

# **General Session**

Day 3 - Wednesday, December 4, 2024

# TXDOT ROW UTILITY WEEK

Partners in Coordination



Download the Cvent app for live agendas and other conference updates.



# MC for the Day: Russell Johnson



Russell Johnson serves as the Business Operations Project Manager for TXDOT ROW. He is responsible for managing the health of the statewide Utility Portfolio – focusing on business process improvements that will increase operational efficiencies. He also is the Lead Worker for the Portfolio Management Section which processes the UACV Invoicing, release of Purchase orders, and payments (Utility Relocation)/Audits. He has been with TxDOT for 5 years and before TXDOT he has more than 10 years of business management experience in the areas of retail, restaurant, and sales. Russell holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Huston-Tillotson University and is a proud veteran of the US Navy.

In his free time, Russell loves to travel – frequenting the Virgin Islands. He also volunteers his time with his organizations, Rishon Lodge #1 A.F. & A.M and Epsilon Iota Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Russell enjoys sports and loves the Dallas Cowboys.

Texas Department of Transportation	Agenda: Wednesday, December 4, 2

State of UPS

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7:30AM - 8:00AM

8:00AM - 8:15AM

8:15AM - 9:00AM

9:00AM - 9:30AM

9:30AM - 10:00AM

10:00AM - 10:30AM

10:30AM - 11:00AM

11:00AM - 12:00PM

12:00PM - 1:30PM

Utility Week 2024

Juan Barron (Safety)

**Wayne Robinson** 

Wayne Robinson

Katelyn Kasberg

Cesar Quiroga

Wendy Knox

**Jesse Cooper** 

Leo Toyar

**MC** for Districts

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December 2 - 5, 2024

Topic

Conference Housekeeping & Safety Message

Reimbursement Levels for Utility Relocations

Corpus Christi, El Paso, Laredo, Lubbock, Lufkin

**Commercial Sign Section Update** 

National Utility Initiatives & Topics

**District Showcase - Day 2** 

**Speaker** 

Registration and Check-In

Active Research: Develop & Update Methodology for Calculation of

Networking Break

Lunch

**Utilities in Maintenance** 

Presenter: Mark Johnson

**Utilities and Traffic Safety** 

**Presenter: Harsh Doshy** 

Presenter: Darrin Jensen

RTI

Session 2

Session 3

1:30PM - 2:15PM

2:15PM - 2:30PM

Time

2:30PM - 3:15PM

3:15PM - 3:30PM

Time

3:30PM - 4:15PM

4:15PM

Utility Week 2024

# Agenda: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)

Presenters: Andrea Pacheco & Lauren Weber

Networking Break

Session 2

Networking Break

Session 3

Adjourn

**TxDOT Broadband Program Updates** 

**Broadband Coordination Roundtable** 

- Closing the Digital Divide

**Presenter: Cristy Burch** 

MC: Sarah Wegenast

Connecting you with Texas.

	Track 1 Utilities by Others	Track 2 Broadband	Track 3 UESI
Time	Session 1	Session 1	Session 1

Relocations, Monitoring & **Verification, Inspection** 

Session 2

Session 3

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**ASCE #75** 

December 2 - 5, 2024

**Construction Management Plans** 



# Safety Message

**Hosted by Juan Barron** 



# So You Think You Can Multitask?

Dangerous
even when
sitting at red
lights or stop
signs because
it takes your
brain time to
return its focus
to the road.

