

TENNESSEE ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE

2026 AGENDA (*subject to change)

TIME / TRACK	TOPIC / SPEAKER(S)
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026	
4:00 - 6:00 pm	Exhibitor Load-In
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	University Student Networking Social

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026	
7:30 am - 6:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 am - 8:30 am	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS
8:30 am - 9:45 am	OPENING KEYNOTE: Nobody Gets There Alone: Mentorship, Access, and the Engineers We Haven't Reached Yet Elio Morillo, NASA Aerospace Engineer
9:45 am - 10:15 am	BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
10:15 am - 11:05 am	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION ONE
Engineering Management	Solving the Engineering Knowledge Crisis and Managing "Change" Ray Thorn, Egnyte
Civil & Environmental	Day 712: Building Back Better in Erwin TN (Post Hurricane Helene) Jamie Carden, McGill Associates
Transportation	Using Visualization to Assist the Public Engagement Process James Robert Dearman, OHM Advisors
Private Markets & Development	Paseo South Gulch: Redeveloping A Historic Space for Modern-Day Nashville Philip Neal, Kimley-Horn
Ethics	Ethics Mike Bilderbeck, Pickering Firm
11:10 am - 12:00 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION TWO

Engineering Management	The Silver Tsunami: Protecting Institutional Knowledge Before It Walks Out the Door Robin Underwood, <i>Thrivence</i>
Civil & Environmental	The Power of Equalization: From Peak Flow to Stable Treatment Ryann Ledoux, <i>Gainey's</i>
Transportation	Clearing the Path: Airspace Review and Obstruction Management Adam Guy and Christopher Starr, <i>TDOT</i>
Private Markets	Growth at the Speed of Economic Development Matthew Frazier, <i>Thomas & Hutton</i>
Structural / Geotech	Reducing Lateral Earth Pressure Using EPS Geofoam Compressible Inclusions: Considering Long-Term Behavior Navid Joushideh, <i>The University of Memphis and Terracon</i> / David Arellano, <i>The University of Memphis</i>
Ethics	Ethics Mike Bilderbeck, <i>Pickering Firm</i>
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	NETWORKING LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	GENERAL SESSION: The East Bank: Nashville's Newest Neighborhood and the Tennessee Titans' New Home
1:50 pm - 2:40 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION THREE
Engineering Management	Finding the Trail: An Australian's Guide to Reading the Landscape Deb Johnston, <i>TonicDM</i>
Civil & Environmental / Survey	Advancing Reality Capture with SLAM LiDAR Austin Brooks, <i>Duncan-Parnell</i>
Transportation	Connecting Murfreesboro's Future: The Stonesbattle Parkway Corridor Plan David Corley, <i>Kimley-Horn</i>
Private Markets / Civil & Environmental	Traditional Neighborhood Design meets Low Impact Development: Integrating Stormwater and Placemaking Trey Rochford, <i>Rochford Realty & Construction</i> / David Howath, <i>Land Innovations</i> / Jeremy Westmoreland, <i>CSDG</i>
Engineering Management / Transportation	Beyond the Plans: Lessons Learned, Innovative CEI Practices, and Emerging Trends from the Rodney Baber and John F. Kennedy Parks Projects D. Solomon Akinduro, <i>ACOT Associates Group</i>
2:45 pm - 3:35 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION FOUR
Engineering Management	Impacts of Leading Multigenerational Teams Robin Undersood, <i>Thrivence</i>
Civil & Environmental	TDEC Update Angela Jones, <i>TDEC</i>
Transportation / Private Markets & Development	Small Project...Big Impact - Laurel Run Park Pedestrian Bridge Jason Carder, <i>Mattern & Craig</i>
Transportation / Surveying	Surveying and SUE for Transportation Projects David Headrick, <i>Surveying and Mapping, LLC (SAM)</i>

