

Vol. 1 | 2023

Infrastructure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF TEXAS

**AGC of Texas
Capitol Day
2023**

**AGC of Texas
Recognizes
Members for
Their Service**

The 1924 Club

**The 2023
We Build
Texas Awards**

**AGC of America:
Conquering Challenges &
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**Construction
Safety Excellence
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A Legacy to be Proud of

Hello. My name is Stacey Bryant, and I am honored to serve as your 2023 AGC of Texas President.

For those of you whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, please allow me to share a little about myself.

I grew up in this industry and in this association and both play a vital role in who I am.

In my full-time capacity, I serve as principal and general manager for my family's business, Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors, which has been constructing and maintaining highways across the Permian Basin for more than 70 years.

In addition to working alongside my father, I am also continuing my family's legacy within AGC of Texas. My father, Terry Bryant, who is still active in this association, served as AGC of Texas President in 2005.

In the nearly twenty years that span between our presidencies, the highway construction industry, AGC of Texas, and heck, the world as a whole, has changed a lot, but there are things that withstand the test of time.

Like the feeling of accomplishment after a hard day's work, the pride of knowing you were a part of something bigger than yourself, and the desire to leave your mark on the world.

For me, the highway construction industry and AGC of Texas are a part of my identity and in turn, I hope to leave a small mark on this industry and this association's storied history.

I am humbled by the AGC of Texas members who put their faith in me to serve as president and I know that this year, as with every year, will present its own unique set of challenges and opportunities.

I can promise you, as an association and leadership team, we are always looking for ways to conquer new challenges while building opportunities for our members.

But we can't do it alone. AGC of Texas brings people together to move our industry forward and, in 2023, I encourage you to get more involved in AGC of Texas' many opportunities.

Page 25 provides quick links to the AGC of Texas Chapter Organization Booklet and the AGC of Texas Committees and Task Forces Sign-Up Form, to help you get plugged in.

Together, we can create a legacy to be proud of.



Stacey Bryant
AGC of Texas President

Session Starts with a Bang

As I reflect on the beginning of the 88th Legislative Session, I find myself in continuous awe of the incredible grit, determination, and dedication of AGC of Texas members and staff.

While the Texas Legislature meets for regular session only once every two years for 140 days, keeping a pulse on the legislative will leading up to session is an around the clock affair.

The Legislative Drafting and Review Committee began meeting prior to session to strategize industry efforts and since the start of session, the committee has met regularly to review and keep a watchful eye on industry-related bills as they advance through the legislative process.

My sincerest thank you to the AGC of Texas members who stand at the ready to engage with our elected officials and their offices to provide industry input and to the staff who works tirelessly behind the scenes to answer questions and ensure our elected officials know where AGC of Texas stands on issues pertinent to our industry.

I am humbled and energized by the outpouring of member support and engagement in the first post-COVID AGC of Texas Capitol Day. The feedback from our elected officials has been outstanding and seeing their personalized AGC of Texas road signs proudly displayed in their offices is extraordinary.

As members of AGC of Texas, I hope you are proud of what our association has and will continue to accomplish; I know I am.

Please keep a watchful eye for communication from AGC of Texas as session progresses. We may call on members to reach out to their elected officials in an effort to multiply our voice on specific issues and legislation.

If you're looking for even more information around the legislative session, please consider joining the 1924 Club. As a member, your donation helps advance the mission of the AGC of Texas PAC and in turn you'll receive exclusive access to private events and fireside chats as well as an exclusive email newsletter. Learn more about the 1924 Club on page 20.

Thank you again for all that you do to move our industry and our association forward.



Jennifer Woodard
Chief Executive Officer
AGC of Texas

AGC of Texas Capitol Day 2023

Tracey Mittnacht, AGC of Texas

On February 8 – the 30th day of the 88th Legislative Session – nearly 150 AGC of Texas members from all across the state came to Austin, Texas to participate in the AGC of Texas Capitol Day. For some, it was their first time at the state capitol. For other members, it was a chance to mentor newcomers. The AGC of Texas is one of the oldest trade associations in the nation, and while the AGC name is recognized throughout the capitol, our advocacy day is an important opportunity for AGC members to directly engage with legislators and their staff to discuss issues affecting the construction and transportation industry.

The day began at the Hyatt Regency in Austin where members were briefed about industry issues as well as the chapter's legislative priorities, which include the elimination or extension of the sunset dates associated with Propositions 1 and 7, the creation of a road user equalization fee for electric vehicles, the funding of needed water and flood mitigation projects, vocational training, and workforce development programs, and the creation of a public works permit to ensure projects can move forward in an environmentally safe and expeditious manner. During lunch, members heard from Comptroller Glenn Hegar who detailed his recent Biennial Revenue Estimate (BRE) as well as the fiscal state of Texas, which is currently experiencing a historic and unprecedented \$33 billion surplus in the budget.

Primed and prepped for their visits with legislative offices, AGC members loaded buses in the pouring rain and headed to the capitol. AGC members were grouped in teams based on their constituencies (either home, business, or both), personal relationships, or where they currently have projects. Each team had a personalized schedule of at least three offices to visit together as well as handouts and personalized road signs to leave behind at each office they visited. By five o'clock, nearly all 181 offices had been visited by a member of AGC.

Before heading to the Austin Club to conclude the day with a cocktail reception, AGC members met on the West steps of the capitol to commemorate the day with a group photo.