Your brain can't process two things at once. It switches attention from one task to another

**96%** of people think texting while driving is dangerous, yet **44%** do it.

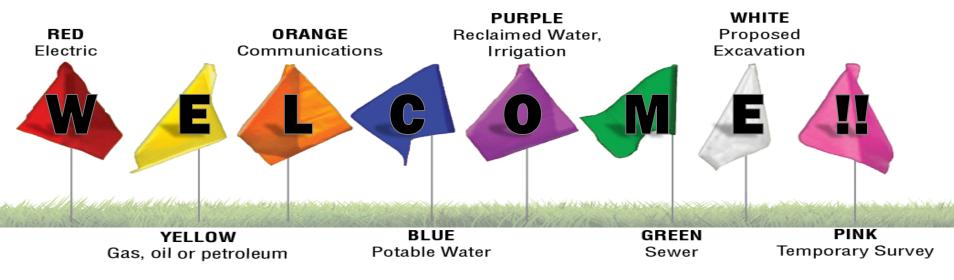
Voice-to-text is not safer: it may distract you longer than texting





# TXDOT ROW UTILITY WEEK

**Partners in Coordination** 



Utility Week 2024

December 2 - 5, 2024



# **Presenter: Wayne Robinson**



Wayne Robinson is the Utility Portfolio Section Director of the Right of Way Division.

Wayne began his TxDOT career in 2007. For the first six years, he worked in the Mapping, Survey, and Utility Section of the Right of Way Division, specializing in quality assurance of the mapping, utility relocation, and other aspects of the Division's Asset Management program. His accomplishments include implementing the statewide Utility Installation Review (UIR) application. The UIR application created a statewide standard for utility permit applications, effectively improving the experience of utility companies applying for permits, decreasing the cost of resources, and reducing the permit approval cycle time. Wayne later transferred to the Austin District as the District's Utility Coordinator in 2015. While at the Austin District, Wayne took the lead on the utility relocation efforts on many projects, including projects within the Mobility 35 Program, such as the IH 35/US 183 flyover project. Wayne rejoined the ROW Division in 2017. As the lead worker of the Utility Portfolio Section, Wayne led his group in revamping the statewide utility accommodation program.

Wayne holds a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Political Science from Texas State University. While at TxDOT, Wayne obtained his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

As the new Director of the Utility Portfolio Section, Wayne's goals are to help set new standards in the utility relocation program and raise awareness of the profession's importance.

December 2 – 5, 2024



# Refreshments: Will be offered during the break



### **Break Times:**

- From 9:30 AM to 10:00 AM
- From 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM
- From 3:15 PM to 3:30 PM

Lunch: A buffet lunch will be provided

• 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM



# Agenda Overview:

- •State of UPS 8:15 AM to 9:00 AM
- Active Research 9:00 AM to 9:30 AM
- Networking Break
- Commercial Sign Section Updates 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM
- National Utility Initiatives and Topics 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM
- District Showcase 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Lunch
- Track Sessions 1:30 PM to 4:15 PM
- •Adjourn @ 4:15 PM



Phone Etiquette: Remember to silence your phones and if you need to take a call, please take calls outside the room.

Utilize your time to network!



# **Enjoy the Conference!**

Reminder: The conference starts tomorrow at 8:00 AM!





