

# The Fort Bend Infrastructure Conference

Presented by the Central Fort Bend Chamber and the Fort Bend Chamber

## SPEAKER BIOS



### WELCOME TO CONFERENCE



**Shaneka Smith**

Fort Bend County  
Judge's Office

Shaneka Smith currently serves as the Chief of Staff for the Fort Bend County Judge's Office. Since joining the office in 2019 as an Administrative and Executive Manager, she has made significant contributions to the Judge's initiatives and operations, leading to her promotion to Chief of Staff two years later.

Ms. Smith earned a degree in Psychology from the University of South Alabama in 2000 and later pursued an associate degree in Baking and Pastry from the Culinary Institute of America. While her education reflects a range of interests, she dedicated much of her career to social work, where she spent 10 years before transitioning to community relations.

Her work in public service is marked by a passion for fostering connections within the community, particularly through her involvement with nonprofits. Her efforts continue to strengthen community support systems and enhance the quality of life for residents of Fort Bend County.



### DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS OF FORT BEND



**Susan Cates**

Population And Survey  
Analysts (PASA)

Susan Cates, CECD, PCED is responsible for developing housing projections and forecasting population growth. Ms. Cates's background in economic and community development and local governance allows her to approach projects through a contextual framework that analyzes inputs from elected officials, planning departments, home builders, land developers, real estate professionals, and others to provide comprehensive projections for a variety of planning purposes. Experience evaluating a community's assets to target economic potential has developed Ms. Cates's insight and understanding of the complexities associated with municipal planning and residential development. These skills contribute to PASA's commitment to accurate data collection and cogent, relatable projections.



## INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PANEL



**Herman Rodriguez**

Missouri City EDC

Herman Rodriguez is a seasoned professional in business and community development, with extensive experience spanning both private and public sectors. He began his career in 1999 at Wells Fargo, focusing on commercial banking and volunteering for financial literacy initiatives. In 2013, Rodriguez transitioned to municipal government, taking on the role of leading a \$70 million commercial development project in greater Corpus Christi, TX, while ensuring compliance with the emerging economic development program, the USCIS EB-5 Visa Program.

Prior to his current position as Director with the City of Missouri City, Rodriguez held various municipal roles including Economic Development Director, City Secretary, and City Manager. Some of his noteworthy accomplishments include:

- Citgo's Latino Leader of the Coastal Bend
- Keynote Speaker for the American GI Forum National Conference in San Antonio, TX
- Inspiring Hispanic Leader of the Coastal Bend (Bus Wrap) awarded by Corpus Christi Regional Transit Authority
- Greater Houston Business Ethics Roundtable Scholarship Award
- Executive of the Year, Latin Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Houston/Camara De Empresarios Latinos De Houston
- "Best of the Best in Western Nueces County" Person of the Year 2019.

Director Rodriguez holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Texas A&M University at College Station and earned his MBA from Houston Christian University, previously known as Houston Baptist University. Currently pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University, he views himself as a public servant leader and perpetual student of business, finance, and leadership principles.



**Todd Hamilton**

The Signorelli  
Company

In 2023 Todd Hamilton joined The Signorelli Company as the Director of Land Development for Austin Point, the largest master-planned community announced in Fort Bend County in 40 years.

Spanning 4,700 acres and located at the future intersection of the Fort Bend Tollway and Grand Parkway, Austin Point is planned to add approximately 14,000 new homes and 50,000 residents to Fort Bend County at completion. In addition, the community is planned to bring approximately 15 million square feet of commercial development, anticipated to bring thousands of jobs and a robust tax base to Fort Bend County.

Prior to joining The Signorelli Company, Todd served as Senior Development Manager at Johnson Development Corporation for seven years overseeing residential and amenity development for Cross Creek Ranch and Cross Creek West. Todd is also a licensed professional engineer with over ten years of experience supporting the development of several Houston-area communities.

Todd earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a member of several industry organizations including the Urban Land Institute (ULI), Greater Houston Builders Association (GHBA), and the West Houston Association. Todd also serves on the Board of Directors for Central Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce and Aristoi Classical Academy.