First time attendee, Hannah Olonovich of Arcosa had this to say about her experience: "Participating as a first-time attendee, I didn't know what to anticipate. Going in, you know that there are industry concerns that each legislator prioritizes for their constituents and district. Yet, it provided an avenue to create a continuing rapport between legislators and industry where concerns and edification could be accurately communicated." As a member of the AGC of Texas Legislative Drafting and Review Committee's Subcommittee on Aggregate Production Operations and Concrete Batch Plants, Olonovich is familiar with the Chapter's work on issues that affect the industry's ability to source materials to build out the \$100 billion Unified Transportation Program (UTP) that was recently proposed by the Texas Transportation Commission. Olonovich stated, "I'm eager for the opportunity to further engage with local legislators and to aid in the advocacy and education of the industry. Participating in the AGC of Texas Capitol Day allowed us to represent and signify the importance of the construction and aggregate industry. One-on-one discussions with each legislator not only provided an opportunity to address pressing concerns, but it facilitated the next steps to mutually advocate, educate, and develop within each district."

The participation of AGC of Texas members across the state in advocacy programs like the Capitol Day, our calls-to-action during session, and our state PAC have made and will continue to make a tremendous impact on the Chapter's ability to effectively advocate on behalf of industry. Thank you to all who continue to make AGC of Texas a successful organization.























Thank you to all who made



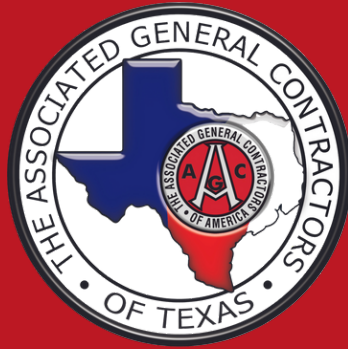
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AGC of Texas Capitol Day



success

THE 1924 CLUB



The 1924 Club: Where "Members Helping Members" Meets "Advocacy Helping Industry"

The 1924 Club provides a space for members to make an annual contribution to the AGC of Texas PAC and receive access to exclusive advocacy updates and opportunities to engage with legislators and statewide officials on behalf of AGC of Texas.

Annual contributions to the 1924 Club must be made with personal funds in the amount of \$1,200 annually or \$600 annually for AGC of Texas members who qualify as an FLC member (2-10 years into their career or under 40 years of age).

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Chairman Bugg talks road funding with AGC members

Gary Scharrer, AGC of Texas

TxDOT leaders plan to give district engineers more discretion to handle the continuing inflationary impact on highway construction projects, Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr., told AGC members at the January Membership Luncheon.

The influential chairman also announced that TxDOT planned to increase the Unified Transportation Plan by \$10 billion – boosting the current \$85 billion 10-year plan to \$95 billion. Bugg again emphasized the important partnership role that AGC members play in the perpetual effort to keep Texas commerce and people on the move. He spoke to the AGC monthly luncheon Jan. 4 at the Austin Hyatt Regency when Stacey Bryant (Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Contractors) succeeded David Casteel (Williams Brothers Construction) as president of AGC of Texas.

Bugg acknowledged the hardship facing contractors trying to complete bids with inflation adding more uncertainty to the process. He's directed the TxDOT team "to 'mark the market,' which he branded "as a new word in the financial industry. We need to 'mark the market' to get to current values of what the oil and gas prices going up did to your construction costs.

"And we all know that a lot of the inflationary effects are starting to roll over in terms of commodities, but they're not starting to roll over in terms of labor. And so we want to run alongside you, because you're dealing with it and you're putting it together in real-time. And we're trying to run alongside with you and 'mark the market' as best we can with what that is - so that it's not out of sync," Bugg said.

TxDOT leaders will add money to Category 11 funding for district discretionary purposes, he said, to keep the impact of inflation out of construction or routine maintenance funds.

"Our divisions and districts are being allowed to have more flexibility so that they have more local control over what they can basically ramp up and get going. And we think that will also help get more precious taxpayer dollars out there and get (projects) funded," Bugg said.

"I think you all will be pleased with that, and I hope so," the chairman said.

Bugg drew audience applause when he announced a projected \$10 billion increase in the next UTP.

TxDOT awarded a record \$11.4 billion in contracts last year, and Bugg expects that number to keep climbing in the coming years. Since 2015, TxDOT has executed some 16,500 contracts worth more than \$66 billion.

Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Bugg chairman of the five-member transportation commission nearly 8 years ago. The UTP has grown from \$34 billion in 2014 to \$85 billion – a \$51 billion increase. The state's continuing population growth will keep transportation as a front-burner issue. Texas recently surpassed 30 million people, Bugg noted, with expectations from demographers that Texas will hit 47 million by 2050.

The state's population growth in the past decade topped 4 million, which is slightly more people than living in Oklahoma, Bugg said.

"Now, when you grow like that, you got to realize that 93 percent of Texans use a car or truck as their primary means of transportation.... That's where AGC comes in. Because we have got to continue to build those roads, those bridges and those highways throughout the entire state of Texas," he said. The industry seems to be in transition to electric vehicles and even autonomous vehicles in the pursuit of a cleaner climate, Bugg acknowledged.

"But there's one thing they don't mention: Those electric vehicles, those autonomous vehicles need a robust road system to travel on. And that's what seems to be lost in the dialogue about electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles. So our work is not completed. We got a lot of work ahead of us," he said.

The chairman updated AGC members on the stalled \$9 billion I-45 project cutting through parts of Downtown Houston. City and county leaders recently reached a compromise with TxDOT that is awaiting a green light from the Federal Highway Administration to resolve pending environmental and civil rights concerns. Bugg complimented TxDOT Deputy Executive Director Brandye Hendrickson for working with federal officials on a final deal after a two-year delay. Bugg said TxDOT leaders are "very hopeful" for launching the project soon.