# **State of Utility Portfolio Section**

Wayne Robinson, UPS Director, Right of Way Division



April 18, 2025



# **Partnership**





#### Goals for 2024

# SUE/As-Built Component Launched

Ongoing

# Shutdown of UIR and Data Migration

Completed November 2024

# RULIS Permit Champions

 Completed – Internal and External Stakeholders

# Pilot Reimbursement Training

Completed August 2024



#### Goals for 2024

# **UPS** Huddle

Completed

# New Tableau Dashboards

- Payment Dashboard
- Agreement Dashboard
- Completed

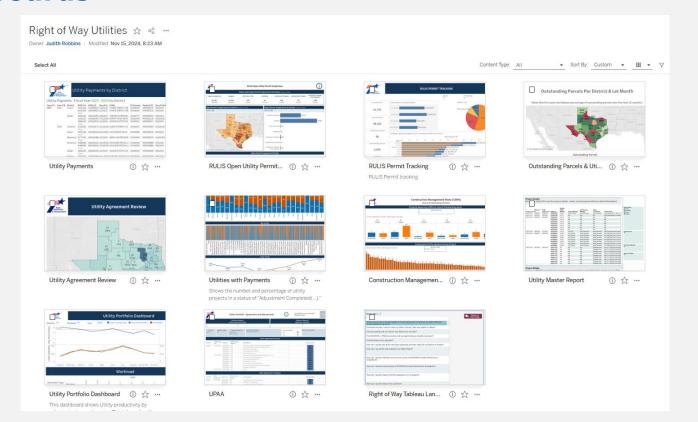
# TAC Rule 21.25 Amended

- Align with SB 2601
- Completed

# And More!

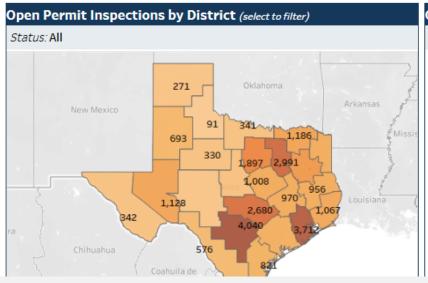
- Increase District Visit
- Taking Recommendations

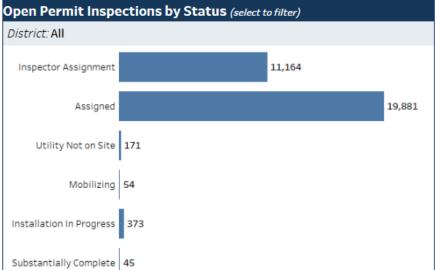




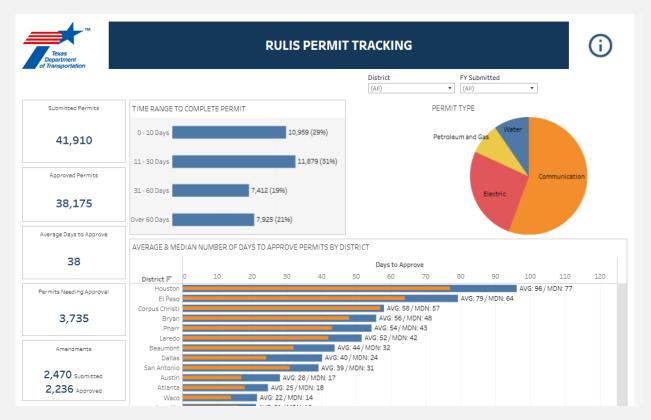
















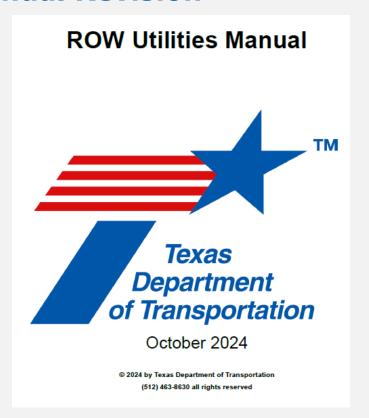


# TAC 21.25 Update

- SP2125 Amended
  - SB 2601 Amended the program
    - Modifying Language, "A utility that is a political subdivision or owned or operated by a political subdivision or is a water supply or sewer service corporation organized and operating under Chapter 67, Water Code may request the relocation of its utility facilities required by a state highway improvement project be at the expense of the state under Transportation Code, Section 203.092(a-4)



#### **ROW Utilities Manual Revision**





# **Added Appendix C**

 $\begin{array}{l} \textit{Appendix} \ C - \textit{Guidance for Submitting} \\ \textit{Agreements} \end{array}$ 

#### Section 1 — Types of Guidance

#### **Standard Utility Agreement**

TxDOT Right of Way Division's Utility Portfolio Section maintains a <u>Standard Utility Agreement Submittal Guidance</u> document. This guide will aid the District Utility Coordinator or Utility Company in developing a Standard Utility Agreement and identifying the appropriate documentation required for the submittal.

#### **Supplemental Agreement**

TxDOT Right of Way Division's Utility Portfolio Section maintains a <u>Supplemental Agreement Submittal Guidance</u> document. This guide will aid the District Utility Coordinator or Utility Company in developing a supplement to a Standard Utility Agreement and identifying the appropriate documentation required for the submittal.



