



WORD PASSER

A Monthly Newsletter For The Houston/Galveston Post

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2018

February 23-24

STEM Volunteer Event
59th Annual Science and
Engineering Fair of Houston

March 2018

March 7

SAME and TEXITE Joint
Symposium

Hurricane Harvey Impacts to
our Region

March 29

Public Agency Update

Missouri City CIP Program and
Harvey Relief Efforts

April 2018

April 4

General Membership Meeting

High Speed Rail presented by
Central Texas Partners, LLC



In this edition...

- ★ **January 17, 2018**
Installation Banquet
Keynote Speaker Mayor Sylvester Turner and Installation of
2018 SAME Officers
- ★ **January 25, 2018**
Young Member Initiative Appreciation Dinner
Young members dinner and 2018 kickoff
- ★ **February 6, 2018**
City of Houston's Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force
Final Report submitted to the Mayor for consideration
- ★ **February 7, 2018**
General Membership Meeting
Keynote Speaker Pat Henry of Texas Department of
Transportation

Installation Banquet

By: Tom Martens

On January 17, 2018, our Post held the annual Installation Banquet at the Hilton Westchase. At this event, we presented awards to the Member of the Year and the Young Member of the Year.

The Member of the Year was awarded to Dennis Turner. Dennis has been a key member of the Post for many years and has successfully served as the Post Treasurer, one of the most challenging officer roles, for the past several years. In that role, Dennis volunteered countless hours handling all aspects of the Post finances, reimbursements, paying bills, filing taxes and submitting annual reports to SAME National. He is currently serving as a Director to our Post.

Patrick Korn was awarded the Young Member of the Year. Patrick served the Post in many ways in 2017 (and before) including chairing the golf tournament, the Post's primary scholarship fundraiser. He also started and chaired the annual clay shoot event that connects our members with local veterans. Patrick also chaired the Post's Young Member Committee, including our Post's leadership in the citywide Young Member Initiative, and served as a Director to the Post.

Our keynote speaker was Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner who gave an excellent presentation on the resilience of Houstonians during and following Hurricane Harvey, as well as our flood infrastructure needs going forward. We were also joined by Brigadier General Patrice Melancon, our TEXOMA Region Vice President (RVP). She assisted with the installation and awards presentations, including recognizing the following members with RVP awards: Patrick Korn, Janelle Reiher, Mark Vincent, Omar Oweis, and Mike Fitzgerald.





Installation Banquet

By: Tom Martens

Our Post President, Mike Fitzgerald, also presented special recognitions to Rose Romero, the Post Webmaster for the past four years, and several key young member committee leaders (Ben Sims, Alene Efaw, David Migl, Adam White, and Pacey Bean) for their service.

Brigadier General Patrice Melancon then installed the incoming Officers and Directors including Clif Edwards (Director), Jennifer Almonte (Director), Dennis Turner (Director), Tommi Jo Scott (Director), Bob Morgan (Secretary), Alene Efaw (Asst. Secretary), Janelle Reiher (Treasurer), Belen Valdovinos (Asst. Treasurer), Ed Mears (VP of Programs), Keri Garner-Hopple (Deputy of Programs), Yvonne Rivera (President Elect) and Tom Martens (President).

The event concluded with the announcement of the winners of the silent auction, which was planned by the Young Members of the Post. Thank you to all those who helped plan and organize the event, including overcoming the challenges of executing the banquet on an icy evening!



Young Member Appreciation Dinner

By: Patrick Korn

On January 25th, the 2017 young member leaders joined the 2018 young member leaders at Bull and Bear Tavern to celebrate the success of 2017 and discuss what 2018 might look like for the young member programs. We enjoyed a night of food, beverage, and comradery, which was a great way to kick off 2018.

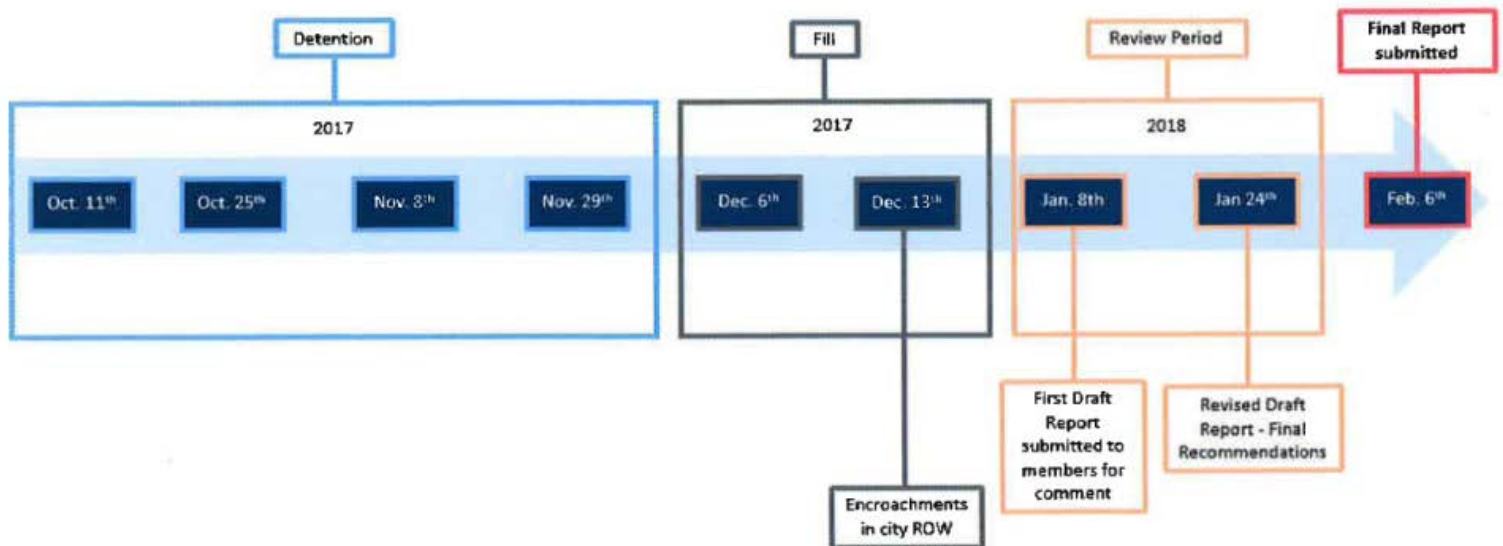
City of Houston's Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force