He also again praised Texas voters for overwhelmingly approving highway funding measures in the 2014 and 2015 elections (Prop 1 and Prop 7) that so far have generated a whopping \$26.5 billion: “That’s serious firepower.”

It’s also provided funding to address what had been persistent problems facing Texas motorists. Roughly 67 percent of the state’s population is based in the five metro areas, with traffic congestion steadily getting worse. Abbott wanted TxDOT to develop a strategy, which resulted in the “Texas Clear Lanes” effort and \$61.3 billion to address urban congestion.

Those new highway funding sources also have allowed TxDOT to invest more in rural Texas – up 600 percent in the past eight years, Budd said, adding that he’s proud of the \$6.2 billion in rural projects under construction today.

TxDOT has roughly \$10 billion in the bank, and Budd alluded to the challenge of aligning the agency’s various revenue streams and getting projects let.

“But behind the bank balances are the contracts that we already let and the contracts that we’re getting ready to let. We’re working very diligently to manage the bank balances and the future funding streams so that we can get those lines to basically line up in real time,” he said.

About the only downside reflected in the chairman’s remarks involved highway safety, which remains the agency’s top priority. Texas saw another record number of fatalities last year (nearly 4,500) despite an ongoing campaign to end the streak. Texas has not had a road fatality-free day since Nov. 7, 2000.

“And we are trying to engineer our roads - every new project with safety in mind. And we’re retrofitting a number of roads (with safety features) when we do routine maintenance. So we’re trying to do our part, but it’s a shared responsibility. And Texans who get behind the wheel in their car or their truck also have a responsibility. And we would ask you to join us in doing everything you can to help us bring safety to the people of the state of Texas.”

Bugg cast his luncheon presence as “a partnership meeting” with AGC members.

“We can’t do what we do at Texas Department of Transportation without each one of you. We look at you as partners. I really love working with you all. I really enjoy transportation. Transportation touches every Texan in the state of Texas. And that’s why I get excited about it.”



Sen. Perry Makes Water a Priority

Gary Scharrer, AGC of Texas

Most Texans turn the faucet for instant water. The daily ritual is so automatic that folks don't pay attention to the state's future water supply, says a Texas state senator who is elevating water policy as a priority issue.

State Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock) reminded AGC of Texas members on March 6 that water tops any quality-of-life list, noting that people want good roads and reliable electricity and phones.

"The one thing that we don't have an urgency about is water supply. That is life. Without water, there is no life," Perry emphasized.

The chairman of the Senate Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs is the author of Senate Bill 28 and Senate Joint Resolution 75, which would establish the Texas Water Fund at the Texas Water Development Board. Such a fund would focus on key water infrastructure needs across the state.

The legislation would use \$3 billion of the state's \$33 billion budget surplus to support water infrastructure. Perry wants Texas to develop new water supplies and extend the current supply, which could be addressed, for example, by replacing aging and leaking water lines to recapture lost water.

An estimated 70 percent of the state's water lines have hit their estimated life expectancy, Perry said. Those aging lines contribute to a loss of an estimated 130 billion gallons of water per year.

He considers water desalination the most reasonable way to add new supplies.

Transferring water from one part of the state to another is costly and simply robs Peter to pay Paul, Perry said. Building reservoirs is not a realistic option as it was generations ago because of regulatory hurdles, costs, and public opposition over such projects.

One of the desalination opportunities comes in the state's oil-producing areas where a million gallons of dirty, brackish water are pulled out every day.



Sen. Perry Speaking to AGC of Texas Members

A pilot project testing new technologies suggests Texas could clean 14 million barrels a day of that brackish water.

Companies eyeing relocation to Texas will start asking about the state's future water supply.

"They are going to ask, 'do you have water?' And not, maybe. 'But do you have water?' And I'm telling you that Texas today can meet that challenge. But if we're honest with this, probably not yet," Perry said.

The state's huge budget surplus creates the opportunity to address the state's future water supply. Waiting until water taps run dry is too late, Perry said.

He encouraged AGC members to get involved and engaged.

"We can't miss this opportunity," he said.

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AGC of Texas Recognizes Members for Their Service

At the January 4 Membership Luncheon, President Stacey Bryant (Jones Bros. Dirt & Paving Construction, Inc.) and Immediate-Past President David Casteel (Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc.) Construction Co., Inc.) recognized several AGC of Texas members who served in a leadership capacity in 2022. AGC of Texas made a donation in their name as recognition for their service. Among those recognized for their service were:

- 1) **Tracey Aping** (Williams Brothers Construction Co., Inc.) who served as the Chair of the DBE/HUB/SBE Committee.
- 2) **Carter Biel** (Foremost Paving, Inc.) who served as Chair of the Pharr Area
- 3) **Will Calame** (The Levy Company) who served as Chair of the Central Texas Future Leadership Council
- 4) **Matthew Paggioli** (Webber, Inc.) who served as Chair of the Structures Committee
- 5) **Past President Kal Kincaid** (Texas Materials Group) served as the Chair of the Finance and Public Affairs Committees
- 6) **Past President Dean Word, III** (Dean Word Company) who served as the Chair of the Environmental Committee
- 7) **Past President Trey Pebley** (Foremost Paving, Inc.) served as Chair of the Highway Division

Thank you to all those — past and present — who volunteer their time and talent to advance the work and mission of AGC of Texas. The highway construction industry and the great state of Texas are better because of you and your efforts.

AGC of Texas offers a variety of issue and area-specific committees and task forces for AGC of Texas members to serve on. By serving on a committee, task force, or area leadership team, AGC of Texas members are able to better affect the conversation of pressing issues in the industry.