Structural	Structural Lightweight Aggregate Production and Applications Ken Harmon, <i>Stalite Lightweight Aggregate</i>
Ethics	Ethics Mike Bilderbeck, <i>Pickering Firm</i>
3:35 pm - 4:05 pm	BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
4:10 pm - 5:00 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION FIVE
Engineering Management	Managing the Risks of Subconsultants Dale Crow, <i>Brown & Brown</i> / David Garst, <i>Lewis Thomason</i>
Civil & Environmental	Utility Relocation Inspection Tony DiMarino, <i>T2 Utility Engineers</i>
Transportation	Smarter Design Workflows: AI in the Bentley Ecosystem Danny Lazear, <i>Archway Systems</i>
Geotechnical	Foundation Retrofitting Using Micropiles - A Case History Mohammad Nasim, <i>Terracon</i>
Structural	Engineering Forensics McKenzie Roberts, PE, CFEI, <i>Engineering Consultants & Design</i>
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026	
7:30 am - 1:45 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 am - 8:30 am	BREAKFAST WITH EXHIBITORS
8:30 am - 9:20 am	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION SIX
Engineering Management	Ownership Transition in the Engineering Consulting Industry William Vaughan, <i>Horizon Advisors Group</i>
Civil & Environmental / Private Markets & Development	Understaffed, Under Deadline, Undeterred: Building an AI Force Multiplier for Municipal Plan Review Kevin Blackburn, <i>City of Brentwood</i>
Transportation	Evaluating the Value of Early-Added Capacity as Construction Readiness Stuart Samberg, <i>RK&K</i>
Electrical, Mechanical & Industrial	PowerUp America: From Concept to Construction of EV Charging Facilities Jake Fischer, Cole Dillard, <i>Kimley-Horn</i>
Structural	Contractor-Ready Construction Documents Jeremy Salmon, Zak Pruitt, <i>Structural Design Group</i>

9:25 am - 10:15 am	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION SEVEN
Engineering Management	Tax Strategies & Incentives for Engineering Firms: R&D, 179D, and What's Changed <i>Alliant Group</i>
Civil & Environmental / Private Markets & Development	AI Ingenuity in Construction Engineering - Bringing Excellence to Project Execution Chris White, <i>JMT</i>
Transportation	Game Day in Motion: Traffic Management for UT's Special Events Chris Rhodes, <i>Kimley-Horn</i>
Geotech	Cyclic Failure ("Liquefaction:") Mitigation of Loess in the New Madrid Seismic Zone Using Deep Soil Mixed Grid Tom Humbert, <i>Schnabel Engineering</i>
Structural	3D Laser Scanning and BIM for Structural Engineering Projects David Headrick, <i>Surveying and Mapping, LLC (SAM)</i>
10:15 am - 10:45 am	BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
10:45 am - 11:35 am	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION EIGHT
Engineering Management	Evolving Our Business & Practive Models Peter Atherton, <i>ActionsProve</i>
Civil & Environmental	Urban Constraints, Lasting Solutions Paisley Marotta-Mathews & Jeff Duncan, <i>Metro Water Services</i>
Trasnportation / Private Markets & Development	City of Chattanooga Initiatives and Project Updates Terrance Hill, <i>Kimley-Horn</i>
Structural	Bridge Health Monitoring Using Ambient Vibration Testing and Operational Modal Analysis Ted Kniazewycz and David Lee, <i>TDOT</i> / Shima Pakniat, Shahram Pezeshk, and Charles Camp, <i>The University of Memphis</i>
Geotech	An Overview of Rapid Drawdown Analysis Methods: Tips, Tricks, and Traps Daniel VandenBerge, <i>Tennessee Tech</i>
11:35 am - 12:15 pm	NETWORKING LUNCH WITH EXHIBITORS
12:15 pm - 1:10 pm	GENERAL SESSION: Town Hall Meeting with the A/E Board
1:10 pm - 1:45 pm	BREAK WITH EXHIBITORS
1:45 pm - 2:35 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION NINE
Engineering Management	Belmont University College of Engineering Nick Ragsdale, <i>Belmont University</i>
Transportation / Geotech	Creative Use and Applications of Soil Nailing and Structural Shotcrete for Slope Stabilization Andy Derenski, <i>Harrison Western Construction</i>
Private Markets & Development	From Constraint to Catalyst: Integrating Civil, Landscape and Architecture on a Tight, Urban Site Panel Discussion: Mackenzie Davis, <i>Gresham Smith</i>

Transportation	Beyond Traditional ITS: Engineering Lessons from Deploying Smart Road Infrastructure Kathy Vences, <i>Canvue</i>
Structual	Codes Jurisdictions Requirements for Engineer Review and Inspection of Single-Family Homes >5000 SF Panel Discussion - Michael Vines, <i>Structural Engineering & Inspections</i>
2:40 pm - 3:30 pm	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SESSION TEN
Engineering Mangement	Recommended Approach for AI Workforce Readiness Robin Underwood, <i>Thrivance</i>
Transportation	Signal Timing for Vision Zero in Urban Environments Meghan Sigler, <i>KCI Technologies</i>
Geotech, Structural, Transportation	Let's talk about Geofoam Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Ultra-Lightweight Engineered Fill Tim Snider, <i>PlastiFab and Insulfoam</i>
3:30 PM	CONFERENCE CONCLUDES