**Trey Reichert**

Johnson Development Corporation

Trey Reichert has been employed by Johnson Development Corp. since 2005, and serves as Senior Vice President of Houston Land Development Operations. In this role, he is responsible for oversight of the day-to-day land development operations in Houston while supporting the growing operations of the Johnson Development portfolio.

In his previous role, he served as Vice President and General Manager of some of the top selling master-planned communities in the nation.

Trey has also been extremely active in local non-profit organizations for the past 17 years and currently serves on the board of The Historic George Ranch Association as well as the Central Fort Bend Chamber Foundation.

Trey has been married to his wife, Heather, since 1998 and they have two children, Alex (22) and Sydney (19).



**Scott Snodgrass**

Meristem Communities

Scott is a founding partner of Meristem Communities, a Houston-based real estate development firm committed to creating Places for People™. Meristem is a resiliency-focused developer whose guiding principles create human-centric design by thoughtfully, sustainably, and holistically connecting land, natural systems and people.

Alongside his work at Meristem, Scott works collaboratively with developers and consultants to create unique and exceptional agricultural amenities within master-planned communities through his other firm, Agmenity. As a thought leader in the agrihood movement he regularly speaks on the topic at regional and national conferences and contributed to the ULI Book, "Agrihoods: Cultivating Best Practices."



**Jerry W. Jones, Jr.**

Develop Richmond

Jerry W. Jones Jr. serves as the Economic Development Director for the Development Corporation of Richmond, TX, whose brand name is Develop Richmond, TX. Jerry has previously served as Executive Director of Baton Rouge North Economic Development District, Director of Economic Development for St. John the Baptist Parish, Alexandria City Councilman, Project Manager for Central Louisiana Business Incubator, Economic Developer for Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission, and CEO for Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority. Jerry continues to build partnerships with business owners, developers, and community leaders. He has served as a board member on the Louisiana Research Technology Board(NEXUS LA), Baton Rouge Recreation Board, and Louisiana Industrial Development Executives Association and is a member of a host of other professional and civic organizations, including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. In 2023, Jerry was elected by his peers to serve as the west quadrant of the Houston Regional Economic Development Alliance. Jerry has over a decade of technical, managerial and economic development expertise and a proven track record of establishing and implementing successful economic development programs. He specializes in Neighborhood Revitalization, Regionalism, Business Recruitment & Expansion, and Workforce Development. Jerry graduated from Southern University and Agricultural & Mechanical College of Baton Rouge, where he graduated with a degree in Political Science. He later attended the University of Southern Mississippi and received his basic Certification in Economic Development. He then completed the Economic Development

## **Jerry W. Jones, Jr. (Continued)**

Institute at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and the Authentic Leadership program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Jerry is a newlywed to Genee. They have one son, Khailand, and are expecting another son in January 2025. They also have a dog named Sphinx.



**Kevin Riles**

Kevin Riles Commercial

Kevin Riles, CCIM, serves as President and CEO of Kevin Riles Commercial-A Commercial Real Estate Services and Development Company located in Sugar Land, TX. He brings over 24+ years of commercial real estate experience having brokered over 100 million in multifamily and commercial real estate transactions. He also serves as Associate Professor of Practice of the Community Development Master's Program at Prairie View A & M University located within the School of Architecture. Kevin is the author of two books, 40 Acres and a Mule: The African American Guide to Building Wealth Through Real Estate and Confessions of a Top Producer: Tools for Sales Success and Abundance. The Real Estate of Life is the weekly podcast Kevin host on iTunes and Google play where he talks real estate, motivation, success, and life!

Kevin began his professional career as a systems analyst with ExxonMobil Coporation. His vast array of business experience, coupled with his strong entrepreneurial desires, lead him to form his own real estate company in October 2000 with a focus on helping to provide real estate brokerage services to the Greater Houston Area. In early 2005, Kevin was named the Broad Listing Broker for HUD foreclosures in the Greater Houston Area. With this contract, he had the responsibility of listing HUD Foreclosures in an 18 County area. He went on to sell more than 3,500 properites from 2007-2010. In June 2007, his real estate company was named the 22nd largest Residential Real Estate Brokerage in Houston and subsequently was named the 21st and 23rd in 2008 and 2009 by the Houston Business Journal. In 2008 Kevin made the business decision to move the focus of his company toward Commercial Real Estate.

