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UNSUBSCRIBE or SUBSCRIBE to the monthly newsletter.

**VIRTUAL MEETING: 01.19.2022**

### Construction Update on the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project

**1.0 PDHs**

**Speaker:** Nic Dial, Acting Director of Construction, Metropolitan Council

**Presentation Synopsis:** A general update on the 14-mile Metro Green Line Extension (Southwest) LRT Project as it enters its third year of construction. Major bridge and tunnel structures will be highlighted, as well as some of the successes and challenges that the Project team has handled so far.

**Speaker Biography:** Nic Dial currently serves as the Metropolitan Council's acting Director of Construction for the Metro Green Line Extension Light Rail Project. He has been involved with the project as part of the construction leadership team since 2017. Nic began his professional career in 2004 as a structural engineer working on commercial and residential projects in Phoenix, AZ, and Denver, CO. In 2007, he transitioned into construction management on high-end residential projects. Nic moved to the public sector in 2011 where he worked on the voter-approved FasTracks transit expansion program for the Regional Transportation District in Denver, CO. He held various titles in design and construction management working on multiple commuter rail projects, including the University of Colorado A Line (23 miles), B Line (6 miles), G Line (11 miles) and N Line (13 miles). Nic graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign, IL and is registered as a professional engineer.



**Details:** **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 12:00pm-1:00pm CST**

**Cost:** \$0

**Location:**

**VIRTUAL:** Contact Dan Kvasnicka for the virtual link after registration.

**RSVP:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/january-professional-development-meeting-2022-tickets-240482298027>

If you are unable to access the Eventbrite page to register, please reach out to **Dan Kvasnicka** via email at Daniel.Kvasnicka@hdrinc.com and he can get you registered via email.

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

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Despite the challenges presented to us over the past two years, I continue to be impressed by our resiliency and the resourcefulness that we have all shown to adapt and find new ways to do things while juggling life with Covid 19. It hasn't been easy, but we continue to move forward and have lots of great things ahead of us.

As a Post, we closed out 2021 with some great speakers who spoke with us about the upcoming 2022 MN legislative session and the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative. We have more great speakers lined up for 2022, but we are always wanting to hear from you about the topics you'd like to have addressed at our meetings.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to assist in a number of leadership positions. This is a great opportunity for young staff to grow and challenge themselves in their career. Until next month,

Warm Regards  
Dave

## **NOVEMBER MEETING SUMMARY**

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On November 18<sup>th</sup>, Minnesota Speaker of the House, Representative Melissa Hortman gave a presentation on the upcoming legislative session. Priorities for the session include how to deal with a large State budget surplus as well as prioritizing Transportation, Water, and Waste Water projects to align with the large influx of Federal monies over the next 5 to 8 years via the infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Speaker stressed the importance of groups like SAME and encouraged us to let her and other legislative leaders know what they should be targeting with infrastructure funds. This promises to be a very interesting legislative session!

## **SUMMARY OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT FOR MN**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is a \$1.2 trillion initiative that contains a five-year federal surface transportation reauthorization as well as approximately \$550 billion in new infrastructure investments. The major areas of focus for these new investments are transportation, water, broadband, energy, environmental remediation, and resiliency.

From the new law, Minnesota is estimated to receive \$4.5 billion for highways, \$818 million for public transportation, \$302 million for bridges, and \$68 million for electric vehicle charging stations. Other important investments from the legislation not related to transportation include \$100 million for broadband internet and \$680 million for clean water infrastructure.



## DECEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

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On December 15<sup>th</sup>, Don Gleason, President of Achieve New Heights and Executive Director with the John Maxwell Team, gave a presentation titled Left of Mentorship, focused on mentoring relationships and what it takes to maximize on a relationship between mentee and mentor.

Mr. Gleason defined mentoring as follows: A mentoring relationship is a learning and development partnership driven by the mentee to improve an area of their personal or professional life. Mentoring can either be as an advisor or coach, but mentorship should not be confused with friendship. Mentees should ask themselves the following questions in order to achieve a better understanding of their various mentoring relationships:

- ★ Who mentors me?
- ★ When do they mentor me?
- ★ How do they mentor me?
- ★ How do I maximize the relationship?
- ★ What questions do I need to ask to get from where I am at to where I need to go?

