



**Congratulations to the
Inaugural Class of the
DRIVE Program!**



Ruben Chavez, PE
Public Sector
CEA Group

“The DRIVE program has opened the door to networking and teaming opportunities. In working with our mentor (Conzor), we have been able to set in place business strategies that will allow for future growth. The collaboration has opened doors for teaming opportunities beyond TxDOT. Our participation in the DRIVE program really accelerated our firm’s exposure, allowing us to develop contacts throughout the state.”

- Ruben Chavez and Frank Corral, CEA Group



Frank Corral, PE, CNU-A
Transportation
CEA Group



Taileah J. Hunter, PE
President
TJ Hunter
Engineering

“My time in the TxDOT DRIVE Mentor-Mentee Program was by far grander than what I expected when I originally applied to be a mentee. Being part of this program allowed me to fast rail my company growth. I’ve doubled the number of my employees and picked up lifelong business skills/tools. I was able to accomplish these things due to the help of my mentor. I had the honor of having Jerry Ramos from LJA as my mentor. I gained an enormous number of skills/tools (financial, business management, etc.) from my meetings with Jerry. Every single meeting that I had with Jerry challenged me to grow as a business owner and as a person. I’m grateful that I was paired with an amazing mentor. Thank you DRIVE for accepting me into your program and for choosing Jerry as my mentor!”

- Taileah J. Hunter, TJ Hunter Engineering



Shauna Bowman, PE
President & Founder
Bowman Engineering
Consulting, Inc.

“Connecting with our mentor and other mentor companies has been instrumental in our success on TXDOT related wins. We not only had opportunities to team up with AECOM, but other mentor companies in our class (Atkins, HDR, HNTB, Consor). Each company has been instrumental in assisting us win not only TXDOT related work, but also work with other public agencies around the State of Texas, as well.”

- Shauna Bowman, Bowman Engineering



Majed Agha, PE,
MSc
Agha Romero

“We are grateful to have been selected for the Inaugural TxDOT DRIVE Program. Partnering with HDR, Inc. gave us a mentor who has achieved the level of success we want to achieve and has helped us set goals and create a long-term plan for success. Our mentor, Angela Stoddard, PE, has been insightful in helping us understand our strengths and how to hone them to meet the needs of TxDOT and other agencies' procurements. With continued success, we hope to be able to pay it forward by becoming a mentor in the program.”



Juan Romero, PE
Agha Romero

-Majed Agha & Juan Romero, Agha Romero



Eric Rolle, PE, PMP, DBIA
Principal/Vice President
Shrewsberry

“It was obvious from the beginning that Wilson had a genuine desire to see Shrewsberry succeed in Texas. He invested many hours in our staff coaching and strategizing, and along the way developed personal relationships with Shrewsberry staff that will last for years to come.”

Through IEA’s mentorship, Shrewsberry knowledge has grown in the following areas:

- *TxDOT Project Solicitation and Administration*
- *TxDOT Personnel Roles*
- *Introductions to TxDOT Personnel*
- *TxDOT Project Types*
- *Nuances in the various TxDOT Districts*
- *Pursuit strategy*

- Eric Rolle, Shrewsberry



Edwin B. Jones, Sr., PE,
MBA
CEO
EJES Incorporated

“EJES’ participation in the DRIVE program was a wonderful opportunity to glean from companies that have been successful in winning TxDOT projects. EJES gained extensive knowledge collaborating with mentor HNTB on how best to compete to win TxDOT projects. HNTB worked with the EJES staff to enhance our technical writing in providing responses to technical questions from the TxDOT RFPs. We also worked with HNTB’s staff to enhance the skill sets of EJES’ staff in project management and managing project budgets. EJES will recommend other companies to participate in the DRIVE program to assist them in preparing to work on TxDOT projects as prime or subconsultants.”

- Edwin B. Jones, Sr., EJES Incorporated



Sirishia Pillalamarri, PE.
Transcend Engineers +
Planners

“Gunda, an Ardurra Company, was a great mentor to Transcend and coached the firm in enhancing client networking, business development, sales, operations, and technical skill. Gunda shared quite a few lessons learned from their experiences as a small business, which was much appreciated. We teamed up on TxDOT pursuits and look forward to working together.”

- Sirishia Pillalamarri, PE, Transcend Engineers