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# **Going Forward**





### **Future Initiatives**





# **Special Thanks to UPS**





# **Special Thanks to the Unofficial UPS Staff!**



\_\_\_\_thank you\_\_



# Active Research: Develop and Update Methodology for the Calculation and Reimbursement of Utility Relocations

Day 3 - December 4th

9:00AM - 9:30AM



# **Presenter: Katelyn Kasberg**



Katelyn is a Research Project Manager for the Research Technology & Implementation Division. In her role, she helps plan, develop, and manage research projects and implementation efforts in a variety of subject areas. She also participates in research efforts on a national level to further the development of the research program at TxDOT. Prior to her current position, Katelyn worked as an operational excellence coordinator in the STR division and as a Local Government project coordinator in the Waco District. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication from the University of North Texas and a Master's degree in public administration from Tarleton State University.



# **Presenter: Cesar Quiroga**



Cesar Quiroga is a Senior Research Engineer and Manager of the Utility Engineering Program at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). He is working on or has completed numerous research projects on utility engineering topics at the state and national levels. He is credited with the development of a generalized framework called the Six pillars of Utility Engineering for managing the utility process during all phases of project delivery. He also played a pivotal role on the development of the ASCE 38-22 and 75-22 consensus standards, which are changing the way utility facilities are managed within the right-ofway.



Active Research: Develop and Update Methodology for the Calculation and Reimbursement of Utility Relocations





# What we will be presenting...

- **3** | Introduction to Research
- 4 | Submission of Problem Statements
- **5** | Agreements/Work Plans
- **6** | Stakeholder Engagement
- 7 | Get Involved
- 8 | Active Research Project 0-7176
- 25 | Next Steps & Contact Info



# **Research Program at TxDOT**

#### **Safety**

 Design, build, operate, and maintain our transportation system with safety as our #1 priority

#### **Delivery**

 Responsible program execution throughout the transportation life cycle (planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations)

#### **Innovation**

 Forward-thinking, technology-focused, fostering a culture of continuous improvement

#### **Stewardship**

Professional, responsible stewards of resources

#### Integration

Integrate proven solutions into operations







#### **Problem Statements**

- Problem/Research
- Proposed Work
- Deliverables
- Expected Benefits
- TxDOT Champion

Prace Dippartment of Transportation	Research Problem Statement Form Problem Statement Research Problem Statement
Asterisks ( *) in	dicate required fields.
Functional Area (Select one)	Construction, Maintenance, and Materials   Safety & Operations   Strategy & Innovation  Planning & Environmental
Title	25-005 Synthesis: Prevention of Unauthorized Freeway Exits and Entrances
Problem/ Research	Define or provide a brief description of the problem or research need.
Need	A major safety concern across the state of Texas is drivers utilizing unauthorized entrances and exits off of and onto state roadways. Rather than waiting to take the next exit to leave the road, many people simply drive across the median to the frontage road for quick access. Additionally, drivers will use unauthorized entrances to enter a roadway in areas that are most convenient to them. This poses a number of safety hazards, some of which are people exiting/entering the roadway at unexpected or unsafe locations, differential speed concerns, and "paths" being worn that might encourage other travelers to exit or enter in the same unsafe location.
Proposed Work	What work will be performed? What will be accomplished?
WOIK	Conduct nationwide survey of deterrent options, both deterrent type and maintenance requirements. Conduct survey of individual districts to assess magnitude of unauthorized exits and entrances statewide. Assess unauthorized exits and entrances and evaluate causes, adjacent land uses, spacing of current entrances and exits, etc. Perform an evaluation of available deterrents to determine which are most effective in preventing unauthorized exits and entrances. Provide a menu of options that include minimum spacing requirements, standard practices, and options for different types of roadways.
Deliverables	List the deliverables to be submitted (Technical Memorandum and Reports are required), and briefly describe the products, processes, equipment that will be created, vetted, and fully explained through this research.
3	Literature Review     Surveys     Surveys     Surveys     Recommendations
Expected Benefits	What benefits would this project deliver, and how would the results be used within TxDOT (District & Division)?
	This project would assess safety enhancements along interstates and divided highways. The performing agency will provide an evaluation and recommendations of how approved deterrents could be deployed in TxDOT districts in areas of concern with the goal of reducing unauthorized exits and entrances on Texas roadways.
Other Research	The Problem Statement has been vetted through TRB's RIP, IRID and the IXDOT Research Library.
	What research projects, have been reviewed? Describe related research, completed or ongoing, IACs, and engineering contracts, with TxDOT or other funding agencies and how the proposed work differs or complements these efforts.
	Reviewed RIP, TRID, and the TxDOT research library. No similar/related results or research projects came up.
TxDOT Champion	☆ The listed TxDOT Champion has been contacted and his/her support can be verified.