A Houston, TX native, Kevin received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with cum laude honors from Morehouse College in 1995. As a further testament to Kevin's academic achievements, he received his Masters of Business Administration in Finance from the University of St. Thomas in July 2000. He is currently in his 3rd year of PhD studies at Dallas Baptist University.

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## **PROJECT BRAZOS PANEL**



**Greg Wine**

Huitt-Zollars

Gregory R. Wine, P.E., LEED AP, is an Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer for Huitt-Zollars, Inc., a full-service architectural and engineering firm ranked as one of the Top 200 Design Firms in the nation by ENR Magazine. Wine graduated from United States Military Academy at West Point in 1979 and completed his Master of Engineering in 1989 at the University of Florida. He is a licensed engineer in Texas, Florida, Louisiana and West Virginia and a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional. Wine served over thirteen years as a Regular Army Corps of Engineers officer and retired after over twenty years of military service as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserves. His wife, Carol, and he have four children and have lived in Sugar Land over 32 years.

## **Greg Wine (Continued)**

While with the US Army Corps of Engineers - New Orleans District, he oversaw major flood control, navigation and coastal restoration projects along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers and throughout southwest Louisiana. For the past 30 years, he has engineered the maintenance of the federal channels and gated structure constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers in Harris County, Texas; lead the FEMA re-certification of the Texas City Hurricane Protection Levee System and prepared engineering documents for the repair of Texas Gulf Coast Jetties from Sabine Pass to Brownsville and the Texas City Dike.



**Phil Martin**

Mike Stone Associates

Mr. Phil Martin joined Mike Stone Associates in 2013 and is currently serving as Executive Vice President with 18 years of experience in public administration, operations, and project management. Before joining MSA, Mr. Martin worked as Park Superintendent for the City of Sugar Land and as Operations Manager for First Colony Community Association. He currently serves as the General Manger for Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 2, 7, and 15. Mr. Martin is also the Vice President of Brazoria County Municipal Utility District No. 82.

Mr. Martin graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Science. He is also a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and Certified Park and Recreation Professional (CPRP). Mr. Martin has presented flood control projects at state and national conferences and is a member of the Texas Floodplain Management Association, which recently recognized Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 2 with the 2024 John Ivey Higher Standards Award.



**Craig  
Kalkomey**

LJA Engineers

Craig's professional portfolio encompasses a diverse array of projects spanning both the private and public sectors, but career his deepest passion lies in the realm of Hydrology and Hydraulics. Specifically, his 18-year career has been predominantly devoted to flood risk management, floodplain administration, capital improvement planning, and emergency flood response and recovery. Craig is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Texas and a Certified Floodplain Manager.

His journey with flood management began at the age of 10 during the 1992 and 1994 Brazos River Floods. Since then, he has maintained a hands-on approach, actively engaging in observing flood conditions and evaluating damages for clients throughout his career. Craig's flood experience extends beyond his professional career by directly assisting affected communities and residents by aiding in sandbagging, home clean-up and storm drainage debris removal. These experiences have afforded him invaluable insights into the perspectives of residents, business owners, and elected officials affected by flooding, shaping his commitment to utilizing engineering solutions that enhance lives while ensuring economic feasibility.

Craig currently serves as a Board Member and the Vice Chair of the Drainage Panel for the Texas Water Conversation Association (TWCA) and is a member of the National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA) and Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA).

## FUTURE OF TRANSIT AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL



**Dietrich von  
Biedenfeld**

General's Transportation  
Advisory Council

Dr. Dietrich von Biedenfeld recently accepted an appointment as the interim Chief Procurement Officer for Houston Community College System. Immediately prior, he served as a distinguished Assistant Professor of Business Law and Supply Chain Management at the University of Houston-Downtown. He also served as Assistant Department Chair. He has emerged as a leading authority in the supply cycle, including supply chain economics, operations, transportation, and logistics.

Dietrich served five terms as Mayor Pro Tem on West Columbia, Texas' City Council and now serves as Associate Municipal Judge. He is Governor Abbott's representative on the Public Transportation Advisory Committee. He was previously a state senate confirmed appointee of Governor Rick Perry. He serves on numerous regional, state, and international boards and committees, including the West Houston Association and Australian American Chamber of Commerce. In all of these elected and appointed roles, Dietrich developed his practical knowledge of infrastructure, transportation, and public safety and public spending.