The committee and task force sign-up sheet as well as the 2023 Chapter Organization Booklet can be accessed via the QR Codes Below. Using a QR Code is easy! Just open your phone's camera like you're taking a picture of the QR Code you want to open and click the link that populates on your phone's screen.

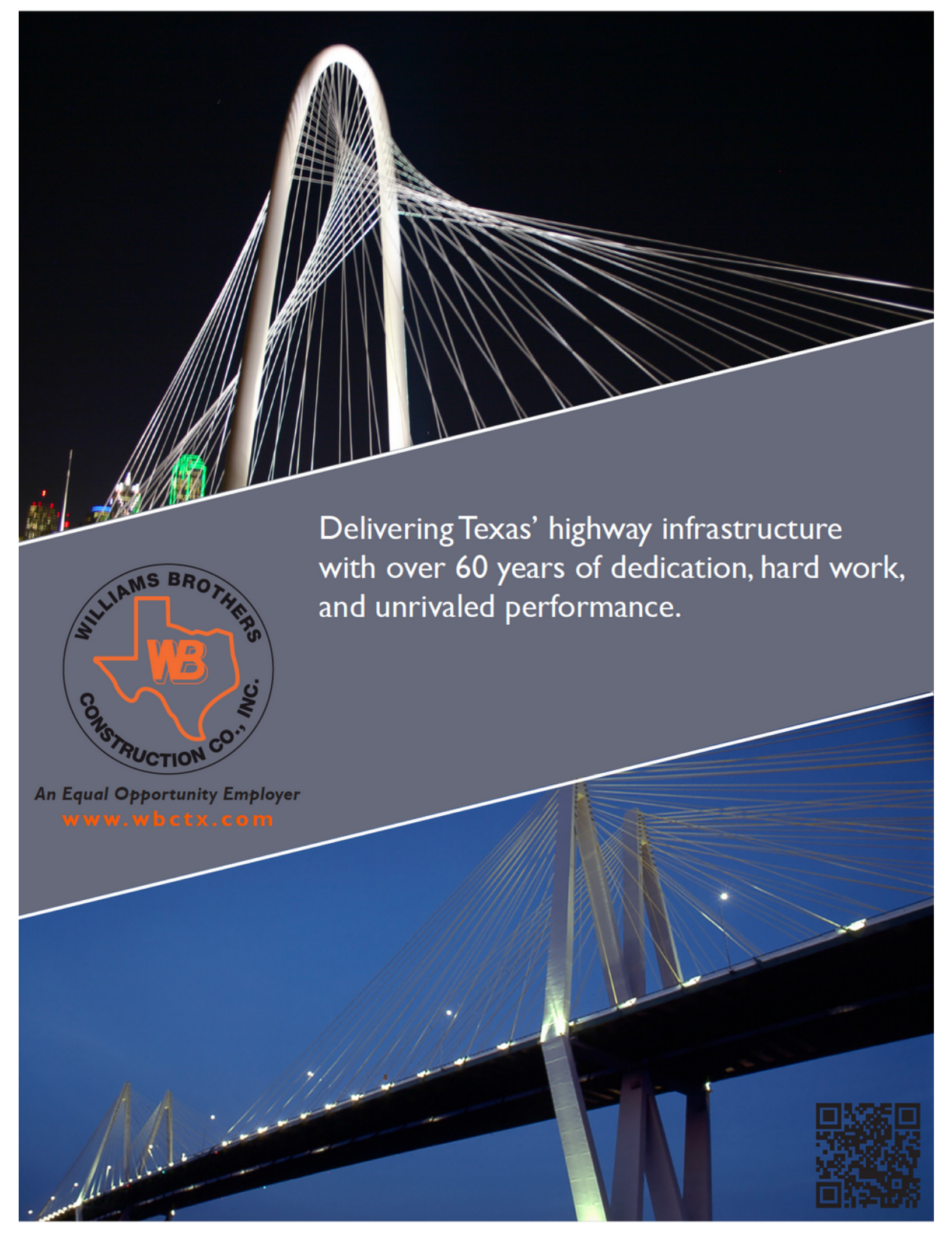


Committee & Task Force Sign-Up Form



2023 AGC of Texas Chapter Organization Booklet





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We Build Texas Awards

At the Texas Transportation Forum held in Austin on January 29-31, 2023, TxDOT and AGC of Texas jointly recognized the recipients of the 2023 We Build Texas Awards.

As partners, TxDOT and AGC of Texas must be able to identify and replicate successful practices so that every project demonstrates the talent, partnership, and efficiency to the best of our abilities. In support of this concept, We Build Texas, a program to foster good partnering techniques, positive contract relationships, and best practices was created.

Congratulations to the 2023 We Build Texas Award Recipients!

Project Award | BROWNWOOD DESIGN

Project Award | SAN ANTONIO CONSTRUCTION

Project Award | WACO CONSTRUCTION

Project Award | YOAKUM CONSTRUCTION

Project Award | EL PASO DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Read on to learn more about the award-winning projects; what challenges they faced, what obstacles they overcame, and how the successful completion of the project positively impacted the local community.

And be sure to keep an eye out for information regarding the 2024 We Build Texas Awards Program coming soon!

Project Award | BROWNWOOD DESIGN

The I-20 Ranger Hill Realignment Project reconstructed three miles of I-20 in Eastland County between Loop 254 and SH 16. Retired Brownwood District Engineers Lynn Passmore and Elias Rmeili in consultation with AECOM contributed to the success of the project.

The new main lines were constructed approximately 500 feet south of the original interstate location to accommodate and maintain 2 lanes of traffic in each direction throughout construction.

