

Volume 59, No. 4 Q4 2023





President's Message

By Ashley Cantlon, City of Gresham

As the end of my term as president approaches, I feel somewhat of a bittersweet anticipation for the next chapter in my APWA adventure. I've had such a rewarding experience working with an incredible board over the past eight years, and I am sad to see the end of my tenure with the board on the horizon. One notion that offers some promise is that there is still much to do within this great organization, and I will have the opportunity to refocus my efforts on other projects! Don't worry, you can't get rid of me that easily - I will be around! Thank you all for your support this year. I appreciate all of the energy and understanding that you've given me during my time as president.

APWA - Oregon Chapter Highlights

Chapter Board Updates - As a result of our chapter elections that were held via electronic ballot in October, we approved three new incoming members as directors on the board, a new slate of officers, and new national delegate. Please welcome the members to their new or continued positions for 2024! They're listed on page 5 of this newsletter, including their email addresses.

We also passed edits to the chapter bylaws that rectified a discrepancy in our audit process that will now align with National's criteria, and one that helps to better define the creation and implementation of standard operating procedures that will help us keep up with updated banking practices.

I'd like to extend a special "thank you" to John Lewis, finishing his term as Immediate Past President, Dan Boss, our most recent National Delegate, and to Lieden Cook and Russ Norton for their service on the board as directors.

Chapter Website Updates - We are continuing to work with National to make strides on our new website. It is still a work in progress, but getting better every day. Thanks to everyone for your continued patience while we get everything back up and running, and again, a BIG thank you to Andy Sheehan and Eric Jones for keeping on top of this great effort! https://oregon.apwa.org/

Chapter Awards - We hosted our chapter awards banquet at the Fall conference in Canyonville, and I would like to congratulate each of our recipients again for their great work in our industry and community! You deserve to be recognized for your important contributions, and we are so happy to take a moment each year to celebrate you. Thank you to all who submitted award applications, and thanks to our fantastic Awards Committee, including Jennifer Garbely, Sheila Sahu, Krey Younger, and Jonathon Neumann, for their diligence in leading this effort for our chapter! Please also consider applying for a national award in March to keep this momentum going!

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Get Involved



Go directly to an article by clicking the titles above.



Getting Used to Attention

By Marion Suitor Barnes, Public Affairs Manager, Eugene Public Works

For public works crews out in the field or for even "desk jockeys," getting outside attention while on the job can be challenging. Even when the attention is positive, it often is disruptive to one's daily workflow to have to deal with questions from people who don't always understand how things work. Or it's easy to feel put on the spot when approached by a member of the media or a vociferous resident.

Still, there are some great reasons to take time to answer those inquiries. Every bit of attention is an opportunity to educate the public about the fundamental, important work public works employees undertake on behalf of their agency and the community they live in.

Imagine this scenario: A winter storm is predicted for your area. You are part of a surface maintenance crew, and you're at the maintenance yard preparing a truck to spread de-icer on area streets. Just as you are leaving the yard in the truck, a reporter with a

camera approaches and asks if they can ask a few questions about what your agency is doing to prepare for the



storm. What do you do?

First, know that you can absolutely say "no" to an interview. You can tell the reporter that you have to get out to the streets and don't have time to talk. BUT, you should also direct the reporter to the media relations person on the public works staff, who can set up a more appropriate time for an interview. You might consider keeping a pile of business cards for the media relations person in the truck, for just these occasions.

If you do agree to a quick interview, don't look at the camera. Look at the reporter and answer their questions as

briefly as possible. Underscore how the crew works to make the roads safe for residents. Keep the message positive. and don't offer numbers or statements that you don't absolutely know to be true. Try to accommodate the reporter's need to get video; they may ask you to drive the truck around a little, or they might request to follow the truck to a street where the de-icer will be applied. If they ask a question you don't know the answer to, it's totally OK to just say "I don't know." One thing to avoid for sure is joking around. You never know what snippet of your statement a reporter will use on the air, and you don't want them to take a joke out of context if it will reflect badly on your agency.