#### **Research Agreements & Work Plans**

- Research Agreement
- Work Plan

Task#	Task Description	Task Begin Date	Task End Date
1	Project Management	9/1/2023	8/31/2025
2	Develop Baseline of Utility Relocation Reimbursement Eligibility and Calculations	9/1/2023	4/30/2024
3	Review Practices in Other States	10/1/2023	12/31/2023
4	Develop and Test Methodology for Utility Reimbursement Eligibility and Calculations	1/1/2024	9/30/2024
5	Prepare Guidebook	4/1/2024	10/31/2024
6	Prepare and Test Training Materials	5/1/2024	6/30/2025
7	Prepare Recommendations for Improvements to Utility Agreements	9/1/2024	4/30/2025



#### **Stakeholder Engagement**

- Selection of Research Projects
- Selection of the Project Management Committee
- Progress Meetings
- Oversight of Research
- Dissemination of Findings
- Implementation





#### **Get Involved!**

- Discuss/Submit Problem Statements
- Participate in Project Management Committees
- Discuss completed projects with RTI staff
- Implement a project in your D/D



# Research Project 0-7176

# Develop and Updated Methodology for Calculation of Reimbursement Levels for Utility Relocations

TxDOT Utility Week 12/04/2024



#### 0-7176 TxDOT Team Members

**Research Project Manager**: Katelyn Kasberg, Research and Technology Implementation Division (RTI) **Project Monitoring Committee (PMC)**:

Name	Title	District/Division
Wayne Robinson	Director, Utility Portfolio Section	Right of Way Division
Greg Faber	Deputy Director	Right of Way Division
Kenneth Duncan	Utility Coordinator	Laredo District
Raul SanMiguel	Utility Coordinator	San Antonio District
Carlos Mendez	Utility Coordinator	El Paso District
Marvin Whitley	Utility Coordinator	Yoakum District
Pamela Sherman	Utility Coordinator	Amarillo District

Prior PMC Members: Elizabeth Ortego, Susan Clanton



#### 0-7176 Research Team Members

Name	Role	Organization	Title
Cesar Quiroga	PI	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Senior Research Engineer
Jenny Naranjo	Researcher	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Assistant Research Scientist
Gary Young	Researcher	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Research Specialist
Luke Cooper	Researcher	Texas A&M Transportation Institute	Associate Research Scientist



# Reimbursement Eligibility for Utility Relocations

- No national standard for utility reimbursement eligibility criteria or calculations
- 23 CFR 645.107 (federal government participation):
  - Situations covered are generic
  - Implementation is left to individual states (based on state laws and regulations)
- State laws and regulations vary



# Reimbursement Eligibility at TxDOT

- Utility relocation is necessary for project on interstate highway
- Utility relocation is necessary for project on state highway system:
  - Utility facility has a compensable property interest
  - Highway designated as toll or turnpike before 09/01/2005 (50% reimbursable)
  - Utility facility owned by water supply or sewer service corporation:
    - Cannot pay utility relocation costs or payment would affect capability to serve customers
    - Utility owner is not able to receive a SIB loan
  - Utility facility owned by a political subdivision:
    - Cannot pay utility relocation costs or payment would affect capability to serve customers
    - Utility owner is not able to receive a SIB loan, or political subdivision has a population <5,000 and is in a county included in at least 5 presidential disaster declarations in the previous 6 years

