The City Engineers Association of Minnesota

Annual Meeting

January 27–29, 2021

Virtual Conference

conference.umn.edu/ceam

Sponsors:
City Engineers Association of Minnesota
Minnesota Department of Transportation
League of Minnesota Cities

Facilitated by:
College of Continuing & Professional Studies
University of Minnesota
The City Engineers Association of Minnesota (CEAM) extends a warm invitation to our 2021 Annual Conference, being held January 27–29, 2021. The welcome message for the 2020 CEAM annual conference talked about vision, but no one could have seen what was coming just a few months later. Suffice it to say 2020 has been a year unlike any other in our lifetime. We hope this message finds all our members and colleagues well.

Given the current situation, the CEAM Executive Committee has made the decision to hold our 2021 Annual Conference in a virtual fashion. CEAM understands the importance of the Annual Conference and wishes it were possible to have it in person as usual, but the safety of attendees and availability of education credits necessary for licensure took precedent in the decision. Human interaction and networking have always been vital and enjoyable aspects of our conference. This conference will be different; however, if conditions allow, CEAM intends to look into potentially holding a separate social/networking event later in 2021.

Although the configuration of our 2021 CEAM Conference may be virtual, the content will be real-time! Our keynote will be delivered by Mike Max, a big personality on WCCO television and radio. Other general sessions include ethics, speed limits, and updates on the MS4 permit and from our partners at LMC and LRRB. And also to great fanfare, Professor Schultz will recap the 2020 elections and how they affect our industry, which comes full-circle from his first presentation on the 2016 election. Concurrent sessions will include a variety of technical topics, as well as a continuation of the “101 Series” that was well-received last year. Both a general and concurrent session will be offered on COVID-19 to share stories of how cities are responding, along with more detailed information on a few specific case studies.

In consideration of the unique circumstances, the conference fees for this year have been significantly reduced. Additionally, CEAM is offering free registration to students for the entire conference! We hope to draw new attendees that otherwise may not have participated in the past. Though it will be different than ever before, we are confident that with the understanding and support of our members, the 2021 CEAM Annual Conference will be another top-notch education event! On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, welcome!

2021 CEAM Conference Planning Co-Chairs
Michael Thompson, City of Plymouth
Joseph Rhein, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
#CEAM2021
Program

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

8:30–8:40 a.m.
Welcome
Justin Femrite, CEAM President, City of Elk River

8:40–10:10 a.m.
Personal Success and Inspiration
Mike Max, WCCO Sports Director
Moderator: Joe Rhein, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Mike Max is a true Minnesotan, having spent his entire life here. Born in Gaylord, where he learned early lessons about work ethic, he graduated from a local university and has been a well-known member of the local media for the past three decades. His career has included producing the program “Life to the Max,” which features stories on the positive and inspiring side of life around the world.

Mike has been speaking to groups ranging from small schools to Fortune 500 companies since 1992. He focuses on the “Five Observations of People Who Succeed,” including discussions on resiliency, inspiration, and overcoming adversity. Mike’s captivating coverage during the 2020 social unrest and demonstrations in Minneapolis also gives him a unique perspective to tie into his presentation.

Attendees will leave this session with a sense of positivity that can be leveraged to successfully face difficult challenges.

10:10–10:35 a.m.
LMC Update
Moderator: Dan Coyle, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Speakers: Dave Unmacht, Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities

This session will provide an overview of the League’s highest priorities and major trends within local government. Dave will highlight the LMC Board focus and how that is helping the League fulfill its mission to serve all cities in Minnesota.

10:35–10:50 a.m.
Break

10:50–11:50 a.m.
COVID-19 Organization Response
Moderator: Jen Desrude, City of Burnsville
Dillon Dombrowski, City of Rochester; Chad Millner, City of Edina; Jason Wedel, City of Prior Lake

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone. In a very quick time frame, organizations needed to respond and come up with plans for how they were going to handle various aspects of a global pandemic. Often these plans needed to be adaptable and nimble as new information was discovered about the virus.

In the summer of 2020, CEAM issued a survey to see how organizations have handled, learned from, and coped with COVID-19. This session includes a review of this survey and a panel discussion that will provide insight into how organizations dealt with, and continue to deal with, a global pandemic.

