



AGC of Texas

Highway, Heavy, Utilities & Industrial Branch

E-BULLETIN

QUICK LINKS:

[August 2009 CD Request Form](#)

July 9, 2009

TxDOT Reexamines Project Planning Process, Begins Open Comment Period

In an effort to anticipate some of the sunset requirements in 2011, The Texas Department of Transportation is committed to restructure its project planning, funding and programming procedures. The department is calling all industry partners to comment on ways to improve the processes' functionality, transparency and efficiency.

Please review the attached letter from Executive Director Amadeo Saenz, along with the legal notice, to be published in the Texas Register on Friday, July 10. The letter and notice provide several major issues involved.

Please provide your comments to Robin Carter with TxDOT's legal office at rcarter@dot.state.tx.us. Comments may also be mailed to Bob Jackson, General Counsel, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701.

AGC President Jack Albert is appointing a select committee to provide unified comments to the department, on behalf of the association. If you would like to send comments to President Albert, send them to Kristen Ogden at kogden@agctx.org.

EPA Announces \$160 Million in Recovery Act Funds for Water Infrastructure Projects in Texas to Boost Economy, Create Jobs and Protect Public Health

To learn about how the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) plans to use these project funds, [click here](#).

To view the Texas Water Development Board's DWSRF website, go to: http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/assistance/financial/fin_infrastructure/dwsrf.asphas

Update on Pass-Through Toll Projects [Project List](#)

During the February Commission meeting, TxDOT announced a program call for local municipalities to submit pass-through candidate projects, with the intent to execute \$300 million in projects. Although the submittal period expired mid-May, TxDOT temporarily postponed its announcement of pass-through financing projects due to lack of funding. The pass-through projects will be announced at a later date.

To view the current list of executed pass-through projects, click on the link above. If you have any questions, contact Kristen Ogden at kogden@agctx.org.

Solis Announces Texas Construction Enforcement Blitz

US Labor Secretary Hilda Solis told attendees at Safety 2009 that OSHA will conduct a construction enforcement blitz in Texas in July, with extra inspectors brought in from other states to check sites for trenching, fall, scaffolding, and other potential violations. "The state of Texas has the dubious distinction of having the most worker fatalities in the nation," Solis said.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding OSHA issues, please contact Paul Causey at pcausey@agctx.org.

New WHISTLEBLOWER Poster Mandatory on all ARRA Projects

Poster

FHWA requires that the Whistleblower poster, attached and linked below, must be included on the bulletin boards for all ARRA projects, including CDAs and locally administered. If you have ARRA projects, please place this poster on your bulletin at your earliest convenience. As this requirement is intended for ARRA projects only, an update to the CCAM will not be made. For a refresher on other required posters on regular projects, refer to the CCAN, Chapter 15, Section 4.

<http://www.recovery.gov/sites/default/files/Whistleblower+Poster>.

New TxDOT Law Enforcement Assistance Reporting Requirements

Memo

In a Memorandum dated July 1, 2009, Construction Director Thomas Bohuslav announced a new tracking form required for use on all law enforcement force account items. Use of this form should begin immediately on all projects.

Please take a moment to review the attached memo and reporting form. If you have any questions, please contact the Chapter Office at 512.478.4691.

AGC Website Going Members-Only

The newly-renovated AGC of Texas website will become password-protected beginning in September. We hope you have had sufficient time to navigate through the site and become accustomed to it.

There will still be open access portions of the site in order for prospective members to view what AGC offers; however, many of the areas-such as the directory listings or letting results page-will now require you to have an AGC password and username to view.

Sometime between now and September, click on the "Login" link in top right-hand side of the Home page, then click "Register" and follow the directions. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal Casto at ccasto@agctx.org.

2009 Nominating Committee

In accordance with the chapter constitution and by-laws, the 2009 Nominating Committee has been appointed by President Jack Albert and consists of the seven most recent, active past presidents of the chapter. The 2009 Nominating Committee members are:

Chairman, Tracy Schieffer, A.L. Helmcamp, 903/626-5911
Jim Andoga, Austin Bridge & Road, 214/596-7320
Zack Burkett, III, Zack Burkett Company, 940/549-0436
Terry Bryant, Jones Bros Dirt & Paving Construction, Inc. 432/332-0721
Art Daniel, A.R. Daniel Construction Services, Inc., 972/291-3304
John R. Weisman, Hunter Industries, LTD, 512/353-7757
Jim Bradley, Capital Excavation Company, 512/440-1717

If you would like to make a recommendation for the chapter board of directors please contact any member of the Nominating Committee. If you would like to present your recommendation to the Nominating Committee, they will meet Wednesday, September 9th at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. or immediately following the membership luncheon, and again Tuesday, October 20th at 9:30 a.m. All three meetings will be held at the chapter office, 300 Barton Springs Road in Austin. Members are encouraged to contact any of the committee members and make nominations for chapter directors for 2010-2011.

In addition to directors, the chapter Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Life Members. The chapter constitution and by-laws state: Section 3. The Branch may, by affirmative vote of the members, at the recommendation of the Directors, grant the title "Life Member" to any individual who has ceased to be active in the construction industry providing the individual, firm, or corporation has been an active member for at least five years prior to nomination as a "Life Member".

Please send recommendations to the chapter office by fax, 512/478-7936, mail to P.O. Box 2185, Austin, Texas 78768, or to dkoehler@agctx.org.

JULY LETTING RESULTS

[July 7 Low Bids](#)

[July 8 Low Bids](#)

| July 7 & 8, 2009 | Highway Jobs | Maintenance Jobs |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Total Low Bids | \$ 259,338,344.73 | \$ 8,957,666.40 |
| Total Second Low Bids | \$ 269,735,583.00 | \$ 9,261,930.22 |
| Amount Left on the Table | \$ 10,397,238.27 | \$ 304,263.82 |
| % of Low Bids Left on the Table | 4.01 | 3.40 |
| Average Number of Bidders per Job | 8.27 | 8.11 |
| Total of the Engineer's Estimate | \$ 317,535,100.00 | \$ 12,121,700.00 |
| Difference between Estimate & Low | \$ 58,196,755.27 | \$ 3,164,033.60 |
| % Below Engineer's Estimate | 18.33 | 26.10 |
| Total Number of Projects | 48 | 9 |

Upcoming Letting Estimates

The August letting is estimated at **\$535.46M for 71 projects**. The letting dates are August 10 and 11, and the monthly luncheon will be held August 11 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. Local let projects for the month of August amount to \$58,331,662. For a list of local let projects, go to the TxDOT website at <http://www.txdot.gov/business/pr.htm>.

AGC of Texas Directory Corrections

In order to maintain a current directory, please make the following changes:

On page 184, change the photo caption of Ray Pitts to Michael Ross.

On page 188, the contact person for Rastrac Net, Inc. should be CEO Bob Thompson at bob.thomson@rastrac.com. Jeff Manning is still the President. Additionally, Rastrac's website is misspelled and should be www.rastrac.net.

The Online version of the directory will be featured permanently on the website within the next week. If you need additional paper copies, please contact Debbie Koehler at dkoehler@agctx.org. Thank you.