Here's another scenario: While you are out spreading de-icer, a resident approaches the truck and demands that you come spray their small, residential street. Your task is to cover main roads and connectors, not neighborhood streets. When you try to explain this to the resident, they get upset and spend

(continued on next page)

President's Message Continued

Oregon Chapter Events – Looking ahead to 2024, our Chapter Spring Conference will be held in Seaside at the Seaside Convention Center April 1-4, 2024. Keep an eye out for the call for abstracts, which should be reaching your inboxes soon!

Other events on the horizon include:

 Public Works Essentials (December 5-8 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, OR) Developing Leader (April 1-5 at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, OR)

(Again) Remember our committees! - Our committees provide opportunities to stay connected to the Oregon Chapter throughout the year. They are always looking for great ideas on how we can better serve our membership. Please take some time to consider joining one of our many committees. You can reach out to our committee leaders on our committee page to find out more: https://oregon.apwa.org/resources/

Getting Comfortable with Attention, Continued

10 minutes telling you why it is absolutely imperative they make it to work in the morning. Take a breath and remember you are representing your agency. Your reaction will dictate what this resident thinks of your agency in the future. It is important not to interpret these comments as a personal attack; people just want to be heard. Even if you can't stray from your route, take the time to empathize with their story while reiterating your restrictions.

Be prepared to compromise if you can or offer a different solution. Could they take public transit to work if they can't get their car out of their driveway?

Finally, don't be surprised if the resident or a witness starts to record video of the interaction on their phone. They are legally allowed to do this, and it's your opportunity to do your best customer service work as proof of your agency's goodwill toward the community.

But what if the attention is coming from "inside the house," meaning another public works staff member is the person giving you attention? Perhaps they want to write a story about how

crews help prepare the area in advance of storms to keep the public safe. How do you handle that?

First, this person likely just wants to highlight your crew and paint a posi-

with visibility. If the interview is arranged in advance and will include video footage, you might even be provided with a script ahead of time.

Finally, no matter who is shining a



tive picture of the many ways crews support cities and counties in good times as well as in crisis situations. They might want to take photos of you in the truck; help them manage this when you can. Ideally, you'd be wearing a winter jacket with your agency logo for these photos, which helps

spotlight on you and your work, be patient. Everyone wants to take as little of your time as possible, but what is common knowledge to you might be completely foreign to the person asking the questions. Just know that a little imposition for the sake of spreading a positive message about your agency is time well spent!

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in APWA offers a wealth of benefits, including professional certifications, state and national conferences, the APWA Reporter magazine, an extensive members' library, regional and national job listings, and much more. For additional information, email Oregon APWA Membership Chair Leslie Finnigan at lfinnigan@ufsrw.com.

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Meet the 2024 Board

As 2023 draws to a close, it's time to look ahead to the chapter's 2024 leadership team



President
Tim Blackwood
President/Principal Engineer
Pali Consulting
tim@pali-consulting.com



President-Elect

Doug Singer

Development Services Manager

City of Eugene

Singer@eugene-or.gov



Chase Welborn
Project Manager
3J Consulting
chase.welborn@3j-consulting.com



Treasurer
Shannon Williams
Senior Project Manager
Keller Associates, Inc.
swilliams@kellerassociates.com



National Delegate
Russ Thomas
Director of Public Works
City of Newberg
russ.thomas@newbergoregon.gov



President
Ashley Cantlon
Senior Engineer, City of Gresham
Ashley.cantlon@greshamoregon.gov

Immediate Past



Position #1
Maureen White
Associate Principal, r Project Mgr
Mazzetti
mwhite@mazzetti.com



Ryan Webb

Engineering and Planning Mgr

Confederated Tribes of Grand

Ronde

Ryan.Webb@grandronde.org

Position #2



Position #3
Mike Willret
Director of Public Works
City of Klamath Falls
Willrett@klamathfalls.city

Position #5



Position #4
Krey Younger
Vice President, Operations
Central Geotechnical Services
krey@centralgeotech.com



Nick Polenske
Senior Transportation Engineer
Kittelson & Associates
npolenske@kittelson.com



Position #6
Leslie Finnigan
Western Regional Manager
Universal Field Services
Ifinnigan@ufsrw.com

PW Institute Sharpens Skills

By Toby Rickman, Washington APWA, and Jeanne Nyquist, Oregon APWA

Today's public works leader must be a coach, counselor, motivator, mentor, business strategist, skilled communicator and more, all rolled into one. The Northwest Public Works Institute gives public works professionals the depth and breadth of instruction needed to be successful in these complex roles.

