

ASCE - UESI has been the professional association that brings stakeholders together including State and local governments, utility companies, consultants, engineers, surveyors, and utility coordinators. As an industry leader, UESI has provided conferences, knowledge exchange sessions, and workshops for DOT's, clients, consultants, and practitioners to exchange new procedures, technologies, standards, and training. I have served the UESI Texas Chapter promoting these initiatives for seven years, with the past four years as a board member, and would like to continue serving our national organization with the same enthusiasm as I did with the local chapter.

I would like to start by using my diverse background in utilities, roadway design and construction, and surveying to be a liaison between the Technical Divisions of UESI and promote a collaborative environment for innovation and collaboration to better serve our members. Fostering an environment where everyone understands each other's processes and constraints will result in mutual benefit to all the divisions and eliminate potential gaps or overlaps in related guides of practice. This would include more interaction between the divisions, sharing of expertise, and a recognition of how we work "Better Together". I see the results as being a benefit to all our clients and industry.

Working with the Texas UESI Chapter, I have seen the challenges of the local chapters being unaware of the state chapter's activities and I have seen the same challenges with the national chapter. I would like to encourage and promote liaisons and more information exchanges between the various chapters. With a combined effort many initiatives will avoid duplication of efforts, not be in competition with each other, or give the perception that we are promoting different associations. The interaction between the chapters will also allow individuals to seek new challenges outside of their existing chapter/position and to grow professionally.

I would like to see the goal of *"To Elevate and Promote the Utility Engineering & Survey Profession"* at the forefront of our minds as we make decisions. To this end, Education and Certification Programs must be continued and updated. I would like to see more of our newer staff be able to attend conferences and functions at all levels and interact with their counterparts. I would like to see more recognition of individuals receiving their certifications and a focus on the benefits the certification brings. As a leader I want to demonstrate to the new workforce what it means to be a professional and a member of UESI who is certified.

I have seen the benefits of a state chapter working with the State DOT's and officials, including facilitating workshops and evaluations of existing practices/procedures. I would like to see more formal interactions between the institute and all stakeholders, including federal agencies, government officials, and utility companies. In addition to meeting our clients' needs and providing public services, continuing concerns such as Information Security, Safety, and now Artificial Intelligence all impact stakeholders and change how we perform our roles and responsibilities. I want UESI to be at the forefront of all upcoming challenges and to facilitate resolutions and implementation of the resulting solutions.

I want to continue my service in UESI by serving on the board addressing new challenges and mentoring the next generation with the goal *"To Elevate and Promote the Utility Engineering & Survey Profession"*.

Jesse Cooper, RPLS, is a recognized leader in utility coordination and utility accommodation of utilities on state transportation facilities. A graduate from Texas A&M with a degree in Civil Engineering and is a Registered Public Land Surveyor, he has 35+ years of experience in project administration, surveying, mapping, utility coordination, subsurface utility engineering, conflict resolution, and utility adjustment monitoring/verification. Best practices from his extensive experience allow him to anticipate and mitigate issues to keep projects moving forward for clients. Recognition of his accomplishments in the public and private sectors have led to new opportunities to provide clients with advisory assistance in policies and procedures.

2015-Present

For the past 10 years as a program and project manager, he has provided leadership and coordination for HDR project teams in Utility Accommodation, Coordination, and Verification of utilities being relocated due to transportation projects. For the past 5 years Jesse has focused on providing subject matter advisory services to other states by assisting them in the update of their Utility Codes, Manuals, and guidance documents. These states include North Carolina, South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, and Iowa. Jesse recently completed the update of the Nebraska DOT Utility Accommodation Manual as the primary author. He also served as an advisor and contributor on four research projects including, Iowa DOT SPR 3052 "Utility Management Process", and Iowa DOT SPR 3081 "Utility Project Development", and Iowa DOT SPR 3082 "Utility Early Identification and Location of Utility Facilities".

1999-2015

As the former TxDOT Map, Survey, and Utility Section Director, for 16 years Jesse provided oversight of the Texas Utility Program, which relocated over 500 utilities per year. He also managed subsurface utility contracts and developed a contract template now used for professional utility coordination contracts in the ROW and PEPS Divisions. As the RPLS for the ROW Division, he oversaw the survey requirements and review of 4000+ ROW parcels a year requiring survey and mapping.

He was part of the team that received the FHWA 2006 Utility Outstanding Achievement Award in the Utility/SUE category. During this time, he was the team lead for updating the TxDOT Utility Manual and Texas Administrative Code for utility accommodation on state right-of-way (ROW) and led the efforts for TxDOT to implement and be a test state for SHRP2 R15B conflict management tools and statewide training. He also led the SHRP R01A Team which oversaw the pilot/test projects for TxDOT.