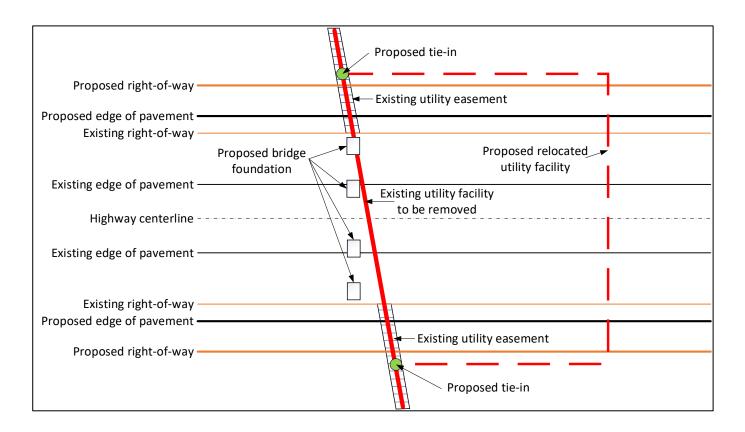


### When Property Interest is Not 0% or 100%...

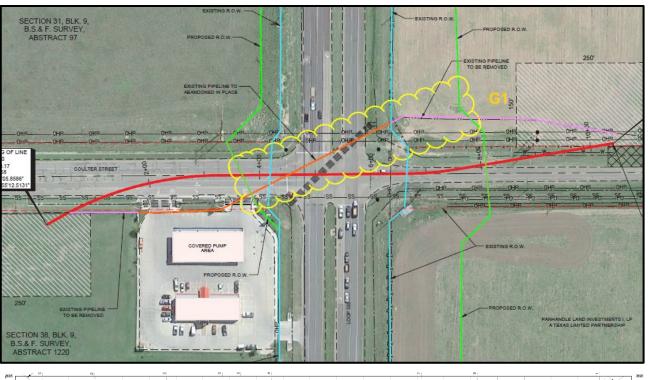
- Eligibility ratio: % of utility facilities that are reimbursable in relation to the total amount of utility facilities being relocated
  - Methods: Pole count, length, each facility, composite eligibility ratio (CER)
- Multiple property interest locations
- Facilities that are removed but not replaced
- Work outside proposed ROW
- Based on estimated costs, not actual relocation costs
- Result: Convoluted, complex calculations that are prone to errors
- Only 40% of utility coordinators comfortable with calculations

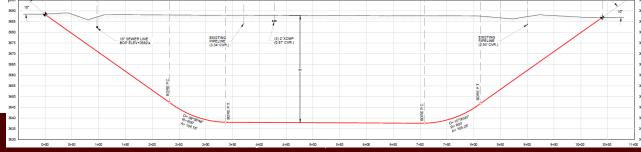


# Work Outside Proposed ROW



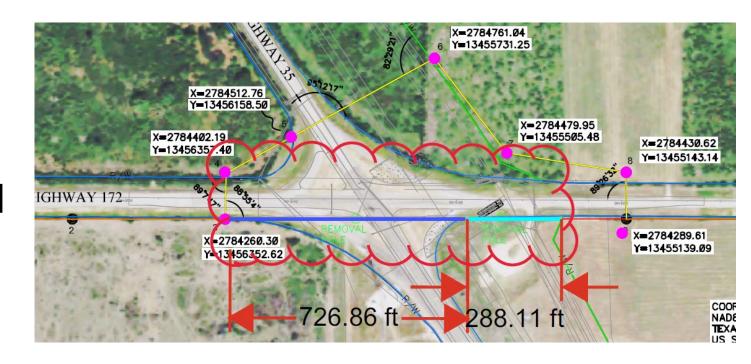
# Work Outside Proposed ROW







# Work Outside Proposed ROW





### Research Project 0-7176 Overview

- Conduct review of national practices
- Review sample cases to establish baseline of TxDOT practices
- Develop and test updated methodology for reimbursement eligibility and calculations
- Provide guidelines for using updated methodology
- Conduct training to stakeholders