The Oregon APWA Chapter, in partnership with the Oregon Technology Transfer Center and the Washington Chapter, jointly operate and sponsor the Institute as a program of instruction for those who want to sharpen supervisory and managerial skills and accomplish national certification.

The program consists of three courses offered in Oregon that, taken in their entirety, provide public works professionals with skills needed to advance in supervisory and management positions. While it is recommended that students take all three courses leading to a Certificate of Competency, the individual courses also satisfy the needs of public works professionals at different stages in their careers.

Public Works Essentials, fall 2024, location TBD

Learn the nuts and bolts of public works supervision and management.

Topics: supervision vs management, written and team communications, analyzing employees, progressive discipline, performance management, employee safety, delegation and empowerment, information management, the personnel function, sustainability, systems thinking, public works operations.

Developing Leader – April 1-3, 2024, Sunriver

Develop the practical skills required by the emerging leader.

Topics: team dynamics, problem solving, decision making, mission, vision, values, meeting management, diversity, communication, conflict management, customer service, interviewing



2023 Leadership Skills graduates in Hood River

skills, safety culture, strategic and tactical planning, ethics, managing stress.

Leadership Skills, Hood River – Fall 2024

Learn process, planning and people skills for the public works leader.

Topics: personality types, leadership roles, people skills, managing time and energy, hiring and training, motivation, evaluations, coaching and counseling, culture, teams, working with unions, council relations, regulatory agencies, customer service, asset management, project management, consultant management, financial management, management systems, organization theory, public involvement, planning.

Each of the three courses consists of 30 hours of instruction over a four day period. Completion of all 90 hours, taken within a five-year period, is recognized with a Certificate of Completion awarded by the Northwest Public Works Institute and National APWA.

We have experienced instructors from across Oregon who all work in the public works industry. They are your APWA and agency leaders, including Jeanne Nyquist, Jenifer Willer, Delora Kerber, Luke Anderson, Jeff Orlandini, and more. They bring a wealth of real-life examples and experiences to share with you in these classes.

In 2023 the following classes were held: Developing Leader was in Sunriver in April with 36 in attendance; Leadership Skills was in Hood River in November with 38 in attendance; and Public Works Essentials is this month, December, and 35 are registered.

Leadership Skills in Hood River received a 3.7 out of 4 rating from attendees with all saying the class was "excellent" or "good." Here is some feedback from students: "Great job! "Really liked the opportunity to collaborate." "This got us involved." "It was fun."

While our 2024 classes have not all been scheduled, be assured that they will be, and you don't want to miss out. Watch for email announcements from the chapter and check our APWA Oregon events calendar. We look forward to seeing you!

Fall Conference Dynamic, Fun

The Oregon APWA Fall Conference held in Canyonville in October unfolded with the theme of "Ready and Resilient," encapsulating the spirit of preparedness and adaptability of public works professionals. Attendees engaged in insightful discussions covering an extensive range of topics, including the latest con-



struction trends, effective emergency management strategies, and public outreach. The conference provided a platform for participants to deepen their knowledge and expertise in the field, fostering a collaborative environment where professionals shared valuable insights and best practices.

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Bowes Recognizes Spirit of Essayons

Tony Roos is the 2023 recipient of the Bowes Award, the chapter's highest honor. Here, in his own words, Tony explains the spirit of service and the spirit of essayons—"Let us try."

