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TxLTAP July Newsletter

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Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy Announces Availability of \$5.4 Billion in Bridge Funding to Get America Building Again

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) today announced nearly \$4.9 billion in available funding for major bridge projects through the Bridge Investment Program, and up to \$500 million for repairing or replacing bridges in rural areas through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. The funding opportunity removes requirements that tied critical infrastructure funding to social justice and climate initiatives.



The announcement of \$5.4 billion in bridge funding represents a major opportunity for public works and road & bridge departments across the country. For local agencies, this funding can help address aging infrastructure, accelerate repair and replacement projects, and enhance safety for the traveling public. It also means greater potential for job creation, improved transportation efficiency, and long-term economic benefits for communities that rely on strong, reliable infrastructure. Departments should begin preparing shovel-ready projects and identifying priority needs to take full advantage of this federal investment.

[Search Results Detail | Grants.gov](#)

[BIP - Funding Programs - Management and Preservation - Bridges & Structures - Federal Highway Administration](#)

Read More...

Public Works Disaster/Hurricane Preparedness - Can Your Department Do More?

Disaster preparedness is essential for public works professionals, who play a critical role in protecting infrastructure and ensuring community resilience

during emergencies. From restoring roads and utilities to coordinating debris removal and supporting emergency response teams, public works personnel are often among the first to respond and the last to leave.

Proper planning and training equip them to act quickly and effectively, minimizing downtime, reducing damage, and safeguarding public safety. By proactively preparing for natural disasters, severe weather, and other crises, public works teams help maintain continuity of essential services and strengthen a community’s ability to recover and rebuild.

The resources below can help equip your department with the tools, guidance, and coordination needed to build a stronger, more prepared public works response - before, during, and after hurricane events. Lastly, consider working with [Texas Division of Emergency Management](#) when planning responses and evacuations.



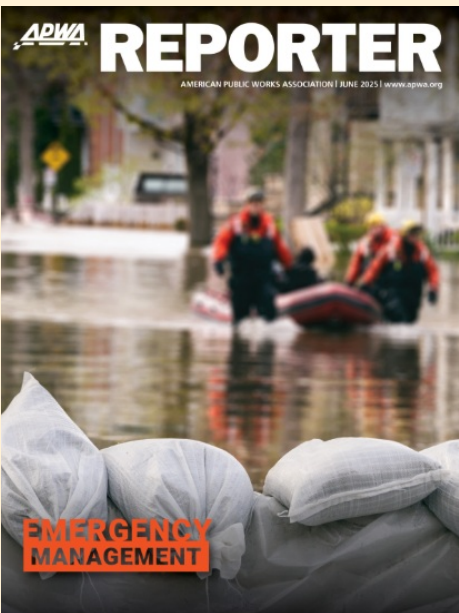
***This hurricane season, Texas coastal communities will receive evacuation notices 60 hours before a hurricane’s expected landfall—extended from the usual 48-hour timeline. This temporary change is due to an extensive construction project along Interstate 45, the region’s primary evacuation route.**

For public works departments, this earlier notice means more time to prepare critical infrastructure, stage traffic control equipment, and assist with emergency response coordination. It also increases the urgency to adjust work schedules, mobilize crews, and secure job sites ahead of evacuations. While not a permanent policy shift, this proactive measure highlights the need for public works teams to stay flexible and ready to support community safety under evolving conditions.



- [TxDOT Statewide Planning](#)
- [FEMA Preparedness Toolkit](#)
- [FEMA Hurricane Preparedness and Evacuation Planning](#)
- [FEMA Public Works Toolkit](#)
- [TCEQ Hurricane Preparedness](#)

APWA Reporter Available Now



June 2025

Is your agency ready for an emergency? Does your city have plans in place for disaster recovery? Emergencies are not predictable, but planning is. In the June issue of the APWA Reporter, it’s all about emergency management. Read about how pre-event contracts can give you a head start on recovery, strengthening wildfire preparedness and more, including our regular columns!

[Read More...](#)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy Announces Over \$1.5

Billion to Repair Roads and Bridges Damaged by Natural Disasters, Including Hurricane Helene

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy has announced over \$1.5 billion in federal Emergency Relief (ER) funding to help repair transportation infrastructure damaged by natural disasters, with a significant portion—more than \$683 million—allocated to address damage from Hurricane Helene. The funds, administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), will support emergency repair work in 36 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This includes repairs to federal-aid highways and federally owned roads affected by hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other extreme weather events.



