

## TCI Debut



Director/City Engineer  
**Mike Frisbie**



# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

## MIKE FRISBIE, P.E., CITY ENGINEER AND DIRECTOR

The new year has started out with the successful transition into our new, unified department - Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI). This consolidation is bringing us all together on equal footing and I encourage everyone to be patient and respectful of your fellow coworkers during this time.

There are many things that go into combining CIMS and Public Works, so we will be in transition for a while. It is important that each TCI team employee has the opportunity to shape important details of our new department. Recently, we asked for your input to help develop our new mission statement and logo. I'm excited to say that we received a lot of good suggestions. Keep your eyes open for the final results and know that they were created by us, for us.

We are also in the process of hiring the Assistant Director and staff for the new Transportation Planning Division. That new division will have a staff of six. Some of our existing TCI team members may be interested in these new planning and engineering roles. All of these new positions have posted on the City's website so you can learn more.

Each of you are vital to our new department's success. No matter what division you are in, know that you are an important member of the TCI family.

## CONVENTION CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

Mayor Julian Castro and City Manager Sheryl Sculley welcomed City officials and community members to see a sweeping view of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center transformation construction area. Construction is already underway on the project, a \$325 million undertaking that will create the largest ballroom space in the state of Texas.

The transformational project will preserve San Antonio's position as one of the country's premier event venues by increasing prime contiguous exhibit space to more than half a million square feet. The transformation will create uniform quality throughout the facility, including contiguous exhibit halls, optimally distributed meeting spaces and a modernized design that will meet the market's future needs.

Preliminary activities for the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center transformation included an eco-friendly process of safely rescuing and preserving nearly 90 percent of the trees that stood in the path of construction along Market Street. Upon completion of the project, dozens of native live oak, sycamore and cedar elm trees will be replaced at the construction site.

The economic activity made possible by the expanded convention center will support more than 5,300 jobs. Meetings and conventions are a key factor in San Antonio's travel and tourism industry, which employs one out of eight citizens and brings \$12 billion into the local economy annually.

Completion of the Convention Center transformation is scheduled for the summer of 2016. The project is lead by Philip Branson and team.



# DISABILITY ACCESS OFFICE (DAO) STAFF MADE 2013 A YEAR OF HEALTH



In January of 2013, DAO Accessibility Compliance Specialist Olivia Gaitan made the commitment to make this year a year of health. Over the past year, she has lost over 100 pounds through improved diet and the incorporation of daily exercise (HITT, kick boxing and Zumba). Olivia participates in the Virgin Health Miles Program, logging on average 15,000 steps a day and attends classes from Fitness in the Park. Olivia says one of the biggest and best changes she has made has been making water the only beverage she drinks. The DAO staff have all improved their eating habits and are much more active during the day. Birthday celebrations and holidays no longer include cake and sweets but now have fruits and vegetables. The healthy new lifestyle has given Olivia much more energy and focus in her position with the DAO. She plans to continue in 2014, becoming more fit and healthy and making this a permanent lifestyle.

## SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK DRAINING

Transportation and Capital Improvements, Downtown Operations and the San Antonio River Authority worked together to drain the main channel of the San Antonio River from Josephine Street to Alamo Street this month.

Crews removed debris and sediment along the river to help improve water quality and clarity. The River Walk was anticipated to be refilled and operational by January 12th but was instead refilled ahead of schedule by January 11th. Tourists still had the opportunity to enjoy restaurants and festivities throughout the draining project as the river loop was not drained or affected. The River Walk is definitely one of our city's treasures and ensuring it is clean helps preserve its beauty and functionality for many to experience while visiting throughout the year.



# SIGN UP!

Sign up now to be a member of the TCI Event Committee! We need your help to plan two department-wide events! One event will be in the Spring during Public Works Week and the other will be in the Fall. If you want to serve on the committee, send an email to Melissa Sparks at [melissa.sparks@sanantonio.gov](mailto:melissa.sparks@sanantonio.gov) by January 31.

## HAUSMAN ROAD PROJECT MAKES HISTORY

Councilman Ron Nirenberg and former Councilmembers Reed Williams and Bonnie Conner broke ground on the history-making Hausman Road project in December. They were joined by City officials from the Transportation and Capital Improvements Department, Bexar County, and the San Antonio River Authority.

The Hausman Road project is physically the longest road project undertaken by the City at 3.4 miles long. It is also the first street project to use the design-build delivery method, where the consultant and contractor work as one unit under one contract. With a budget of \$43.5 million from the 2012 Bond, \$15.8 million from



Bexar County and an additional \$1.66 million from 2007 Bond savings, the project will widen Hausman Road from two lanes to four lanes from Loop 1604 to IH 10. This project received the most funding from the 2012 Bond.



In addition to widening the roadway, the project includes turn lanes at intersections, sidewalks on the north side of the roadway, public art and drainage improvements. It will also construct a 10-foot wide concrete hike and bike trail on the south side of the roadway, which will connect to the Leon Creek Greenway hike and bike trails.

In an agreement with the San Antonio River Authority, this project is being monitored before and after construction to evaluate water runoff. Grassy medians, a Low Impact Development design feature, will be included along the project to improve the quality of storm water running into area waterways.

The project is also slated to remove five low water crossings. Funding from the Bexar County Flood Control Program will create bridges over various creekways that cross Hausman Road.

The Hausman Road project is managed by Richard Grochowski and team through design and construction. Sundt Construction is the design-build lead.