"In my professional career, I can point to three defining points that I look back on with tremendous pride; graduating college (go Vikings!), passing the PE, and now receiving the Bowes Award. I look at these not as accomplishments, but a recognition that I'm on the right journey in a career that I love. I am humbled and honored to join the previous winners, all giants in our public works profession. When I started my chapter involvement (20 years ago), my supervisor explained that the company would pay for my membership, but I had to do more than just attend the conferences and eat the bacon; I had to get involved by joining a committee. Little did I know that being on the Transportation Committee would lead to the Chapter Board, a consigliore of the Order of the Golden Knuckle, and now a trustee on the Scholastic Founda-



tion. I know I am blessed to have countless mentors, coaches, friends, and influencers that have helped shape my career and involvement in the Chapter; I can honestly say that I've gotten more than I've given. This is an incredible organization that I hope you all find as much value in the education and comradery as I have. Essayons!"

Fall Conference (continued)

Dawn Easley, Director of Public Works for the City of Roseburg, went from being a first timer at the 2022 fall conference to one of the hosts and organizers of this year's conference. Easley shared she was excited with the way everything came together, and she liked seeing conference attendees enjoying the event. Easley said she was especially grateful for the excellent guidance from Peggy McCormick and Maggie



Young Professionals mix it up with the Oregon Chapter Board at the fall 2023 conference

Keynote speakers, including Nina Carlson, Government Affairs at NW Natural, and Roger Kline, General Manager of Northern Wasco Co. PUD, added depth to the conference by sharing their insights and expertise taking a deeper look at energy issues facing the state. Past President, Keith Pugh also addressed attendees to share his experience serving in public works and recognizing the importance of all aspects of life including learning new things, unwinding to reenergize, and finding ways to give back.

Another highlight of the event was the recognition of outstanding projects through the presentation of awards for Project of the Year. Additionally, awards were given in recognition of the Everyday Hero, Communication "Bulldog", Young Leader and of course the infamous Gizmo Award. These acknowledgments not only celebrated exemplary achievements but also served as inspiration for further innovation and excellence within the public works community. The conference's emphasis on acknowledging and honoring noteworthy projects underscores the commitment to advancing the quality and impact of public works initiatives across Oregon.

Beyond the technical sessions and awards, the conference prioritized mentorship and networking, particularly for first-time attendees and young leaders. Newcomers had the opportunity to connect with experienced mentors, facilitating a smoother integration into the program. This intentional focus on mentorship aimed to create a supportive community, where knowledge could be shared, relationships fostered, and individuals could feel more connected to the broader public works profession. In this way, the conference not only contributed to the professional development of attendees but also strengthened the overall fabric of the public works community in Oregon.

Further contributing to the event's excitement, exhibitors showcased new products and shared information about their services. This exhibition hall not only provided a platform for companies to highlight their offerings but also allowed attendees to stay abreast of the latest advancements in public works technology and solutions. The Oregon APWA Fall Conference emerged as a comprehensive and dynamic gathering, promoting knowledge exchange, professional development, and community building within the vibrant realm of public works.

2023 Awards Winners

Special Edition



Oregon APWA recognizes the hard work performed by the women and men throughout Oregon who are designing, building, maintaining and operating the public works infrastructure and facilities that are vital to the success of our communities.

Congratulations to the 2023 award winners!

2023 EVERYDAY HEROS AWARD

CRISTINE INGLIS CITY OF EUGENE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



Cristine has been pivotal in the success of the City of Eugene's operations program to keep pace with a rapidly growing system. Among many accomplishments, she developed maintenance standard manuals for the stormwater and median maintenance programs, developed a condition rating system and inspection schedule, and prioritized the thoughtful onboarding of new team members.

She is a shining example of an EVERYDAY HERO!

2023 "BULLDOG" COMMUNICATION AWARD

EMMANUEL GOICOCHEA CITY OF INDEPENDENCE



With over eight years of experience in strategic communications, Emmanuel's knowledge of the everchanging media landscape has been integral to the success of the City of Independence. Not only has Emmanuel's work shed light on the important contributions Public Works makes to the City's infrastructure, be it also showcases the stories of the people serving in the Public Works department.