#### Review of National Practices

- Reached out to 48 state DOTs
- Received feedback from 33 state DOTs
- Pole count method: 18 state DOTs (54%)
- Length method: 23 state DOTs (70%)
- Cost method: 27 state DOTs (82%):
  - 12 state DOTs (36%) use a percentage
  - 15 state DOTs (46%) use eligible costs
    - 10 state DOTs (37%) only use eligible costs



#### Review of National Practices

- 24 state DOTs (73%) include impacted facilities outside the proposed ROW in reimbursement eligibility calculation
- 30 state DOTs (91%) include work on private property in the utility relocation cost estimate
- 23 state DOTs (70%) consider reviewing the reimbursement eligibility after utility owners submit actual utility relocation costs



#### **Review of National Practices**

- State DOTs that use pole count and length methods experience similar issues and challenges as TxDOT does
- State DOTs that only use eligible costs (i.e., not reimbursement percentages) like it because it is easier to understand and use
- Including impacted utility facilities on private land in eligibility calculations results in fewer complaints from utility owners



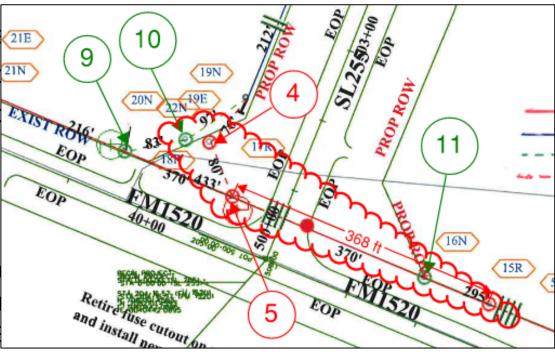
# Baseline Analysis

- 60 SUAs, supplemental agreements (20), and review memos
- Utility types:
  - Communications (9)
  - Electric (12)
  - Gas (16)
  - Water (19), sewer (1), water and sewer (3)
- Reimbursement eligibility method:
  - Pole count method (8)
  - Length method (38)
  - Cost/facility method (14)



## Baseline Analysis

- Utility agreement prepare
- Significant impact on car
- Lack of critical information
  - Existing utility facilities
  - Proposed utility facilities
  - Eligible lines and poles
  - Utility easements
  - Existing and proposed RO
  - Symbology, colors, and of
  - Critical project features: §





### Baseline Analysis

- Pole count method was problematic:
  - Plans often did not clearly show eligible poles
  - Highly sensitive to number of poles, particularly if the number was low
- Length method was conceptually simple. However:
  - Affected by poor plan quality and unclear/incomplete ROW lines
- Facility method was conceptually simple:
  - Divided utility relocation into work packages
  - Costs and reimbursement eligibility for each work package
- CER method was problematic:
  - Calculation was convoluted and difficult to understand
  - Errors were common



## Research Project 0-7176 Overview

- Conduct review of national practices
- Review sample cases to establish baseline of TxDOT practices
- Develop and test updated methodology for reimbursement eligibility and calculations
- Provide guidelines for using updated methodology
- Conduct training to stakeholders



#### For Additional Information

#### Katelyn Kasberg

Project Manager, Research and Technology Implementation (RTI) Division Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Email: katelyn.kasberg@txdot.gov

#### Cesar Quiroga, PhD, P.E., F.ASCE

Senior Research Engineer
Manager, Utility Engineering Program
Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)
Email: c-quiroga@tti.tamu.edu









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# **Networking Break**

# We will Resume at 10:00 AM



# **Commercial Sign Section Update**

Day 3 - December 4th

10:00AM - 10:30AM



#### **Presenter: Wendy Knox**



Wendy currently serves as Director of the Commercial Signs Regulatory Program Section in the Right of Way Division of TxDOT. Her section is comprised of 22 employees, 6 of which administer the program and the other 16 work in the field conducting site inspections. The program must regulate all commercial signs on 644,306 miles.

