

Addressing Tomorrow's Challenges:

## Cultivating the Transportation Engineering & Public Works Workforce of the Future

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

Date: **May 15, 2025** 1:00-2:00pm EST

Speaker: Eric Rensel

Speaker: Donna Shea

Speaker: Corinne Watts

Speaker: Patrick Brady

## Description



The transportation sector is rapidly evolving, driven by technological advancements, climate imperatives, and shifting population patterns. To meet these challenges, the engineering workforce must adapt, growing in both scale and capability. This webinar will explore strategies to develop and sustain a diverse, skilled workforce capable of leading future innovations in transportation infrastructure, design, and systems management. Key topics of discussion will include: Initiatives to attract younger generations to transportation engineering careers; including outreach to K-12 students; new academic pathways; and partnerships with community colleges and universities. Best practices for fostering an inclusive workforce that reflects the communities served, with a focus on underrepresented groups in engineering fields. Training programs and professional development opportunities are designed to equip current engineers with emerging competencies, from data analytics and automation to sustainability and climate resilience. Public-Private Collaboration to accelerate innovation and ensure workforce readiness. The panel will share case studies, data insights, and policy recommendations to stimulate a deeper understanding of how to cultivate a workforce that not only meets today's transportation challenges but is poised to lead in an increasingly complex and technology-driven future.

### In support of the:

**Conference**

**TRB National Summit for the Transportation Workforce**

**JUNE 2-4 2025,  
WESTMINSTER, CO**

A series of Pre-Summit Webinars to jumpstart the engagement and learning that the Summit is designed to move forward into new networks and working group to support the future Transportation Workforce. Webinars are free but pre-registration is required. Join us for these critical conversations, and at the [Summit](#).

**Webinar Recording:** Everyone who registers for the webinar will be able to view the session on YouTube

**Technology Requirements:** Webinar will be held on UCONN Zoom.

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Eric Rensel, ITE

Eric, a transportation expert with 25+ years of experience, is the founder of Rensel Consulting and a leader in roadway design, traffic engineering, and transportation planning. He heads the Advanced Mobility Group, focusing on connected vehicles, smart cities, highway automation, and TSMO. Known for his strategic vision and collaborative leadership, Eric empowers teams to tackle complex challenges with scalable solutions. As a national voice with the Institute of Transportation Engineers, he is passionate about transforming communities and shaping the future of mobility.



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Donna Shea,

Donna has been the Executive Program Director of the Connecticut Training and Technical Assistance (T2) Center at the University of Connecticut for 25 years, overseeing knowledge transfer and best practices for transportation professionals statewide. Previously, she managed the Tuck Executive Education Program at Dartmouth College. She holds a bachelor's in organizational leadership from the College of St. Joseph in Vermont and a master's in Adult Learning from the University of Connecticut. She recently completed her term as Chair of the APWA National Workforce Development Committee.



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Patrick Brady

Patrick Brady is the Director of Workforce Development & Public Visibility for ACEC. He serves in a cross-functional capacity supporting Communications and Advocacy efforts for ACEC members while serving as the staff director for ACEC's Workforce Committee. Prior to ACEC, Patrick led Amazon's state and local policy engagement for the employment and workforce legislative portfolio. Patrick earned his bachelor's degree from Loyola University of Chicago and resides in Virginia with his wife and two boys.



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Corinne Watts

Corinne Watts is the Workforce and Career Development Manager for APWA, collaborating with the Workforce Development Committee to address skill gaps and support career growth in public works. Previously, she served as Executive Director for Green Hills Regional Planning Commission, aiding community development in Missouri. With 15 years of experience in workforce development, she has led program planning, analysis, and implementation in Washington State.

