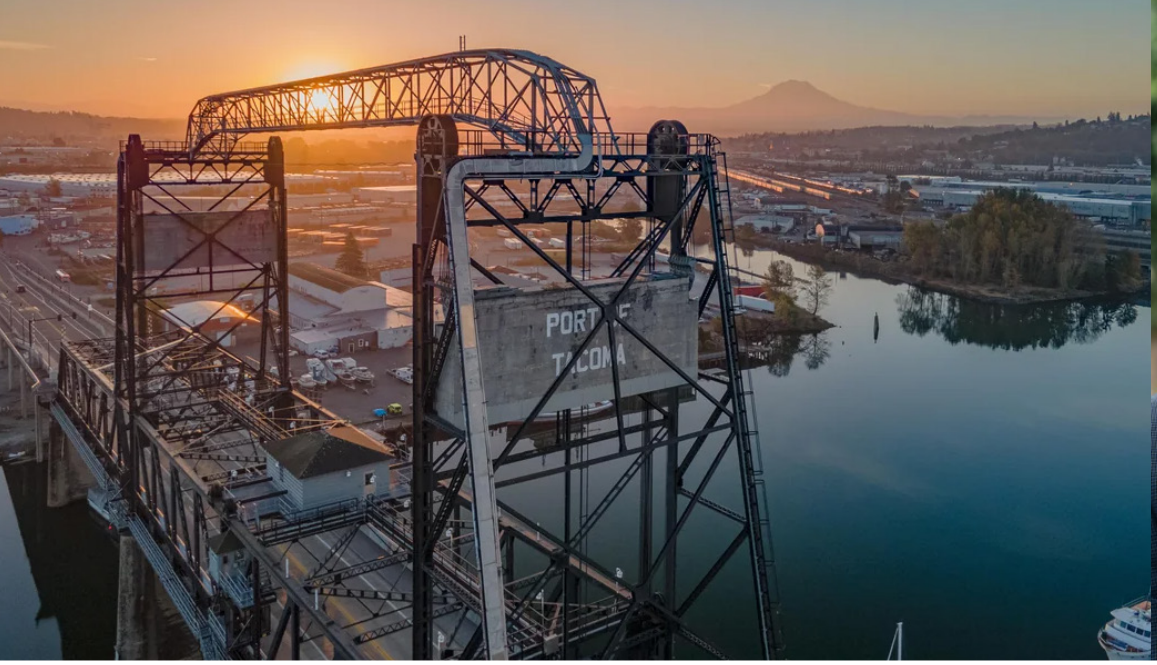




AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION

APWA

Washington State Chapter

TOP 10

Public Works Leaders of the Year Award Nomination

WASHINGTON STATE CHAPTER

MARCH 1, 2025

AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS ASSOCIATION
APWA
Washington State Chapter

The organization of choice in providing public works education, advocacy, expertise, and public awareness for its diverse community of members.

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Chapter Delegates

Donald J. Huling, P.E.
Lauren Behm, M.P.A. (alternate)

March 1, 2024

American Public Works Association

1275 K Street, NW, Suite 750

Washington, DC 20005

Re: Washington Chapter Nomination for Public Works Leaders of the Year Award

Dear Awards Committee:

The Washington Chapter of APWA proudly submits the attached nomination of Mike Clark for the 2025 Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award. Our nomination details Mike's history and accomplishments in public works as well as addressing the required criteria.

Mike has been a devoted member of APWA since 1996 and has served the Washington Chapter in many different capacities. Mike served as a Chapter Board Member from 2008 to 2009, served as an office culminating in his presidency in 2016, and acted as the Chapter's Alternate Delegate and Delegate to APWA National for six years. In his role as Chapter Delegate and Alternate Delegate, Mike has continued to provide his insight and guidance to the Chapter Board enabling us to learn from his past experiences while helping shape our future leaders. Mike has had a huge impact on many of our committees and chapter initiatives including being one of the founders of our scholarship program, being the Conference Programs Chair for 7 years, serving on the Transportation Committee, and serving on our Government Affairs Committee and initiating the hiring of a political lobbyist/advocate for our Chapter. Mike's efforts have been acknowledged with the WA Chapter 2021 Chapter Pillar Award and the 2024 WA Chapter Roy Morse Award.