11:50 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Awards and Scholarship Recognition

12:45–1:15 p.m.
Lunch
Concurrent Sessions

COVID-19: Examples of Technical and Practical Actions

Moderator: Steve Klein, Barr Engineering
Chad Millner, City of Edina; Don Kopecky, Barr Engineering; Mark Ray, City of Crystal; HSEM Representative (invited)

This concurrent session will present actions taken to address circumstances associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the lack of hand sanitizer available for purchase, the City of Edina undertook efforts to manufacture and distribute its own hand sanitizer both internally and for public use. Edina Engineering Director Chad Millner will describe this proactive approach taken by the city of Edina. Also, Barr Engineering will present on the use of ionization equipment to improve indoor air quality and mitigate the transmission of infectious disease. Dan Kopecky will provide an overview of the technology, including information on a project to install equipment at Bismarck State College. Finally, a representative from the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) will present on the overall issues and challenges of supply-chain networks and logistics during a pandemic.

Engineering 101: City Government and Engineering Topics

Moderator: John Gordner, City of Eagan
Bob Bauer, Dougherty, Molenda, Solfest, Hills & Bauer PA

Each set of concurrent sessions will include a “101” topic geared toward younger engineers or those new to the field of city engineering. This first 101 session will be on overall City Government and City Engineering. It will cover a number of topics regarding city government structures, city council/commissions, easements, special assessments, and contracts. The session presenter, Bob Bauer, is the City Attorney for the City of Eagan. He has spoken at several previous CEAM Conferences, and this presentation is sure to be delivered in a clear, informative, and engaging style.

2:30–2:45 p.m.
Break
2:45–4:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

2020 Bicycle Facility Design Manual
Moderator: Joe Rhein, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Hannah Pritchard, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Nick Mason, Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota; Colin Harris, Alta Planning and Design
Bicycling is an important part of the multimodal transportation system throughout Minnesota. MnDOT’s vision for bicycle transportation is that it be safe, comfortable, and convenient for all people. MnDOT published a new Bicycle Facility Design Manual in February 2020 that supersedes the 2007 version. The 2020 Manual is a resource for projects and systems that are usable, balanced, flexible, and maintainable, and it is organized to help make decisions throughout the spectrum from early planning to ongoing maintenance.
Speakers for this session include a member of the MnDOT Project Management team, a representative from the Bicycle Alliance of MN who served as an advisor, and an engineer from the consultant team. They will provide overview and context for the development of the Manual, discussion of technical aspects, and introduction of new elements such as categorizing bicyclists by type, identifying levels of traffic stress, and using the interaction of those to determine appropriate bicycle facilities. Attendees of this session will gain an awareness of the 2020 Bicycle Facilities Design Manual, the new information it contains, and understanding of when and why the Manual should be used.

Building Community Resilience by Leveraging Citywide 2D Storm Sewer Modeling
Moderator: Bob Moberg, AE2S
Justin Klabo, AE2S
The City of Burnsville is using a citywide 2D storm sewer modeling tool to create a flood risk mitigation plan and develop resiliency initiatives in response to flood events. This session will focus on how the 2D data-driven decision tool can help you prioritize your infrastructure improvements.

Project Management 101
Moderator: Jennifer Edison, WSB & Associates
Monica Heil, WSB & Associates; Bob Simons, City of Bloomington
This is the second session in the “101 Series,” presenting information on project management for younger engineers or those new to the role of a project manager.
This session will include municipal construction project managers from both consultants and public agencies, describing and giving real-world examples of the many steps involved when developing, designing, and obtaining plan and permit approvals, along with administering municipal construction projects of varying complexities.

4:00 p.m.
Adjourn for the day
Program

Thursday, January 28, 2021

8:00–8:10 a.m.
Welcome

Joseph Rhein, Co-Chair, CEAM Conference Planning Committee, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

8:10–9:10 a.m.
Opportunity + Training Program

Moderator: Jenn Edison, WSB & Associates
Bret Weiss, WSB & Associates; Laura Rescorla, WSB & Associates

The communities in which we live and work are more diverse than the Civil Engineering industry looks today. WSB wants to build a workforce that looks like the communities we serve, believing that this will drive innovation.