By: Daniel Menendez

The Society of American Military Engineers, Houston-Galveston Post was included in the City of Houston's Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force overseen by the City's Resilience Officer, Stephen Costello. The purpose of the Task Force was to address three redevelopment issues: detention; fill; and encroachments in the city rights-of-way. Task Force membership was comprised of residents, city and county officials, and members of engineering, architecture, development, real estate, construction and green communities. The meetings began in October with two meetings per month and resulted in a Final Report with consensus recommendations, which were submitted to the Mayor for his consideration.

The full 71 page Final Report is available through our representative on the Task Force, Daniel Menendez (SAME, Resiliency Committee).

Figure 1. Task Force Timeline



February General Meeting

By: Alene Efaw



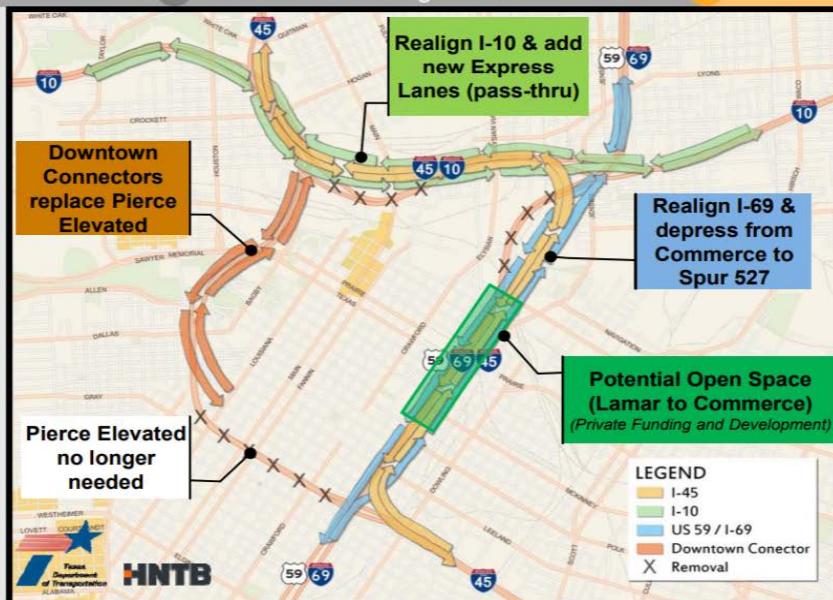
On February 7, 2017, SAME held the February General Meeting to discuss the North Houston Highway Improvement Project. The speaker was Pat Henry with Texas Department of Transportation. He discussed the reconstruction of main lanes and frontage roads along I-45 from Beltway 8 North to Downtown Houston. The existing elevated I-45 on the west and south side of Downtown will be removed and rerouted to follow I-10 on the north side of downtown and US 59/I-69 on the east side of Downtown.

SEGMENT 3: PROPOSED RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

Segment 1

Segment 2

Segment 3



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PRELIMINARY-SUBJECT TO CHANGE

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2018

★ February 23-24th STEM Volunteer Event

SAME Members will be volunteering at the 59th Annual Science and Engineering Fair of Houston to help encourage local students in their pursuit of STEM studies. Please contact Keri Garner Hopple or KC Maheshwor for more details.

March 2018

★ March 7th Joint Symposium General Membership Meeting

A joint General Membership Meeting will be held with TexITE and will emphasize the need to improve Houston's hurricane preparedness, coordination, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property. Harris County Judge Ed Emmett will be the keynote speaker at lunch.

★ March 29th Public Agency Update

Mr. Scott Elmer, the Assistant City Manager for Missouri City, will discuss the CIP Programs and Harvey Relief efforts.

April 2018

★ April 4th General Membership Meeting

The April General Membership will feature a High Speed Rail Presentation by Texas Central Partners, LLC.

National Events

For More information on upcoming National events such as elections, scholarship applications, and STEM camps, please visit the SAME National's calendar: <http://www.same.org/calendar>