Secretary Duffy emphasized the administration’s commitment to removing barriers and accelerating repairs, citing the example of North Carolina’s I-40 repairs, projected to save two-thirds of cost and time.

What This Means for Texas Public Works:

While Texas is not directly listed in this round of allocations, this federal support sets a clear precedent for swift disaster relief funding following major events. For Texas public works professionals, it underscores the importance of:

- Disaster preparedness and documentation—to ensure eligibility for FHWA Emergency Relief funds.
- Pre-positioned recovery plans and assessments, especially as hurricane season intensifies.
- Timely coordination with state and federal agencies to initiate repair efforts and secure funding.
- Remaining informed on evolving funding opportunities and federal response timelines that could impact local infrastructure recovery efforts after future disasters.

Texas public works departments should review their emergency response protocols and infrastructure vulnerabilities now to position themselves for potential funding and assistance in the event of a disaster.

[Read More...](#)

Better Roads Safer Roads - A TxLTAP Publication

Discover High-Value Insights with TxLTAP's quarterly magazine, Better Roads Safer Roads. It is your go-to resource for in-depth content on roadway safety, innovative practices, and public works excellence.

Each issue delivers expert insights, real-world success stories, and valuable tools to help Texas city and county employees build safer, more efficient transportation networks. Don't miss out on this essential resource-read the latest issue today!

[Read More...](#)



Advance Your Skills: Discover PWI's Open Enrollment Training Opportunities

Now Open to All: Management Series Courses for Every Level of Leadership Available for Purchase Through PWI



Each course in the Management Series builds on the last, providing public works and other related professionals with a complete toolkit for effective supervision, leadership, and team development. By progressing through the series, employees gain critical competencies that directly support their success in managing crews, navigating daily challenges, and fostering a safe, efficient work environment.

From learning how to resolve workplace conflict and motivate teams to mastering performance evaluations and advanced project planning, participants walk away with practical, actionable skills they can apply immediately. These courses not only strengthen individual confidence and

communication but also prepare employees for higher-level responsibilities—supporting career advancement while ensuring their departments operate with professionalism, accountability, and long-term sustainability.

MGT400: Managing Conflict in the Workplace

Tuesday, July 29, 2025 | 8:00am to 5:00pm | \$445 | UTA EEC

MGT404: Basic Supervision & Management Skills

Wednesday to Thursday, July 30-31, 2025 | 8:00am to 5:00pm | \$695 | UTA EEC

MGT405: Developing Employee Performance Plans & Conducting Employee Performance Evaluations

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 | 8:00am to 5:00pm | \$445 | UTA EEC

MGT406: Advanced Management Skills

Wednesday to Friday, September 10-12, 2025 | 8:00am to 5:00pm | \$995 | UTA EEC

Enhance your Skills with ARI: Hands-On Training for Roadway

Excellence



Build your skills and broaden your knowledge with the **Advanced Road Inspector (ARI) Certification & Workshops**. Whether you're just getting started or already experienced in highway construction inspection, this program dives deep into essential topics like materials, techniques, and compliance standards. From asphalt to drainage

to signage, you'll gain practical insights and training to help ensure safe, high-quality roadways across Texas.

By investing in your training through the ARI program, you're not just checking a box - you're positioning yourself as a trusted leader in the future of Texas transportation.

Advanced Road Inspector Program

Build Your Knowledge with PWI's Aviation Short Course Series

Elevate your aviation expertise with PWI's industry-recognized Aviation Short Courses—designed for professionals involved in airport planning, design, construction, and operations. Whether you're just stepping into aviation projects or looking to expand your capabilities as an experienced practitioner, these expert-led trainings deliver real-world knowledge and skills you can apply immediately on the job.



Courses cover a range of essential topics—from airport pavements and airside design to airport planning processes, forecasting, and infrastructure development. Participants gain a comprehensive understanding of FAA and ICAO standards, master planning strategies, and technical considerations for ensuring safety, efficiency, and long-term performance.

Airport Short Course Series

Instructor Spotlight

Enrique Jaimes

Enrique D. Jaimes is a bilingual safety professional with over 20 years of experience across a wide range of industries, including utility construction, building construction, heavy highway and bridge construction, and general industry. He has served in key roles such as Safety Consultant, Safety Coordinator, and Safety Director, offering expertise to both private companies and public sector organizations. His work has also included consulting for production facilities and pecan processing plants.