2023 YOUNG LEADER AWARD

RACHAEL VAICUNAS CITY OF EUGENE



Rachael has managed a variety of capital projects, including several important shared-use path rehabilitation, extension and lighting projects, and pavement preservation projects. Rachael routinely looks for growth opportunities including participation in the APWA Emerging Leaders Academy. She has shown herself to be a good supervisor who helps staff with career development, understanding and implementing City of Eugene policy while being empathetic to employee needs. Rachael routinely looks for ways to improve productivity, build technical and organizational knowledge, and strengthen collaboration and working relationships.

Her diligence, communication, and diplomacy are all essential traits for a leader.



Projects

of the

Year

The Projects of the Year Awards were established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects by recognizing the alliance between the managing agency, the consultant/architect/engineer, and the contractor who, working together, complete public works projects. Although it has evolved over time, awards are currently given in four divisions:

- Projects less than \$5 million
- Projects of \$5 million, but less than \$25 million
- Projects of \$25 million to \$75 million
- Projects more than \$75 million

And five categories:

- Structures—to include public structure preservation/rehabilitation, municipal buildings, parks, etc.
- Transportation—to include roads, bridges, mass transit, etc.
- Environment—to include treatment and recycling facilities, landfill reclamation projects, sewer projects, etc.
- Historical Restoration/Preservation—to include historical restoration, preservation and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, etc.
- Disaster or Emergency Construction/Repair—to include the techniques and timing for safety, community relations, environmental protection, adverse conditions and additional considerations.

Disaster or Emergency Less than \$5M





Kelly Creek Landslide Mitigation

This project in the City of Gresham mitigated a landslide from a 2.5-inch rain event where the failure plane ended inches from a private backyard. The slope instability was due to improperly placed fill during development, groundwater flow, and Kelly Creek erosion. The slope was stabilized using a tied -back soldier pile, timber lagging wall, and bioengineering practices. The project improved stream function, increased flood storage, and future retrofit planning efforts at the City of Gresham.

Environmental \$5M to less than \$25M



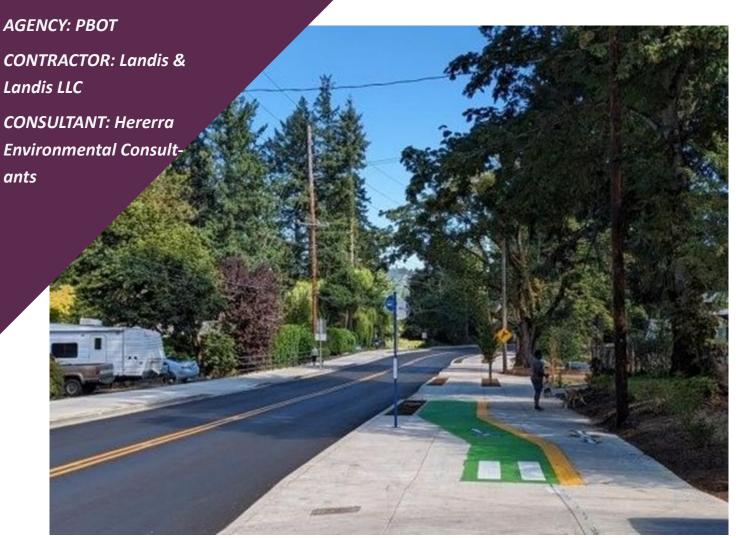


Cedar Mill Creek Sanitary and Regional Stormwater Approach

The \$15M project included replacing 4,500 feet of 36-inch concrete sewer pipe with a 48-inch fiber-glass reinforced pipeline in the Tualatin Hills Nature Park. Included a trenchless crossing of trimet's MAX rail-line. The project incorporated significant environmental enhancements to the Beaverton and Cedar Mill creeks, and boardwalks throughout the nature park. Clean Water Services worked with Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, Washington County, Regulatory agencies, park stakeholders, and community organizations.