Notable design elements and environmental and geological challenges included two 12-foot main lines in each direction with 10-foot inside and outside shoulders to provide refuge for vehicles and allow for future expansion of I-20. This provides large trucks and heavy loads space for climbing the westbound ascension without impeding faster-moving traffic.

The project enhanced safety by providing continuous lighting and included braided grade-separated entrance and exit ramps providing access to the westbound safety rest area.

Right-of-way acquisition involved 89 acres of heavily wooded area which was a habitat for Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireos. Migratory nesting seasons were considered when scheduling clearing and pyrotechnical work for excavation.

Natural topography originally had a 300-foot elevation change in less than a one-mile span requiring two million cubic yards of embankment and 1.6 million cubic yards of excavation to improve the roadway grade. Advanced right-of-way acquisition and vegetative clearing in advance of the project were used to accelerate project development and improve bids resulting in the project being awarded years earlier than traditional methods.

As the most expensive project in the Brownwood District's history, it also received immense support from the community, emergency responders, and elected officials.

Congratulations to the Brownwood District.



Project Award | SAN ANTONIO CONSTRUCTION

Community partnerships were a key factor in the success of our next construction award.

Segment 1 in the US 281 North Expansion Project in the San Antonio District — \$228 Million in improvements were delivered in this Texas Clear Lanes Project with the goal of increasing connectivity, enhancing safety, and reducing congestion on one of the most congested corridors in the state.

Completed in 2021, the project transformed four miles of 281 from Loop 1604 to Stone Oak Parkway. Connectivity improvements included the construction of a ten-lane highway including HOV lanes in each direction as well as four direct connectors at the Loop 1604 interchange.

The project also increased mobility options for the traveling public by providing a direct connection to the VIA Metropolitan Transit Stone Oak Park and Ride, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, and transition and auxiliary lanes.

The US 281 North Expansion has brought a significant impact to the community by providing a multi-faceted solution to address congestion and provide relief for the traveling public with an anticipated improvement in travel delays by more than 50 percent.

In fact, the project was awarded a 2022 America's Transportation Award by the Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (WASHTO) for its innovation.

Congratulations to the San Antonio District.



“ Andrews Myers has always provided us with outstanding legal services, and we’ve been grateful for their counsel on construction contract negotiations, workforce issues, corporate compliance matters, and when necessary, dispute resolution. They know our industry well. ”

Chris Boutwell
President, Barricades Unlimited

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Rosebud

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Rosebud, TX 76570

Project Award | WACO CONSTRUCTION

The \$341 million My 35 Waco construction project in McLennan County began in Spring 2019. It entirely rebuilt over six miles of I-35 through Waco and Bellmead.

This project provided a unique opportunity to add capacity and revitalize this central Texas gateway. It also updated a major thoroughfare for freight movement.

Through effective teamwork and exceptional project management TxDOT Project Engineer Clayton Zacha and Webber Project Manager Paloma Fernandez provided a cohesive team environment and seamless coordination when challenges arose.

The Waco District created a unique incentive program that rewarded Webber for reaching progressive milestones and included no-excuse bonuses and uncapped disincentives.

This laid the foundation for Webber to maximize efficiency while minimizing traffic impacts. The largest project in the Waco District's history reached substantial completion more than a year earlier than originally planned.

Recognizing that residents and through travelers would be significantly impacted, the Waco District developed a robust communications plan that regularly shared construction information with all local partners through a variety of accessible tools.

With almost 900 RFIs and over 400 change orders, the team successfully adapted to solve complex challenges such as the unforeseen addition of a massive drainage redesign, significant utility complications, and the demolition and reconstruction of two bridges over the Brazos River.

This project is a prime example of what can be accomplished when TxDOT works with contractors to build Texas together.

Congratulations to the Waco District.



Project Award | YOAKUM CONSTRUCTION

The FM 457 swing bridge in Sargent, Texas, the last on-system bridge of its kind, was replaced due to its age and the high maintenance costs. The corkscrew bridge was the optimal design for the site due to the height requirement to accommodate barge traffic through the waterway. The new bridge gives residents and first responders reliable access to both sides of the waterway. Extensive coordination was carried out amongst TxDOT, Austin Bridge & Road, the US Coast Guard, and the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Working around the commercial barge traffic was a major challenge during construction. Close coordination with the US Coast Guard and individual commercial barges was required to ensure critical construction operations were not interrupted at inopportune times.

Additional challenges included environmental issues, frequent weather-related impacts, a limited right of way due to the coastline, and community skepticism given the historic nature of the bridge.

The construction means and methods had to be carefully planned to avoid placing the control house and swing bridge at risk of damage. This also ensured the safety of the bridge tender.

Successful communication, coordination, and collaboration were key in creating an impressive and unique bridge structure that will serve the traveling public for many years to come.

Congratulations Yoakum District.



Project Award | EL PASO DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

The I-10 Connect Project is located in El Paso along the US-Mexico border.

The \$100 million reconstruction project added connectors to a series of highway interchanges along I-10, US-54, State Loop 375, and I-110. The short highway spur leading to the Bridge of the Americas. These corridors impact international and local travel by improving connectivity along the existing roadway network.

The design, environmental considerations, and construction are in a constrained area aligned with the largest US-Mexico port of entry in El Paso. This required intricate synchronization and cross-country collaboration.

Both the design team and construction team are being recognized for this project. Specifically, TxDOT's Antonio Santana, Jorge Oregel, and Rudy Elias of Sundt.

The project expanded US 54, I-10, I-110, and US 62. This included 8 bridge replacements, 1 railroad overpass, 5 bridge widenings, and 2 new direct connectors. The project widened I-110, provided separate truck lanes for southbound traffic going to Mexico, and provided multi-modal improvements along US-62 which experiences more than 1 million pedestrian crossings per year.