The title of this presentation was derived from Mr. Gleason's experiences during his 27 year career as an Air Force Civil Engineer, where he worked with his teams during active combat to do all that they could "left of bang." In Mr. Gleason's words, if we can't stop the bang, what can we do before the bang? This approach is directly applicable to mentoring relationships, as the mentee should put in as much time and energy as they can "Left of Mentoring" in order to ensure they get the most out of their time with a mentor. When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.

You can choose to change or choose to stay the same, but either way you are choosing.

Thank you very much, Mr. Gleason, for this engaging and relevant presentation!

## SMALL BUSINESS CORNER

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Our showcase in this month's small business corner is Landmark Environmental: "Your Brownfield and Environmental Consulting Experts."

Properties with a long history of commercial and industrial use are oftentimes referred to as "brownfields". Whether the contamination and impacts associated with these brownfields are real or perceived, the associated environmental issues can become an obstacle to acquisition and redevelopment. Oftentimes, these brownfields are underutilized because these environmental issues and their associated legal and financial risks seem overwhelming. Landmark has helped solve our client's environmental problems since 2000.

Landmark is a women-owned small business that assists government, developers, industry, non-profits, and engineering companies with comprehensive environmental solutions. Our team includes experienced civil, environmental and geological engineers, hydrogeologists, geologists and environmental scientists.

## LEADERSHIP

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One of the goals for SAME is to Grow Leaders for the nation. The MSP Post is supporting this national goal by planning a new series of leadership events in 2022. The post will also mix in Leadership-focused topics at Monthly Meeting and will launch a MSP Post leadership book/video club that will meet via webinar or Zoom. The club will be formatted so that each session is separable and attendees do not have to worry about being out-of-sync if they miss one session. The Post welcomes any Senior leaders to volunteer to facilitate a session on a book or video that meets their leadership passion. Any volunteers should contact Ann Banitt ([ann.m.banitt@usace.army.mil](mailto:ann.m.banitt@usace.army.mil)) and we will work with your ideas for the upcoming leadership events.

## OPEN COMMITTEE AND LIAISON OPPORTUNITIES!

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Additionally, the following are the open committee and liaison leadership roles:

- ★ Awards Committee Chair
- ★ Newsletter Coordinator
- ★ Small Business Liaison
- ★ Industry Day Committee Co-Chair

You can find a list of our current committee and liaison roles on our website at <https://www.same.org/Get-Connected/Find-a-Post/MPLS-STPL/Get-Involved/Committees>. Feel free to reach out to the person listed as currently holding that position if you have any questions about the role (email hyperlinks are included on the website). If you are interested in being part of the MSP Post leadership team, please reach out to David Johnson at [president@samemsp.org](mailto:president@samemsp.org) or to Erin Krug at [vp@samemsp.org](mailto:vp@samemsp.org). Please consider volunteering and get more involved with our active Post!



**THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all our Sustaining Firms—we appreciate your support and want to make sure all our members are aware of it, too!

- ★ AECOM
- ★ Anderson Engineering of MN
- ★ Ayres Associates
- ★ Benham Design, LLC
- ★ Bergmann Associates
- ★ Burns & McDonnell
- ★ Cardno Inc.
- ★ CDG Engineers, Inc.
- ★ Cushing Terrell
- ★ Damon Farber Assoc.
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- ★ J.F. Brennan Company, Inc.
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- ★ Siemens Industries, Inc.
- ★ Stanley Consultants
- ★ Stantec
- ★ Terracon Consultants
- ★ Ulteig
- ★ Vann Companies
- ★ Wood Group

**Did you know that as part of your sustaining membership we encourage you to talk about yourselves to our members?** Please email Dave Ausdemore at [dave@hsscience.com](mailto:dave@hsscience.com), if you would like more information on how to get involved!