Environmental \$25M to less than \$75M



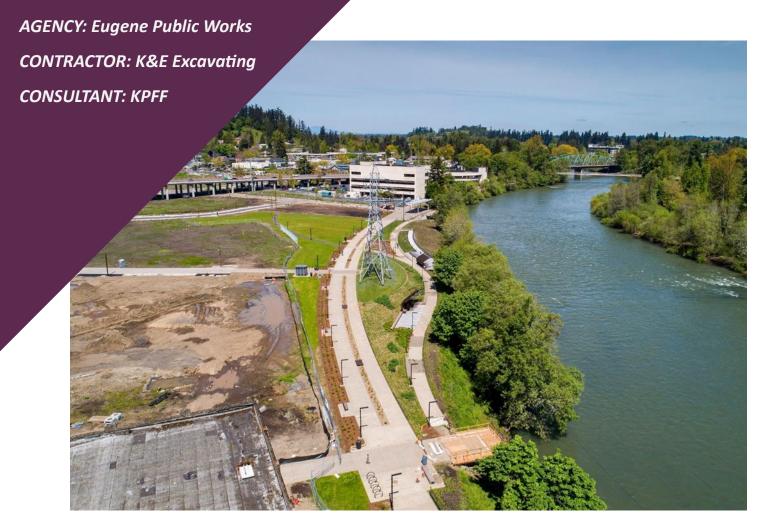


SW Capitol Highway— Multnomah Village to West Portland

This project was a reconstruction of a 0.9-mile substandard arterial street that included 7,000 linear feet of stormwater pipe to four new regional basins and upgrading a half mile of water main to larger, seismically resilient pipe. Uniquely, traditionally siloed bureaus—PBOT, BES, and PWB— came together and pooled their resources to design and construct a single, cohesive corridor project. Over 600 trees and over 2,800 shrubs were planted for this project.

Historic Restoration/ Preservation





Eugene Waterfront Development

The City of Eugene was named to host the 2021 World Athletic Championships – the first time the event was held in the United States. Private and public funding allowed the City to complete their long-term vision and community dream of redeveloping a former industrial riverfront property into the Downtown Riverfront. Covid cancelled the 2021 event, but the project was completed for the 2022 World Athletic Championships. The project goal was to transform the historic steam plant, work yards, and industrial relics central to Eugene's history and culture into new gathering spaces and economic catalyst for the community.

Transportation
Less than \$5M



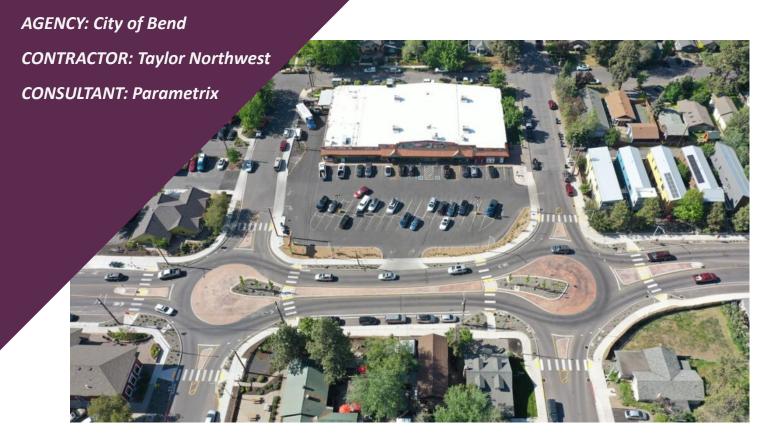


E. Crestview Drive Improvements

This project upgraded 2,000 linear feet of roadway to a major collector and included a mini-roundabout and improved access, safety, and ease of use for residents, motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The substantial community relations efforts included two open houses, a project website, project update mailers, and door hangers. One of the distinct sustainable project practices included salvaging valuable trees, specifically Gobi Walnut trees for reuse by a decorative wood specialist.