The design team was presented a challenge of adding an elevated structure in the urban core of the city, leveraging existing structures by adding to them while minimizing right-of-way acquisition.

The construction team was challenged with minimizing interference with international traffic at the second busiest inland port in the state. They also worked within a very constrained area surrounded by businesses, residences, schools, a church, a zoo, and a national park.

Innovation and bilingual outreach and technology was critical to the success of the transformational project. Improvements included a redesign to redirect 18-wheeler traffic per public recommendations. The project team also worked to preserve the city's first Hispanic school during the demolition and new construction of the bridges.

Congratulations to the I-10 Connect Project in El Paso.



Congratulations to all 2023 We Build Texas Award Winners!



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2023 Construction Safety Excellence Awards Winners

Congratulations to the AGC of Texas member companies who were recognized for their commitment to safety.

Division: Heavy, Over 800,00 Hours

1st Place: Sundt Construction, Inc.

Division: Highway & Transportation, Under 500,000 Hours

1st Place: Ed Bell Construction

Division; Highway & Transportation, Over 800,000 Hours

1st Place: Jordan Foster Construction, LLC

2nd Place: Herzog Contracting Corp.

AGC of America: Conquering Challenges & Building Opportunity

Challenge 1: Chronic Construction Workforce Shortages and the Industry's Lack of Diversity

Construction workforce shortages remain one of the biggest challenges facing the industry. Eighty percent of contractors reported to AGC during the summer they were having a hard time finding enough workers to hire. Related to this challenge, the industry has struggled to recruit a more diverse workforce. While women make up half the workforce in the U.S., they present only a small percentage of the construction workforce. Similarly, African Americans account for 12 percent of the U.S. workforce, but only 6 percent of the construction workforce.

Opportunities Built: AGC's Workforce Development and Diversity and Inclusion Efforts

AGC launched targeted digital advertising Workforce Recruiting campaigns in partnership with chapters in Oregon, South Dakota, Alaska, and Idaho. These campaigns identify people who are likely candidates – from a diverse set of backgrounds – for careers in construction and targeted them and their households with ads about the benefits of working in the industry. These campaigns drove tens of thousands of potential new workers to visit the chapters' workforce development sites and apply for jobs or sign up for training.

AGC of America's Culture of Care program signed up over 800 firms to participate in the innovative workplace program. Culture of Care offers a series of resources that members use to create job sites that are more welcoming and inclusive. This helps firms attract more diverse workers and also serves as an invaluable workforce retention tool by helping all workers feel more included and valued on job sites. AGC also created and released a series of videos detailing different elements of the Culture of Care program to help firms understand how to take advantage of the program.

We served again as a strong supporter of the 2nd Annual Construction Inclusion Week, an industry-organized effort to promote greater inclusion in construction. As part of that support, AGC created specific Culture of Care resources for firms to use while participating in inclusion activities during the week. Over 1,100 people from the industry accessed those Inclusion Week-specific resources online.

Twenty-four AGC chapters have adopted and are using a template Workforce Recruiting Website we created and made available for free. This template recruiting site is highly customizable, so chapters can easily use the resource to create their own, locally branded, workforce development campaigns. Some chapters, like the AGC of Alaska, have also used this new site in conjunction with the digital advertising campaigns we sponsor and help organize.

In November, AGC brought together construction educators, public officials and workforce development specialists for member firms and chapters for the 2nd Annual National Construction Industry Workforce Summit. The summit provides an opportunity for participants to outline successful workforce development strategies they are putting in place. Participants also help craft new tactics that can be used to bring more people into the industry. AGC will release a summary of those success stories and new workforce ideas early in 2023.

The AGC Education and Research Foundation, in partnership with Procure, launched a new HBCU Scholarship designed to support minority students studying construction at the nation's historically black colleges and universities, or HBCUs. The Foundation successfully raised over \$500,000, including a \$250,000 matching grant from Procure, and awarded the first round of ten scholarships to students in 2022.



The AGC and WTW Diversity & Inclusion Awards Recognize Outstanding Diversity Programs run by Member Firms and Chapters

Challenge 2: High Suicide and Addiction Rates, and Still Too Many Fatalities

The construction industry is facing a mental health crisis that is driving too many into addiction and prompting many industry workers to take their own lives. Someone in construction is five times as likely to take their own life as they are to die in a job site incident. At the same time, nearly 1,000 people die while working in the industry each year and many more are injured. These mental and physical safety threats present a real challenge for many in the construction industry.

Opportunities Built: AGC's Comprehensive Approach to Improving Worker Health and Safety

AGC launched a new nationwide Mental Health and Suicide Prevention push in 2022. AGC compiled and released to members a wide range of resources on preventing suicides in the industry. These resources included a new series of mental health public service videos that featured people from the industry who had struggled with mental health challenges, contemplated suicide, and came back. The videos share a common theme – your coworkers care, and it is okay to ask for help if you need it or to offer help to someone who appears to be struggling.

We served as the signature supporter of Construction Safety Week. This industry-led week encourages construction firms to engage in specific types of safety activities every day during a dedicated week in early May. A strong focus of this year's Safety Week was promoting worker mental health and well-being.

AGC also participated in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction Week. AGC provided resources to encourage members and chapters to participate in both events.

The association continued its push to improve Highway Work Zone Safety. We released, in partnership with HCSS, our annual Work Zone Safety survey data prior to the Memorial Day start of the summer driving season. The intent is to use the data to encourage the media to run stories urging the public to slow down and be aware in work zones. We also prepared and released a special video dedicated to Marshall Walton, who was killed in a highway work zone. His death, while tragic, led Alabama officials to improve laws to protect highway workers, leading to a reduction in fatalities at highway work zones.

