Fort Worth Unveils New Trinity River Vision Bridges

The City of Fort Worth recently unveiled designs for three new bridges that will create a stylish entrance into Trinity Uptown – the new, urban waterfront community planned for just north of downtown Fort Worth. Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) led the design team for this project and collaborated with the Trinity River Vision project partners and a dedicated citizen advisory group to ensure that community needs remain at the forefront of the design process.

Design Details
The unique V-pier design creates a family of distinctive and iconic bridges. With a thin, cast-in-place concrete superstructure and soaring v-shaped piers, the bridges will appear to float 50 feet above the landscape, lightly touching the ground every 220 feet. Each of the bridges will include two traffic lanes each way, plus dedicated bike lanes and 10-foot-wide sidewalks to promote multimodal transportation. Two of the bridge designs allow for the inclusion of future streetcar lines, should the City elect to implement a streetcar system.

Schedule for Completion
The three bridges will be built in two-year increments starting in late 2011 and are projected to cost $65 million, saving approximately 30 percent of the cost of previous design concepts.

John Dewar, P.E., S.E.
Principal
jfd@freese.com

“On Course is providing design for the reconstruction and widening of the existing two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided urban arterial street, including bicycle lanes, curb-and-gutter, driveways, left-turn lanes, street lighting and other associated storm water, water, pavement and pedestrian improvements.”

Spring 2010

J.D. Granger
Executive Director
Trinity River Vision Authority (TRVA)
Click here to view TRVA's full statement.
Spring 2010 Brings New Awards, New Website to FNI

Women’s Transportation Seminar Honors FNI, Tricia Hatley
The Greater Dallas-Fort Worth Chapter of the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) honored both Tricia Hatley, P.E., LEED AP and FNI at its annual awards and scholarship banquet on April 8. Tricia was named the chapter’s Member of the Year, while FNI was chosen as Employer of the Year.

Tricia, a FNI Principal and the firm’s Dallas Transportation/Infrastructure Group Manager, has been a member of WTS since 2001 and has served as Membership Service Director, Corporate Partnership Chair and an awards banquet and golf tournament volunteer for the organization. Tricia was also recognized for her efforts to strengthen communication between local and international WTS chapters, as well as her involvement as a volunteer at the WTS International Conference.

WTS commended FNI for deliberately branching out and concentrating on transportation, particularly involvement in roadway improvements and signal systems, airport infrastructure, campus and downtown planning and development and program management. FNI was also praised for its dedication to employee education, community service and encouraging female students to enter the transportation field through scholarships, grants, internships and mentoring opportunities.

WTS provides opportunities for networking, professional development and leadership for women in all fields of transportation. For more information, visit: www.wtsinternational.org.

New Freese.com Website Introduced
FNI’s new and improved corporate website was introduced and implemented online this spring. The new website represents the culmination of more than a year of planning, researching and listening to client feedback to produce a site that is current, efficient and informative, while best representing FNI’s experience, culture, expertise and 116-year history of dedicated service to our clients. We believe our updated site reflects just that, and we invite you to visit us online at: www.freese.com
FNI Hosts Planning Seminars with Current and Former Municipal Leaders

FNI recently collaborated with several current and former municipal leaders to host a series of seminars titled “Planning Now: For the Future” via our internal professional development program, FN University. Developed as a planning tool for municipal administrators, engineers, planners and public works directors, the seminars were held in the Austin, San Antonio, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston regions of Texas.

FNI developed the original concept for these seminars in the interest of helping municipalities weather the current economy, while still using the time at hand to plan for the future. We recognize these are tough times for our clients and funding for capital improvement projects is tight, but this is also an opportunity for municipalities to prepare for the future by developing a plan-of-action ready to implement when funding is available. This enables municipalities to be proactive rather than reactive to their citizens’ needs.

FNI Principal and Chairman Bob Herchert, a former city manager with nearly 50 years of public and private sector experience, spearheaded the firm’s efforts for developing the content and enlisting the presenters for these seminars, for which he drew upon the expertise of in-house personnel as well as current and former municipal leaders. Each seminar included four presentations.

Strategic Planning and Fiscal Responsibilities
Larry Cunningham (former City Manager for North Richland Hills) and Ronald Cox (Founder and Principal of Ron Cox Consulting) each have decades of experience in municipal planning and presented their knowledge of:
- Common qualities/issues among municipalities
- Community uniqueness and personality
- Making opportunity
- The planning process
- Preparing for recovery

Comprehensive Municipal Planning
Dan Sefko, AICP is a FNI Associate and Manager of the firm’s Municipal Planning Group. Dan’s background includes 37 years of working with more than 100 Texas municipalities in a broad range of municipal planning capacities. Dan shared his experience and knowledge of:
- What is/why do you need a comprehensive plan?
- Determining the community’s vision
- Types of planning

Capital Improvement Planning
With 12 years of transportation/infrastructure engineering experience and a FNI Associate, Kevin Johnson, P.E. is one of FNI’s most skilled engineers for developing and managing CIPs. Kevin shared his expertise on the:
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process
- Importance of project prioritization
- Importance of the CIP connection with the municipality’s comprehensive plan and strategic goals

Proactive vs. Reactive Municipal Planning: City of Bryan’s Sustainable CIP
The City of Bryan’s Public Works Director Linda Huff, P.E., and City Engineer Paul Kaspar, P.E., provided a real-world example of successful proactive vs. reactive municipal planning via a discussion of the City’s CIP, which FNI recently helped them develop. Linda and Paul discussed the following:
- Overall success of the completed CIP
- Challenges and goals of the program
- Indirect benefits of the process
- What’s next for the City and the CIP process

Seminars Were Successful, Well-Received
The seminars were well-received among attendees and received significant positive feedback. Most commonly, several attendees mentioned how well the seminars illustrated the importance and value of linking municipal planning with the budgeting and prioritization of capital improvement projects.

For More Information
If you would like more information on these seminars or would like to receive a copy of the presentations, please feel free to contact Kevin Johnson, P.E. at 214-217-2291 or krj@freese.com.
Ron Guzman, P.E. is a FNI Principal and the firm’s Transportation/Infrastructure Group Manager in Corpus Christi, where he is also the Office Manager. Ron’s 22 years of experience and commitment to client service have been instrumental in helping FNI provide quality service to Corpus Christi and clients in the surrounding areas. His comprehensive background in civil and structural design for roadway and bridge projects encompasses streets, storm water, water, wastewater, pavement markings and signage, traffic control and signalization improvements projects.

In his spare time, Ron and the FNI Corpus Christi office often volunteer for those in need. Most recently, Ron and the FNI team have given their time and labor to Operation Paintbrush and RAMP! (Resources for Access and Mobility for People with Disabilities) by repainting and performing home repairs for elderly and disabled homeowners in the Corpus Christi area.

Ron, a graduate of Texas A&M University, is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers, Texas Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ron is a Corpus Christi native, and his family includes wife Sylvia and son Jonathan, who is 12.

Contact Information
You are invited to contact Ron at our Corpus Christi office at 361-561-6520 or rg@freese.com.

Three-Year Cost Inflation for Highway and Street Construction

The Highway and Street Construction Cost Index (above) is based on an established package of goods related to road construction. In June 1986, this package, which includes cost of materials and labor, was valued at $100.

- Between May 2003 and July 2008, highway and street construction costs increased 77.7 percent.
- Since prices peaked in July 2008, highway and street construction costs have decreased 10.7 percent.