

Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences

Challenges and Innovation in Civil and Environmental Engineering

Innovative Transportation Solutions for the Central Puget Sound Region

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4:30pm – 5:45pm
126 DeBartolo Hall



The challenges of planning, designing and building innovative sustainable urban transit systems in the Central Puget Sound Region in Washington State requires creativity and technical understanding in order to achieve cost-effective solutions that do not depend on traditional patterns of resource consumption. This is particularly true with our growing awareness that human activities have significant environmental impacts that impose economic, social, and ecological costs.

Over 80 miles of safe and reliable transportation systems (i.e. commuter rail, light rail and regional express bus) have been designed and built in the past decade to improve people's mobility in the Central Puget Sound Region, including building at-grade and elevated and subterranean facilities that complement the sensitive environment of the region. The team of designers and constructors is a diverse group of civil engineers providing traffic, structural, geotechnical and environmental expertise. This presentation will focus on accomplishments of these civil engineers with particular focus on the challenges and achievements in building a state-of-the industry light rail system.

A reception and an opportunity to meet the speaker will take place after the seminar outside of Room 126 DeBartolo