AGC of America, in partnership with Milwaukee Tool, launched two New Safety Awards in 2022. These awards honored the Construction Safety Professional of the Year and the Construction Safety Champion of the Year. The inaugural awards were announced during the Construction Safety and Health Awards meeting in January 2022. The intent of the awards is to recognize individuals who are committed to improving construction safety and to build on AGC's Construction Safety Excellence Awards that recognize outstanding member firm safety programs.

We also continued to offer a range of Safety Training opportunities for member firms and their employees. This included offering basic and advanced Safety Management Training courses for 65 construction professionals. 510 people participated in the Trenching and Excavation Hazards in Construction course we offer thanks to an OSHA Susan Harwood Training Grant AGC secured.

Challenge 3: Evolving Market and Growing Demand Requires New Thinking About Best Ways to Offer Construction Training and Education

As technology and the way people learn evolves, it has become increasingly clear that the old model of exclusively offering in-seat training at specific locations once or several times a year no longer makes sense for most employers. The internet has made distance learning ubiquitous and effective. As a result, many firms began to question the wisdom of spending money to send their employees on travel to attend days-long classes. This posed a threat to our traditional model of working with AGC chapters to offer in-seat educational opportunities.

Opportunities Built: Lanching the Virtual AGC Edge Education Program

AGC launched a new virtual education training program called AGC Edge in 2022. This program offers updated versions of the association's comprehensive range of educational materials in a virtual setting. All classes feature live instruction via the Zoom platform and allow construction professionals to learn from their home, office, or even job site computer. Available online courses include Lean, BIM, Construction Supervisor Fundamentals, and the Project Manager Development Program. Nearly 500 people participated in one of the 26 AGC Edge programs offered during the inaugural year. We also continue to support chapters that offer in-seat training and education programs.

Challenge 4: Congressional Threats and Regulatory Onslaught

2022 presented many legislative and regulatory challenges for the industry. There was a concerted effort by many in Congress to pass legislation that would have undermined years of labor stability in the construction industry. At the same time, Congress made efforts to exclude construction from key guest worker visa programs and contemplated undermining the Highway Trust Fund. The Biden Administration also sought to impose a number of new labor, safety, and environmental measures that would have done little to protect workers or the environment, but a lot to harm the industry.

Opportunities Built: AGC Protects the Industry, Engages on Climate Change and Secures New Investments in Construction

AGC of America was able to Stop the PRO Act in its tracks in 2022. The labor legislation, which would have among other things, repealed every state's right-to-work law and allowed unions to strike anywhere, at any time, and for any reason, came very close to getting passed in Congress. But AGC led the industry fight against the measure, ensuring the legislation never became law.

AGC of America's combined legislative and legal efforts led to a Supreme Court ruling that Blocked a Mandatory Vaccination Emergency Temporary Standard by the Biden administration that would have done little to boost vaccination rates and instead tempt many vaccine-hesitant workers to switch to smaller employers who were exempted from the rule or leave the industry altogether.

We successfully blocked efforts to significantly limit the construction industry's access to the only Worker Visa Program for construction workers, known as H-2B. In late December, AGC's government affairs team learned of language in a measure to fund the federal government that would have set limits on construction firms' access to the visa program. We worked with Congressional leadership to explain the need for workers in the industry and the challenges this precedent would pose. The final version of the funding bill passed without any language limiting construction firms' access to the visa program.

AGC's government affairs team Beat Back Efforts to Raise Taxes on construction employers that were contemplated as Congress was working to finalize both the Build Back Better

measure and the so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

We also played a key role in Blocking Efforts to Suspend the Federal Gas Tax. We made the case on Capitol Hill that suspending the tax would have little impact on prices at the pump but would significantly undermine the nation's ability to invest in bridges, highways, and transit systems.

We secured Significant New Federal Construction Funding. This included securing \$39 billion for new semiconductor chip plant construction as part of the CHIPS Act.

A special AGC task force made the case that the construction industry is essential in building more efficient projects in the future. The task force's recommendations will ensure that the construction industry – through AGC – will be involved in Shaping Climate Change Policy Decisions.



Challenge 5: Supply Chain Challenges and Soaring Materials Prices

2022 saw prices for many key construction materials soar while delivery schedules for those products became erratic and inconsistent. The rapid changes in prices and delivery schedules meant many contractors were stuck with contracts based on estimated costs for materials and schedules for projects that were no longer accurate. In other words, supply chain problems and spiking materials prices put the industry's success at substantial risk.

Opportunity Built: AGC Conducts Inflation Education Campaign and Pushes for Greater Flexibility on Contract Changes

AGC updated and distributed multiple editions of its Construction Inflation Alert, a document designed for firms to use to educate owners about how rising materials prices and supply chain problems are impacting the industry. These

alerts provided the documentation necessary for many members to secure more flexible terms from their clients to help cope with inflation and delays.

AGC Chief Economist Ken Simonson also gave Inflation-Focused Presentations, both virtually and in-person, to dozens of public and private owner groups and reporters about rising materials prices and supply chain problems. These appearances helped owners adjust their expectations for bid prices and project schedules.

We also worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to publish the first-ever Contract Changes Playbook. The new playbook is designed to help make the change order process more transparent and to accelerate decisions about whether to accept those change orders. The playbook has proved helpful for contractors working with one of the largest federal construction owners as they adjust to the reality of rising materials prices and supply chain challenges.