He also accesses his three law licenses to provide pro bono legal representation for veterans across the nation. Dietrich is a frequently consulted business, legal, and supply cycle subject matter expert. When he isn't volunteering in the community, researching, or teaching, he is a frequent contributor on Fox 26.



**Carol Lewis, Ph.D.**

Texas Southern  
University

Lewis is a Professor in Transportation Studies and Emeritus Director of the Center for Transportation Training and Research at Texas Southern University (TSU). She educates students in fundamentals of transportation and urban transportation issues, as well as conducts operational and policy related transportation research. Prior to joining Texas Southern University in 1992, Lewis spent 15 years as manager and director of planning at the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). Lewis serves as an appointee of former Mayor Sylvester Turner and County Judge Lina Hidalgo and Harris County Commissioner's Court to Chair the Gulf Coast Rail District. Through this appointment, Lewis has been a member of the Houston Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council since 2018. Lewis is the 2024 Chairperson of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Transportation Research Board's Executive Committee. She served as a METRO Board Member from 2002 to early 2004 and as Executive Assistant to Mayor Bill White for Transportation Planning 2005 to 2009. She served for 6 years as Academic Advisor for COMTO.

Lewis co-authored the Phase I study of the Automated Mobility District supporting METRO's automated vehicle demonstration project on TSU's campus. In addition to automated vehicles, her research focuses on incorporating vulnerable populations into planning activities. She is also examining the characteristics and challenges of Inland Ports. Lewis is honored to have received TRB's Sharon D. Banks Humanitarian Award and WTS Houston Chapter's Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. She holds a Master's degree in planning and the Ph.D. in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Policy and Public Administration.



**Chuck Wemple**

Houston-Galveston Area  
Council

Chuck Wemple is the Executive Director of the Houston-Galveston Area Council where he oversees all programs and services including transportation planning, community and economic development, public safety, aging services, and workforce development. He has extensive experience in addressing infrastructure, housing, and economic recovery needs following natural disasters and economic downturns. Chuck is also the Chair of the Executive Directors' Council for the National Association of Regional Councils. He has previously served as Chairman of the Executive Directors' Council for the Texas Association of Regional Councils and is an American Leadership Forum Senior Fellow.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council covers over 12,000 square miles along the Texas Gulf Coast region, which includes 13 counties, more than 100 cities and towns, and over 7.2 million people.

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Humberto "Tito"  
Gonzalez**

TxDOT

Since November 2022, Tito has served as the Division Director of the Transportation Planning & Programming Division for TxDOT overseeing updates to the state's 10-year Unified Transportation Program and Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, along with statewide efforts supporting International Border Trade, Freight, Corridor Planning, Traffic Data Collection & Analysis, Public Involvement Outreach, and coordination with Metropolitan Planning Organization planning activities.

Tito is a Laredo native and a 2003 graduate of Texas A&M University at College Station where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. In 2010, he received his Master's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Management from Texas A&M International University in Laredo.

After graduating in 2003, Tito joined the TxDOT Laredo Area Office where he served as a Construction Project Engineer on several large-scale mobility projects for the area. In 2007, he attained his Professional License in Engineering from the Texas Board of Professional Engineers. Then in 2012, Tito was appointed as the Laredo District Design Engineer, where he supervised the PS&E development, Utilities, and Bridge sections for the District. In 2015, Tito accepted a position in the private sector as a Senior Project Manager and also served as a Board Member for the Laredo Chamber of Commerce. Tito returned to the TxDOT Laredo District in 2019, where he served as the Director of Transportation Planning & Development and was also appointed to the Laredo-Webb County Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Committee. In May 2022, Tito was appointed as the Deputy District Engineer for the Laredo District where he oversaw the day-to-day operations for eight counties within the district while managing the unique transportation & international trade challenges along the border region to help improve the safety & reliability of the District's transportation network.

Tito is married to his wife, America and has two sons, Jacob (16) and Trey (10). He is an avid Aggie sports fan, and enjoys traveling, and spending time with his family.