The Opportunity + Training Program was created by WSB as a pathway program into the civil engineering industry, targeted toward traditionally underrepresented communities in the industry. Its intent is to reduce barriers and provide the training and experience for people to enter the industry in a career as a field technician. The program provides workplace readiness (personal leadership), technical learning, and hands-on experience in surveying and construction materials testing.

9:10–10:10 a.m.
2020: The Evolution of Public Engagement

Moderator: Kevin Bittner, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Beth Elliott, Joe Polacek, Stantec; Hailey Maze, Michael Thompson, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Public engagement should be fun, accessible, and inclusive, whether it’s done in person or using online and virtual tools. Planners, engineers, and other city leaders are always trying to do better with involving communities in infrastructure and development projects. While working to bring more people into the discussion, remove barriers to participation, and go to where people gather, COVID-19 hit. Our best practices for making engagement more personal and more relevant were turned on its head by stay-at-home orders. Luckily, adversity drives innovation. Learn from four planners how their engagement tactics evolved throughout 2020 and lessons from testing and applying best practices that will result in successful (and approved) projects.

10:10–10:25
Break

10:25–11:55 a.m.
Latest Developments in Local Speed Limits

Moderator: Debra Heiser, City of St. Louis Park
Mark Vizecky, Minnesota Department of Transportation; Scott McBride, Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Randy Newton, Department of Public Works/City of Saint Paul; Sam Budzyna, City of Rochester

This session will address the latest developments in Local Speed Limits, including a presentation on the Statewide Speed Limit Vision Project being facilitated by MnDOT. Cities of Saint Paul and Rochester will also show how they are responding to the 2019 Legislative changes that authorize Minnesota cities to set speed limits on certain city streets.

The Statewide Speed Limit Vision Project was undertaken by a Technical Advisory Group consisting of state, county, and municipal professionals with involvement in transportation planning, engineering, or other technical aspects. Its goal is to develop a consistent and unified vision related to speed and speed limits that is supported by cities, counties, special interests, public safety, and law enforcement.

During the 2019 special session, the Legislature authorized Minnesota cities to set speed limits on certain city streets after adopting their own procedures to set the new speed limits. In addition, the Legislature changed the definition of a “residential roadway,” which has the effect of allowing cities to adopt a speed limit of 25 mph on certain city streets without any engineering review. The new law went into effect August 1, 2019.

11:55 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Lunch
Local Breweries: Impact on Water and Waste Water—Cold Spring and Two Harbors

Moderator: Dan Boyum, Stantec
Henry Croll, Stantec; Brian Linzgen, City of Coldspring/Stantec; Luke Heikkila, Two Harbors; Brian Guldan, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
City of Cold Spring, MN, initiated a field evaluation of biologically active filtration (BAF) of groundwater for denitrification based on a two-stage, 1 gpm pilot unit. The six-month study demonstrated denitrification performance achieved by BAF under various design and operational conditions: nitrate levels were consistently reduced from up to 18 mg-N/L to 0−4 mg-N/L.
Castle Danger brewery started in a garage in 2006, and moved to downtown Two Harbors in 2014. The brewery has experienced great success, and after increasing its output tenfold, it was having a serious impact on the city’s wastewater system. The City of Two Harbors has a long history and a wastewater plant that sits on the shore of Lake Superior, discharging directly to that valuable resource. The plant is old and in need of $20M worth of upgrades. The City and Castle Danger Brewery have worked closely together regarding impacts on the wastewater system, including developing a SIU (Significant Industrial User) agreement and installing a monitoring station to track discharge from the brewery. The City is in the process of developing a project to replace its aged wastewater treatment plant.

Pavement Stripping Investigation: Sealcoat Yea or Nay

Moderator: Steve Bot, City of Saint Michael
Dr. Zhanping You, Michigan Technological University; Paul Nolan, MnDOT Materials and Road Restoration

To sealcoat or not to sealcoat, that is the question. For years, City Engineers have relied on sealcoating as a cost-effective pavement preservation method to extend the life of asphalt streets in Minnesota. Recently, many Minnesota Cities have started moving away from sealcoating due to stripping issues they’ve experienced on sealcoated City streets. The Local Road Research Board has completed a research project with Michigan Tech University to try to answer this simple question and determine whether sealcoating can actually be counterproductive due to stripping. In this session you will hear the findings of this new research and how MnDOT’s top sealcoat experts view the issue.