Beyond APWA, Mike has excelled in his career as a technical expert in civil engineering, project managment and company leadership. Mike is known for being generous with his time, encouraging our next generation of Public Work's leaders, and providing insights to our current board and leadership. Mike continues to give back to his community beyond the Public Works arena, supporting may different community events and organizations over the years which highlights his giving nature. Mike is considered a true mentor of the APWA Washington Chapter and we are excited to nominate him for the 2025 Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award.

Thank you for considering Mike for this prestigious award. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at: 425-785-4340 or TARADAVIS4315@GMAIL.COM.

Sincerely,

Tara Davis

Tara Davis, PE

Retired
2024 Washington Chapter President

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Mike Clark

His leadership on transportation projects has served our state's communities well, but it is his leadership and advocacy work in the legislative arena that also makes him worthy of this award.

— Toby Rickman, PE, PTOE, PWLF
Northwest Public Works Institute Administrator
Deputy Director (Retired)
Pierce County Planning & Public Works
2022 APWA Top Ten Award Recipient

Summary

Mike Clark is a thoughtful leader whose work ethos and team mentality helps create excellence for everyone around him. Even while working through some of the toughest infrastructure projects in the state, Mike's calm and compassion have led projects, teams and policies to success. A trailblazer in the public works industry, Mike's lasting legacy is his unwavering advocacy for the profession. He has been a driving force in securing critical infrastructure funding, shaping contracting policies, and forging key partnerships between APWA and industry organizations like American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) and the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). His bold leadership—including championing legislative representation for APWA WA Chapter—has strengthened the industry's voice at the governmental level, delivering tangible results for public works statewide. Beyond advocacy, Mike's technical expertise, managerial innovation, and commitment to workforce development have transformed infrastructure projects across the region. He has set new standards for efficiency and sustainability while fostering inclusive teams, mentoring the next generation, and ensuring public works reflects and serves the communities it impacts.

Employment Record

Keenly aware of the impacts of public works, Mike's progressive level of leadership, project management skills, mentorship, and philosophy have grown through out his career. However, even while tackling some of largest infrastructure projects, Mike has been a passionate advocate for public works, shining a spotlight on the the profession in order to build a more inclusive workforce in public works. Through mentorship programs, workforce training initiatives, and community outreach, he has helped underrepresented groups gain access to career opportunities in engineering and infrastructure development. His efforts have not only diversified the industry but also strengthened it, ensuring a more equitable and dynamic future for public works.

David Evans and Associates, Bellevue WA

1996 - PRESENT

Vice-President 2003 - present

A humble leader who is well regarded by all who know and work with him (community, clients, competitors and elected officials), Mike was promoted to Vice-President in 2003, but has held a variety of additional duties at DEA during that time period. These are listed below.



Senior Project Manager 2018 - 2024

Senior Project Manager leading several large transportation programs for Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) that have included: multidisciplinary services to support the completion of the $400 million rebuild of the SR 520 Montlake Interchange, multidisciplinary services to $700 Million widening of I-405 Between Renton and Bellevue, and multidisciplinary services for the WSDOT Olympic Region Fish Passage program to reconstruct over one hundred stream culverts across state highways blocking fish habitats. Mike also supported the Sound Transit Eastlink Project and led multiple client teams focused on building the brand through Cultural Drivers or "the DEA difference." Clarity of Expectations, Accountability, Effective Communication, Collaborations and Teamwork, Initiative and Creativity, and Trust.

Regional Transportation Group Leader 2010 - 2018

In 2010 DEA reorganized to move from an office centric business model to a discipline centric business model. With this move, Mike became the Regional Transportation Group Leader responsible for both Business Development & Operations as well as the Regional office leader facilitating interoffice collaboration and teamwork. This was a challenging time due to the great recession—agency capital budgets were defunded and resources were limited. The circumstances required extreme efficiencies with work and to constantly exceed client expectations so that DEA would be the consultant of choice for the limited projects. The team consistently exceeded expectations and were in an excellent position to grow the business in 2015 when WSDOT, local agencies, and Sound Transit became fully funded with new programs. During this time, Mike led DEA's team on Sound Transits Eastlink Light Rail Project ($600 Million Seattle to Bellevue Segment). Designing the track and track attachment to the structures, including the floating bridge. Mike also led the DEA's multidisciplinary team on the SR 520 Eastside HOV Improvements ($370 Million). This required reconstructing 4 miles of a freeway systems to add HOV lanes with LID's at all crossings and multi-use paths on each side.