Enrique dedicated 17 years to the mining industry, serving as a safety consultant and certified trainer under MSHA Part 46/48 regulations. Today, he

continues to focus on training and education, sharing his real-world insights with workers and supervisors to improve safety culture and compliance.

Enrique has been training with the University of Texas at Arlington, Extension and Extended Campus, for the past four years, delivering courses to municipalities throughout Texas. His specialties include Heavy Highway and Roadway Work Zone Safety, OSHA-related subjects, and other critical safety topics—ensuring that Spanish- and English-speaking crews alike receive high-quality, accessible training that keeps everyone safe on the job.

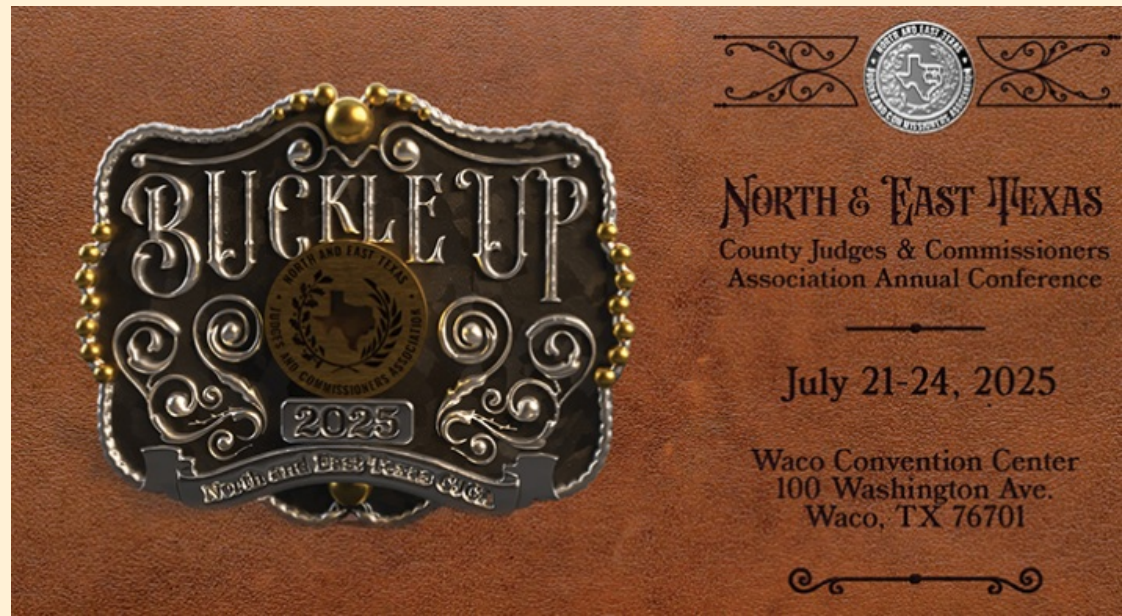
We're On the Road! Catch TxLTAP at These Events...

If you're attending an event or conference, be sure to stop by the TxLTAP booth to meet our team, learn about our free training and resources, and see how we can support Texas cities and counties!

While you're there, pick up some **TxLTAP swag**, including:

- TxLTAP bags,
- Glass breakers,
- Other exciting items!

Be sure to visit our booth this summer!



- July 21, 2025 - July 24, 2025
- 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM
- Waco Convention Center
100 Washington Ave
Waco, TX 76701

North and East Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association

More to Explore!

Share Your Innovation!

Got a smart fix or time-saving tool on the job? The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) **Build A Better**

Mousetrap (BABM) competition highlights simple, creative solutions from city and county crews like yours. Whether it's a custom-built device, safety improvement, or a better way to get the job done - **share your idea and get recognized nationwide.**



Submit your entry thorough TxLTAP today!

FHWA

APWA

TxDOT

NACE

NLTAPA



[Build a Better Mousetrap \(BABM\)](#) program by the FHWA showcases innovative solutions to everyday challenges faced by local and tribal transportation professionals.

Learn More about
BABM



[The Every Day Counts \(EDC\)](#) initiative by FHWA promotes innovations to accelerate highway project delivery, improve safety, and reduce costs with support for strategies.

Subscribe to EDC
News!



Texas has lost at least one person every day on Texas roads since Nov. 7, 2000." Join TxDOT and Texans on ending the streak of daily deaths on our Texas roads. **#EndTheStreakTx**

TxDOT Safety
Campaigns



Contact Us:

817-272-2581
TxLTAP@uta.edu
TxLTAP.org



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