood

Presenter: *Jean Wallace*, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation

The MnDOT Commissioner will provide an update on MnDOT activities as well as state-wide priorities and initiatives.

- 9:05 **Navigating a Hybrid Workplace: Trends in the Industry (0.125 CEU)**
Moderator: Brandon Stenglein
Presenters: *Dawn Baker*, Director of Learning and Development, City of Minneapolis, *Joyce Hottinger*, SPHR, Assistant HR Director, League of Minnesota Cities, *Celeste Voss*, SHRM-CP, Senior Talent Management Generalist, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Organizations everywhere are evolving with a changing work environment that affects how people work, manage, retain, and recruit their employees. Whether you manage a large staff or manage yourself, this session has something for everyone. This will be an interactive session with a panel of experts that will share case studies, tools that agencies can use, lessons learned, and considerations for retaining and recruiting employees.
- 10:20 Refreshment Break
- 10:40 **LMC Update (0.075 CEU)**
Moderator: Mark DuChene
Presenters: *Luke Fischer*, Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities
- Luke Fischer the LMC new executive director who replaced Dave Unmacht will provide an update from the LMC on topics to be relevant to the municipal public works/engineering fields as well as any other relevant updates/priorities/hot button issues. He is open to a short update (15-30 mins) with Q&A or a longer presentation if needed as well. Could be paired with other state agency updates.
- 11:25 **CEAM Business Meeting**
- 12:10 p.m. **Lunch/Adjourn**