This year makes her 16<sup>th</sup> year with TxDOT, prior to her time with TxDOT she worked for Caltrans for 13 years as an Associate Right of Way Agent.

Wendy has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from the University of Oregon – Eugene and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Texas.

Some of her hobbies include working on projects on her property and traveling in her Newell Coach to show her Labradors all across the country.



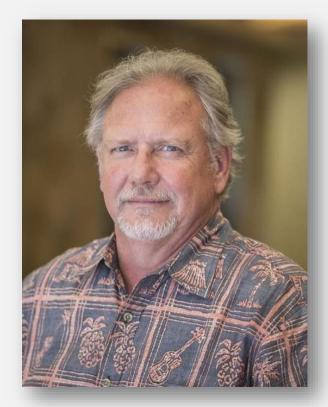
# **National Utility Initiative & Topics**

Day 3 - December 4th

10:30AM - 11:00AM



#### **Presenter: Jesse Cooper**



Utility Week 2024

Jesse Cooper is a Senior Utility Project Manager with HDR Engineering providing Utility Adjustment Coordination with 30+ years of project administration, surveying, coordination, & project controls experience. He has a BS in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M and is a RPLS. His career has centered on all aspects of utility coordination/utility engineering/utility relocation/surveying/SUE/ utility inspection. Jesse has provided leadership for the HDR team on Projects like the Rapid Bridge Replacement Project in Pennsylvania for the utility relocation of over 500 bridges, updates of the North Carolina, Nebraska, and Texas Utility Manuals, a rewrite of the Texas Administrative code on Utility Accommodation, and Utility Training Materials for South Carolina. As the former TXDOT Section Director of the Map, Survey, & Utility Section, Jesse provided oversight of the Utility & Mapping Programs for transportation projects. He also served on the TxDOT Committee for Geomatics and Surveying. He was part of the team presented the FHWA 2006 Utility Outstanding Achievement Award in the Category of Utility SUE (Subsurface Utility Engineering) and the 2003 Streamlining and Innovation Honorable Mention Award. In 2011 Jesse represented Texas and the FHWA in assisting the government of Kuwait in a review of their accommodation policies and identify concerns existing between the oil/gas industry and the Kuwait government. Jesse also serves on the Transportation Research Board for Utilities, teaches International Right of Way Association Courses, and serves as the current President of the UESI Texas December 2 - 5, 2024 64 Chapter.



**Partners in Coordination** 

### **District Showcase**

Corpus Christi, El Paso, Laredo, Lubbock, Lufkin

Leo Tovar MC for Districts

Day 3 - December 4th 11:00AM - 12:00PM

# TXDOT ROW UTILITY WEEK

Partners in Coordination

# **TxDOT Utility District & Division Contact Web Map**





# Buffet Lunch 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

#### Agenda: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Connecting you with Texas.

	Track 1 Utilities by Others	Track 2 Broadband	Track 3 UESI				
Time	Session 1	Session 1	Session 1				
1:30PM - 2:15PM	Utilities in Maintenance	Texas Broadband Development Office (BDO)	Relocations, Monitoring &				

- Closing the Digital Divide

Presenter: Mark Johnson

RTI

**Utilities and Traffic Safety** 

**Presenter: Harsh Doshy** 

Presenter: Darrin Jensen

**Verification, Inspection** 

Session 3

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Networking Break Session 2

Presenters: Andrea Pacheco & Lauren Weber

2:15PM - 2:30PM Time Session 2

Session 3

Session 2 **Construction Management Plans** 

**Presenter: Cristy Burch** 

MC: Sarah Wegenast

**TxDOT Broadband Program Updates** 

**Broadband Coordination Roundtable** 

**Networking Break** 

Session 3

Adjourn

**ASCE #75** 

December 2 - 5, 2024

4:15PM Utility Week 2024

2:30PM - 3:15PM

3:15PM - 3:30PM

Time

3:30PM - 4:15PM