Slope Stability

Moderator: Jen Desrude, City of Burnsville
Heather Nelson, WSB & Associates; Jen Holmstadt, WSB & Associates

Changing precipitation patterns have resulted in a 37% increase in 100-year rainfall events in Minnesota, as well as changes in the seasonality of precipitation. These changes have resulted in several natural hazards that increasingly affect public infrastructure. Slope failures, subsidence, and flooding are all hazards that occur more frequently than in the past. WSB staff will discuss a sustainability case study for the City of Burnsville. WSB partnered with Burnsville to proactively identify and mitigate slopes vulnerable to failure that may affect infrastructure or public safety.
Program

Pavement Markings 101
Moderator: Matt Hansen, SRF Consulting Group
Jon Jackels, SRF Consulting Group;
Adrian Potter, SRF Consulting Group
This is the third session in the “101 Series,” providing information on the subject of pavement markings. Cities address the selection, application, and maintenance of pavement marking in a variety of ways. This session will review the importance of pavement markings, describe multiple types of pavement marking materials, and explore how cities use different materials in different locations. Audience participation will be encouraged: be prepared to share your experiences and learn from your peers.

1:45–2:45 p.m.
Ethics
Moderator: Joe Rhein, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Chad Weinstein, Ethical Leaders In Action
Chad Weinstein holds a PhD in ethics and is Founder and President of Ethical Leaders in Action. He is a practical ethicist and consultant who has worked with numerous clients in both the private and public sectors, including several cities. Chad has developed dozens of hours of ethics curriculum, drawing upon a basis of authentic stories. He returns to the 2021 CEAM Conference after presenting the top-ranked session in 2020.
Professional ethics encompasses many aspects – trust, relationship building, collaboration and teamwork, problem solving, and decision making. Chad will provide an engaging, thought provoking and entertaining session on these elements, allowing attendees to employ the information in their work. The content of this session will also count toward the continuing education requirement for ethics in Minnesota PE licensure.

2:45–3:00 p.m.
Break

2020 Election Review and Analysis
Moderator: Thomas Mathisen, CEAM Lifetime Member
David Schultz, Hamline University
The first appearance of Professor David Schultz at the CEAM Conference was a session to recap the 2016 election. It was so well received he’s been back every year since! This year bring us full-circle, as Professor Schultz returns to provide an energetic and objective presentation covering the 2020 election, the past twelve months, the present status, and the future outlook. Where do things stand today? How will the election results play out over the next several years? The takeaway will be what all of this means for local government, with respect to funding and support for infrastructure projects, implications for staff relations with new city councils and the public, and the outlook for city government in general. And then he’ll throw in COVID-19 for good measure.
Professor Schultz delivered the top-ranked session at the 2017, 2018, and 2019 CEAM Annual Conference. (His session at the 2020 Conference was “only” #2 ranked…) He is a national expert on election law, professional ethics, state constitutional law, eminent domain, and land use law, and teaches courses on those topics at Hamline University in Saint Paul, MN. He has authored/edited 30 books and over 100 articles, and he is a frequent contributor on television and radio coverage of government and elections.

4:30 p.m.
Adjourn for the day
Program

Friday, January 29, 2021

8:00–8:10 a.m.
Welcome

Michael Thompson, CEAM Vice-President,
Conference Planning Committee Co-Chair,
City of Plymouth

8:10–8:40 a.m.

Minnesota Department of Transportation Commissioner

Moderator: Chris Kufner, Deputy State Aid Engineer,
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Commissioner,
Minnesota Department of Transportation (invited)

8:40–9:00 a.m.
State Aid Engineer

Chris Kufner, Deputy State Aid Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation

9:00–10:00 a.m.

MS4 Permit Update

Moderator: Dan Boyum, Stantec
Randy Neprash, Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition, Stantec, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance
The MPCA has been working on the update to the MS4 permit for a couple of years. This session will provide details on the update and highlight the changes that cities need to be aware of, once the permit is issued.

10:00–10:40 a.m.
LRRB Update

Moderator: Matt Hansen, SRF Consulting Group
Renae Kuehl, SRF Consulting Group
This session will provide an update on recent LRRB activities including current research into bicycle facility design, full-depth reclamation options for urban settings, and roadway system preservation for cities.

10:40–11:55 a.m.