Tacoma Office Manager, Vice President 2003 - 2010

Office Manager and Transportation Group Leader. Fully responsible for the financial performance and growth of the office and to be the consultant of choice for all of the local agencies in the Tacoma Pierce County area. Within 3 years, Mike managed his office to be one of the top 3 most profitable out of DEA's 20 offices, and grew the number of employees from 16 to 49. Mike led major projects for all agencies that included: City of Tacoma's Murray Morgan Bridge rehabilitation, Puyallup Avenue Bridge replacement, Port of Tacoma's Road Rail and Infrastructure Improvement Program for the redevelopment of the marine shipping terminals on the Blair Hylebos Peninsula, City of Fife's major street improvements for Valley Ave, 70th St E and 54th St E.

Project Manager 1996 - 2003

Responsible for leading the design of multiple agency transportation projects and programs such as the widening of 6 miles of King County roadway and 2 miles of state highway from a 2-3 lane rural facility to 5-6 lane urban roadways with bike lanes and sidewalks. Leading multiple Ground Transportation Improvement Programs at SeaTac International Airport that Included remote employee parking for 5000 vehicles including bus transportation with stops at various locations along the route and the main terminal, remote airline ticketing site for cruise ship charter bus passengers, moving ground transportation off the terminal drives into the parking garage: ground transportation for the refurbishment of the north and south satellite terminal train systems. During this time, Mike grew the transportation team from ten to over 35 team members.

INCA Engineers, Bellevue WA

1989 - 1996

Project Manager/ Engineer

Responsible for developing Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) for multiple Transportation Improvements Projects for many agencies within the Puget Sound area. As the engineer of record, Mike analyzed all aspects of the roadway design for alignment, roadway safety features, hydraulic systems, right of way impacts, utility coordination, relocation of water and sewer systems, coordination of structural, signalization, illumination designs, geotechnical investigations and permitting. Mike coordinated interagency requirements when multiple agencies were involved. The high-functioning team routinely brought in projects on time and ready for construction within the available funds.



Gannett Fleming, Phoenix AZ

1985 - 1988

Project Engineer / Manager

Responsible for the design of general Aviation Improvement Projects (AIP) throughout many cities in Arizona. The projects were runway and taxiway extensions, new taxiways, aircraft parking aprons, runway lighting, and updating airport masterplans. Keys to the success of this program were the ability to coordinate funding between state and aeronautics agencies, and the FAA to get them funded, designed, and constructed within the expected time frame. Another key element was adapting the office prime computer CAD system to design features of horizontal projects. This expedited production increased the project quality and reduced the cost which helped ensure on-time delivery and program success for the funding partners.

Responsible for the Design of County and State Highway widening projects SR 51, and SR 87 within the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Mike was responsible for Roadway Geometry, signing, Striping and Traffic Control. Mike also Integrated the Prime Computer CAD system to develop plan features and cross sections which expedited production.

Washington State Department of Transportation, Aberdeen WA

1984 - 1985

Transportation Technician III

Developed plans for roadside safety projects that improved intersection operations and widened shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists. The tasks included intersection designs to add turn lanes, culvert designs to increase the lengths of the cross drains and streams, signing design, and pavement marking plans.

Mike led the Conference Programs Committee for 10 years where he established a proactive process to aid committees in developing technical sessions... This change engaged the committees in providing training for the membership and increased sessions submissions to the point that it has become highly competitive to speak at a Chapter conference today.

— Lauren J. Behm MPA
Sr. Marketing Manager
Landau Associates, Inc.
2023 Chapter President
2025 APWA Washington Chapter Alternate Delegate



Mike Clark



Light Rail track attachment to floating bridges

The segment includes installing light rail on a floating bridge, something that does not exist anywhere in the world.