Jesse led the implementation of the TxDOT Utility Installation Review Program (UIR), an online GIS based permitting enterprise database for the submittal of utility permits which numbered over 30,000 annually and was georeferenced. He also participated in FHWA Accelerated Construction Technology Conferences in Oklahoma, Utah, Texas, and Minnesota for the FHWA assisting other states to identify methods to streamline high profile projects and identify potential impacts. In 2011, Jesse represented Texas and the FHWA in assisting the government of Kuwait in identifying coordination issues between the oil and gas industry and their growing country, which included a review of their utility accommodation practices. In the early years of Design Build Contracts, he reviewed the contracts for the utility related responsibilities of the Design Builder, TxDOT, and utility owners on SH 130 Phases 1-3 and SH 45 in the Austin Texas area.

Serving for 16 years as a standing member on the TxDOT Committee on Geomatics and Surveying (COGS), he was part of a team which updated the TxDOT Survey Manual and developed a Virtual Reference System (VRS) for statewide survey control. He was also on another team which developed the GIS ROW Asset Inventory Program for survey control markers and ROW parcels.

During the first two years in the ROW Division, Jesse led an effort to secure the first series of ROW acquisition contracts for TxDOT. These contracts included all phases of negotiation, relocation, and eminent domain proceedings to acquire the required ROW for new transportation projects. As a result of developing the new ROW Acquisition Contracts to purchase right of way in a more efficient method and in less time, TxDOT was awarded the 2003 FHWA Excellence in Right of Way Honorable Mention Award in Streamlining and Innovation. Jesse also demonstrated his extensive knowledge of right of way/survey policies by participating on the 2000 and later updates of the TxDOT Right of Way Manual.

Jesse is pre-certified in the following TxDOT categories for contracts:

15.1.1 - Right of Way Surveys
15.2.1 - Design Survey
15.2.2 - Construction Survey
15.3.5 - Horizontal and Vertical Control
18.3.1 - Utility Adjustment Coordination
18.6.1 - Utility Management & Coordination Oversight

As the TxDOT Map, Survey, and Utility Section Director, Jesse served for 6 years on the AASHTO CRUO Executive Committee and Technical Councils, identifying topics and issues that needed to be addressed by research or policy development. Jesse participated as a panel member on:

NCHRP Project 15-70 Panel Valuation and Compensation Approaches in Utility Accommodation

NCHRP Project 52-05 Implementation of SUE for Highway Design

In 2024 Jesse participated on NCHRP 15-69 Utility Conflict Impacts During Highway Construction as an author and presenter. Currently he is a member of a Focus Group for NCHRP Project 10-119: Phase 2.

Jesse also currently serves on the TRB AKD60 Utility Committee as a voting member.

1988-1999

From 1988 through 1999 Jesse held positions as TxDOT District Surveyor and Engineer in Training in the Bryan District. The EIT positions included rotations through the Design, Advanced Planning, and Area Offices gaining experience designing and building projects from planning through construction. His District Survey responsibilities included aerial and control surveys, ROW Maps, and construction staking, overseeing up to ten survey crews.

Jesse is a member of:

ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute (UESI) – currently serving as the Past President of the Texas UESI Chapter.

International Right of Way Association (IRWA) – Instructor for the 900 (Engineering & Surveying) courses

National Society of Professional Surveyors

ASCE – Texas UESI

- 1) Originally a student member of ASCE during College
- 2) Presented sessions at ASCE Texas CECON Conference related to TxDOT Utility Programs
- 3) 2018 - I was one of the founding members of the UESI Texas Chapter helping select Renee Mayer as the 1st President of the Texas Chapter, assisted in organizing the 1st Texas UESI conference, and presented for the UESI Institute at Universities
- 4) 2018-2022 Presented for online ASCE Lunch & Learns during COVID and also assisted in the coordination of On-Line Texas Chapter Conferences during COVID
- 5) 2022 – Presented at the UESI Surveying & Geomatics Conference - Cal Poly – Utility Surveys
- 6) 2022 Presented at the ASCE Texas CECON Conference and coordinated/moderated the UESI Track
- 7) 2021 Served as the Secretary of the UESI Texas Chapter and assisted with setting quarterly meeting sites and speakers.
- 8) 2022 Served as the Treasurer of the UESI Texas Chapter
- 9) 2023 Served as the Vice President of the UESI Texas Chapter
- 10) 2024 Served as the President of the UESI Texas Chapter
Opening up Board meetings to all members and growing involvement and membership
By Restructuring Committees and task leads
- 11) 2025 Serves as the Past President of the UESI Texas Chapter.

ASCE UESI Subsurface Engineering & Investigation Committee

Member & Task Chair for the new - SUE Manual of Practice.

ASCE 38-22 & 38-27 - Standard Guideline for Investigating and Documenting Existing Utilities

Friend and Contributor

ASCE 75-22 & 75-27 - Standard Guideline for Recording and Exchanging Utility Infrastructure Data

Member and Contributor

International Right of Way Association (IRWA) –

Speaker at Region II Seminars

Instructor for the 900 (Engineering & Surveying) courses

National Society of Professional Surveyors

Member

Texas Society of Professional Surveyors

Past Member