Transit in the Metro

Moderator: Debra Heiser, City of St. Louis Park
Chris Beckwith, Assistant Director of BRT Projects, Metropolitan Council; Ryan Kronzer, Assistant Director of Design and Engineering, Metropolitan Council; Nic Dial, Assistant Director of Construction, Metropolitan Council
This session will provide an overview of the planned transit system in the metro area including the latest information on light rail transit (LRT), bus rapid transit (BRT), and arterial bus rapid transit (Arterial BRT). Additionally, this session will take a look into the design and construction of the Southwest Light Rail (SWLRT) project.
The SWLRT project is the largest construction project in the state, consisting of an approximate 14.5 mile route through Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie.
Program

Construction began in 2019 and when complete will provide 16 new stations in those communities. A review of the history of the site selection and design will be presented along with the highlights and hurdles of construction.

11:55 a.m.–12:10 p.m.
Break

12:10–1:15 p.m.
Business Meeting

1:15 p.m.
Conference Adjourn

Twitter

We’re on Twitter! Use hashtag #CEAM2021 to continue this year’s conference conversation.
General Information

Registration and Fees
The registration fee is $175 and includes access to all sessions and instructional materials. Participants may also pay for their annual CEAM membership ($60) while registering for the conference. Please register online at conference.umn.edu/ceam.

- $235 Conference + CEAM Membership
- $175 Conference ONLY
- $175 Conference ONLY and Lifetime Membership
- $60 CEAM Membership Only
- $0 Student Conference Registration (entire conference)

Cancellation Policy
If you need to cancel your registration, a refund of your fee—minus a $30 processing fee—will be made if written notice is received by January 15, 2021. Cancellations after this date are not eligible for a refund but we may be able to substitute a colleague to attend in your place. The University reserves the right to cancel the event if necessary and would issue a full refund in this case.

Attire
Dress casual, be comfortable, and enjoy this virtual presentation from home.

Continuing Education Units
Participants who attend the entire conference will receive 1.61 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). One CEU is defined as 10 contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education program. A CEU certificate will be sent to each participant after the conference. A permanent record of CEUs earned will be maintained by the University of Minnesota Office of Admissions and Records Transcript Office. Please visit the following website for pertinent information about PDH requirements: mn.gov/aelslagid/index.html

For Further Information
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Social Media: Join the Conversation
Follow us on Twitter at @CEAM_org!

We invite you to join the conversation about the virtual 2021 CEAM Conference. Tweet about the experience on twitter, or post updates to your LinkedIn and Facebook pages to get involved. The conference hashtag is #CEAM2021. Type this hashtag in your tweets or postings to continue the conference backchannel, or you may also search Twitter for this hashtag to view the tweets online. These social media efforts help participants network and interact with new colleagues prior to and during the conference. Conference sessions and presenters may also engage online participants before, during, and after the conference with additional information.
Committee Members

Greg Anderson, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
Kevin Bittner, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Todd Blank, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
Dan Boyum, Stantec
Dan Coyle, Kimley-Horn and Associates
Marc Culver, City of Roseville
Nick Guilliams, WSB & Associates
Jen Desrude, City of Burnsville
Steve Dodge, City of Inver Grove Heights
Jennifer Edison, WSB & Associates
Justin Femrite, City of Elk River
John Gorder, City of Eagan
Jack Griffin, FOCUS Engineering, Inc.
Matt Hansen, SRF Consulting Group, Inc.
Debra Heiser, City of Saint Louis Park
Cody Holmes, City of Saint Michael
Jeff Johnson, City of Mankato
Steve Klein, Barr Engineering
Tom Mathiesen, Lifetime Member
Russ Matthys, City of Eagan
Bob Moberg, AE2S
Randy Newton, City of Saint Paul
Philip Olson, City of Minnetonka
Glenn Olson, City of Marshall
Michael Payne, City of Plymouth
Chris Kufner, Minnesota Department of Transportation
Joseph Rhein, Co-Chair, Bolton & Menk, Inc.
Paul Sandy, City of Brainerd
Bob Simons, City of Bloomington
David Sonnenberg
Jim Studenski, TKDA
Michael Thompson, Co-Chair, City of Plymouth
Steve Winter, MSA Professional Services
Rhonda Layer, University of Minnesota
Paul Engels, University of Minnesota
Abigayle O’Keefe, University of Minnesota

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