Transportation \$5M to less than \$25M



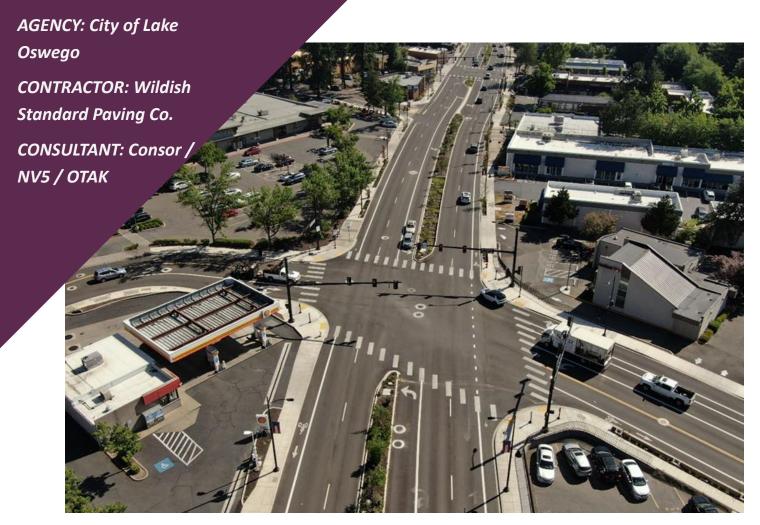


Newport Corridor Improvements

After four years of design and construction the City of Bend reconstructed over a mile of City infrastructure and installed a new stormwater treatment and conveyance system, new sewer and water lines, pavement reconstruction, four roundabouts, sidewalks and curb ramps, retaining walls, and Illumination systems. The project came about due to the lack of a stormwater system within Newport Avenue and worries that this could lead to road failure.

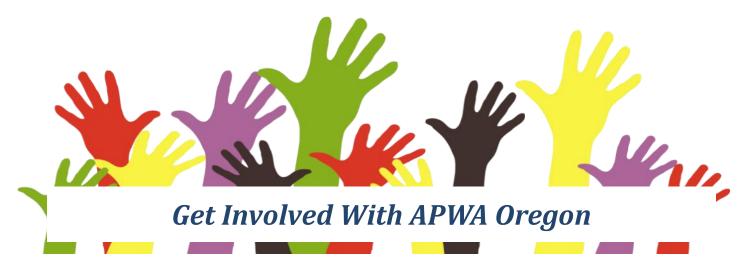
Transportation \$25M to less than \$75M





Boones Ferry Road Improvements

This project in the City of Lake Oswego was a complete reconstruction and widening of nearly a mile of undersized arterial roadway that has an average daily traffic of 20,000 vehicle trips and serves over 200 businesses. The thoughtful community outreach and business support during construction included entrance signage, promotional videos, and a free monthly raffle. Several significant sustainable project practices were included as part of the project, including relocating bees and 43 stormwater planters.



The Oregon Chapter is an association of more than 800 professional engineers, technicians, operations staff, public works directors, business people, contractors, consultants and many others who join together to exchange ideas and information, promote education and training, and work as a team to meet professional and community needs.

The Chapter is run almost entirely by volunteers. To keep doing the great things our chapter does — events/luncheons, newsletters, announcements, contributing to specifications standards, etc. — volunteers work together to plan and execute.

Ways to Get Involved

Step 1. Become an APWA member. More information on becoming a member is on the Chapter website.

Step 2. Find the right spot to plug in. What's your passion? What's your level of availability? There's a spot for you! Here are some options:

Join a Committee! Check out Committee Central webpage to see all the Chapter's committees. Contact the Chair to get plugged in.

Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Schools need you!

APWA Oregon Chapter offers Street Maintenance & Collection Systems Schools twice a year; one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring school includes an Equipment ROADeo. Our "School Committee" strives to put together a technical program that offers a minimum of 2.0 CEUs for full attendance at each of the schools. These schools utilize a 20- to 25-member committee for all three disciplines that help in recruiting appropriate speakers and topics for the schools. ODOT T2 is a huge support for these schools and offers Roads Scholars programs for one of the tracks.

We currently have some committee member spots to fill; specifically for the "streets" and "safety" committee. If you are interested or know someone who would be a great asset for us, consider sending them our way! If you need additional information, please email Maggie Vohs, APWA Events Director, at cameomag@gmail.com.

Know someone who would exceptionally serve the Chapter? Nominate them for the Chapter Board. Contact John Lewis, former Chapter President, for more details (<u>imlewis@orcity.org</u>).

Have more questions?

Contact Leslie Finnigan (Ifinnigan@ufsrw.com) to find out more about joining APWA and getting involved.