AGC of America's Consensus Docs coalition revised and updated its National Resource Center on Price Escalation to address rising materials prices and ongoing supply chain problems. The center continued to serve as one of the most relevant sources on construction prices escalation and supply chain disruptions.

Challenge 6: The Need for Greater Chapter and Member Engagement

AGC of America is only as strong as its chapters and members are engaged. The more people who participate in association activities – like educational programs, volunteering for task forces, engaging with our government affairs action alerts, attending in-person events – the more those activities are successful. Construction professionals have busy work and personal lives, however, and it can be challenging to make the time and find out how to get involved with AGC of America.

Opportunities Built: AGC Makes it Easier and More Rewarding to Get Engaged

We created a new and easier way to Find Out About Volunteer Opportunities at AGC of America. Anyone interested in getting involved with their national association can now visit agc.org/volunteer to see a listing of current volunteer opportunities. When they see an opportunity of interest, they can log in to their AGC account on AGC's website and complete their volunteer profile indicating how

they might like to volunteer. AGC will then reach out and get them connected to volunteer opportunities that may be a good fit.

AGC also launched a new Chatbot Feature on AGC.org to provide members with a way to ask questions or locate resources in a fast, efficient way. The new chatbot complements the regular staff training we provide to ensure that member inquiries are rapidly resolved.

Dozens of members flew in early to the 2022 Annual Convention in Dallas to participate in the AGC Charities Operation Opening Doors Volunteer Project. Sponsored by Hilti, the volunteers helped renovate three different homes for needy residents through a program called Rebuilding Together. The efforts, which were organized and supported by member firm Hill & Wilkinson, offered members a fun, engaging way to get involved with their national association while giving back to the local community.

AGC also made it easier and more compelling for members to engage with the AGC PAC and Construction Advocacy Fund. Hundreds of members contributed a record \$1,172,769 to the political action committee during the 2022 election cycle. Contributions to the Construction Advocacy Fund hit an annual record in 2022 of \$1,027,671.

Nearly 5,000 member employees sent over 24,000 emails and tweets to government officials about key construction issues in response to AGC Action Alerts. This high level of engagement played a key role in helping AGC score significant legislative and regulatory victories on members' behalf in 2022.

Hundreds of member firms also engaged with AGC by applying for our various Awards Programs. These awards include the Construction Risk Partners Build America Awards, the WTW Construction Safety Excellence Awards, the Autodesk Innovation Awards, the Diversity and Inclusion Awards sponsored by WTW, the Student Chapter Awards and the AGC in the Community Awards.

We continue to create a more Seamless Experience for Members by better coordinating services and support with our network of 89 chapters. This included getting chapters to participate in an annual benchmarking self-evaluation to assess their strengths and improve their programs. We also continued to identify and recognize successful chapter initiatives with our annual Chapter Awards program.

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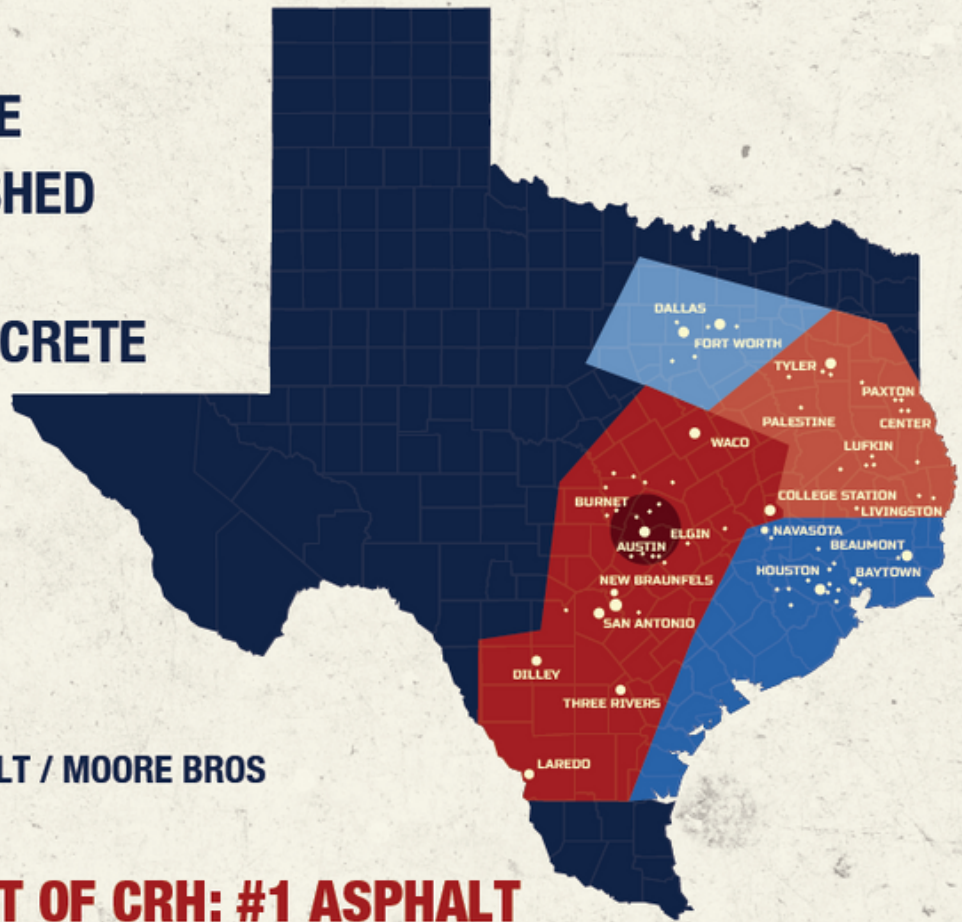




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