



Saturday, 8/24

Landscape X Infrastructure X Engineering

NCC24-002 Unlocking Urban Street Transformation: Overcoming Challenges Associated with Changing Urban Infrastructure (1.25 PDH, LA CES/HSW)

Event Type:Panel DiscussionTime:3:00 pm - 4:15 pmLocation:Lakeside SuiteCapacity:40

Join us to delve into collaborative design approaches for rehabilitating urban streets, enhancing sidewalks, and adding cycle tracks, trees, and other necessary elements. Discover ways to overcome challenges and achieve successful outcomes.



Panelists



Chris Kent, ASLA, LEED AP | Principal at PGAdesign | Session Moderator

As the session moderator, Chris will guide panelists through exploring their experiences and insights into the intricate challenge of adapting urban streets to accommodate new modes of transportation. With 30 years of Bay Area practice, he leads diverse projects for public and private clients, excelling in conceptual design, community engagement, and transportation projects.





Laurence Lewis | Transportation Engineer for Kittleson & Associates

Laurence is a transportation engineer and planner known for his expertise in integrating land use with transportation infrastructure. With over two decades of experience, Laurence has spearheaded numerous national projects, specializing in multimodal corridor studies, Complete Streets planning, and local government mobility initiatives. As a Transportation Engineer and a Planner, he brings unique insight to transit planning, traffic engineering, and urban design. Laurence will share his insights on rehabilitating urban streets to accommodate diverse modes of transportation, from widened sidewalks to cycle tracks, while enhancing comfort with green spaces and addressing utility needs.

Daniel Schaefer | Civil Engineer at BKF Engineers

As a Principal at BKF, Daniel Schaefer specializes in the design of urban infrastructure for various transportation modes. With over 35 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, Dan has successfully managed major urban redevelopment projects, public/private partnerships, and public transportation initiatives across California. He excels in due diligence, feasibility and alternative analyses, clash detection, cost estimating, and environmental review, ensuring that projects are financially, regulatory, and logistically sound from the start.





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Session Outline

Introduction: Complexities of Rehabilitating Urban Streets

The moderator will introduce the session and panelists by providing a comprehensive overview of the imperative and challenges entailed in redesigning streets within established communities with aging infrastructure. He will shed light on the extensive efforts made by agencies and organizations, while also addressing their shortcomings and the prevalent pitfalls. Furthermore, the moderator will broadly summarize the obstacles such as existing conditions, regulatory codes, budgetary limitations, the diverse needs of current users, and the pivotal role of collaborative approaches in surmounting these challenges. Setting the stage for panelists to share their invaluable insights.

- Understanding the city/community vision, grant language and funding requirements, and timelines.
- Assessing the site, knowing the site uses (throughout the year), property lines, encroachments, and easements.
- Recognizing obstacles: regulatory codes, budget limitations, and existing user needs.
- Navigating existing conditions: addressing utility setbacks, gaining community support, and managing liability with non-standard conditions.
- Appreciating collaboration: the necessity of multidisciplinary approach in urban street rehabilitation projects.

Learning Outcomes

- Understanding the city/community vision, grant language and funding requirements, and timelines.
- Assessing the site, knowing the site uses (throughout the year), property lines, encroachments, and easements.
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Guided Questions

- Question 1: Is it necessary to adapt urban streets to accommodate new types of users and prioritize sustainability? If so why?
- Question 2: Is there a method for comprehending the intricacies of implementing street improvement objectives before initiating the design process and exploration phase? In other words, is there a way to anticipate and understand the challenges and requirements of a project beforehand?
- Question 3: What are the primary factors that contribute to the challenges and costs associated with integrating trees, cycle tracks, and widened sidewalks into existing urban street infrastructure?