University at Buffalo
Institute of Bridge Engineering
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

ENGINEERING SEMINAR

Alaska Way Viaduct
Liberty Bridge Fire/Response and Repair
AASHTO T20 Tunnel Committee Update

Abstract

The Alaska Way Viaduct project is the replacement of a seismically challenged viaduct with a 57.5-inch diameter, 2-mile-long double-decker underground tunnel in Downtown Seattle, Washington. The presentation will discuss some of the design and construction challenges and highlights of the project.

The Liberty Bridge Fire occurred on September 2, 2016, and nearly led to the collapse of the structure. The talk will discuss the initial response of firefighters and PennDOT, and the design and construction of the repair this landmark bridge in Pittsburgh.

The AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures (SCOBS) consists of 20 committees from state DOTs that are responsible for the AASHTO Bridge specifications. This presentation discusses T20, the Tunnel Committee and their past and future research activities.

Louis J. Ruzzi, P.E.
District Bridge Engineer
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)

Mr. Ruzzi graduated from University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, in 1980 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering Technology, and has been a registered P.E. in Pennsylvania since 1989. He worked for consulting firms for 4 years until 1985 with structural steel and concrete design, and nuclear pipe support and instrumentation support design. He has worked for PennDOT for the last 32.5 years as a Bridge Designer, Bridge Inspection Squad Leader, Assistant Bridge Engineer, and District Bridge Engineer (last 18 years). He is currently Chairman of the technical committee T20 Tunnels (AASHTO -SCOBS) and has been since 2010 (AASHTO member since 2006). Mr. Ruzzi has been a Member of the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania International Bridge Conference Executive Committee since 2007.

Date: **Monday, September 25, 2017** **Time:** **5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**
Location: **Baldy 200G, North Campus, University at Buffalo**
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