— Ronald J Paananen, PE
Vice President / Senior Program Manager
HDR Engineering Inc.
Former APWA WA Board of Directors

Mike has been at the forefront of technical advancements in public works, pioneering cutting-edge solutions such as his work with the first-of-its-kind project bringing light rail over a floating bridge from Seattle to Bellevue. While Mike has a high-level of technical skills, he has the ability to convey his knowledge in a way that is easy for other non-technical stakeholders to understand. His leadership in implementing smart infrastructure and leveraging GIS technology for asset management has significantly improved operations and cost-effectiveness. His forward-thinking approach has not only streamlined project delivery but also set a precedent for future-ready public works strategies that benefit clients and end-users.

Technical Innovations

SOUND TRANSIT EAST LINK LIGHT RAIL TRACK

2011-2025

Mike was the principal engineer and project manager for this project to design the Seattle to Bellevue East Link Light Rail Track and track attachment to all structures (both fixed bridges and floating bridge). The innovation focuses on the track attachment design of the 6000-foot-long floating bridge owned by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). WSDOT allowed use of their structure, provided the solution did not reduce the freeboard or require any penetration into the floating bridge deck, nor removal of the latex-modified concrete overlay and develop a stray current collection system management. Mike assembled a team of engineers that developed a one-of-a-kind solution that utilized variable height precast light weight reinforced concrete blocks with an interlayer of corkelast affixed to the bottom of the block. Over 9,000 blocks were required to adapt the rail profiles to the bridge profiles. The blocks were epoxied to the bridge deck and the corkelast eliminated this path of stray current. The solution required multiple laboratory tests at the University of Washington Laboratory to prove the structural loading and overall integrity of the block system (lightweight concrete blocks, corkelast, and epoxy). The testing also required another round of testing after the blocks went through thermal cycling treatments that represent the heat and cold effects over the 70-year design life. The plan also needed to develop custom designs to attach the eight track bridges over the expansion joints between the fixed bridge and floating bridges. The track design was required to account for the 48-inch vertical movement of Lake Washington.

MURRAY MORGAN RESTORATION

2004-2013

Mike was the early planning phase project manager and the principal-in-charge on the Design and Construction phases. The 100-year-old 1760-foot-



Historic Murray Morgan Bridge



Lowering the 3-d Scanner into a Shaft for a Bridge Foundation to confirm rebar spacing



3-D Scan of Inverted Manhole

long structure was closed due to significant deficiencies and structural integrity. Saving the bridge was controversial and required engagement with the city council and mayor who needed more information to go ahead with the restoration project. To gain concurrence, DEA analyzed the structure, modeling the critical components to pinpoint the areas of concern (replacement of several lower truss panel points) and outlined the cost opportunities to repair and retrofit the bridge. The solution resulted in reducing the roadway section from four lanes to two lanes and bringing the external walkways internal. Mike met with the mayor and council members onsite and walked them through the areas of concern so that they could clearly understand how the bridge could be saved. A key repair method allowed the use of bottom cord tensioning cables strung the length of each truss. This solution minimized the need for design and construction of temporary connecting structural elements (eliminating the concern of unforeseen change conditions) and allowed the project to be completed on time and within the $47 million construction budget.

The innovation and solutions led to awards for Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and the Engineering New Record (ENR) 2013 Northwest Best Highway-Bridge projects.

MANHOLE MAPPING BY INVERTING A 3D SCANNER

2008

As the office manager and principal-in-charge for the City of Seattle's project to map / model over 30 very deep (30- 50 feet) large diameter storm drain manholes throughout the City. Traditional methods were very costly and would take multiple days and were also located in busy streets, so safety protocols (confined space, depth access) and traffic management were significant costs. To do this cost effectively, the team retrofitted a static laser scanner that is typically mounted to the top of a survey tripod, to be mounted on the underside via a custom designed and fabricated mechanical mounting bracket. The team then attached to custom fabricated adjustable aluminum rods (5-foot segments) that could be raised or lowered with a cordless drill.

This solution allowed the 3D scanner to be lowered into the manhole to the depth necessary to capture the 3D data. The data would be processed in the office and the deliverable would be a complete 3D model of the manholes with all the pipe inverts clearly determined with a visual assessment of the current condition of the manhole. Each site took less than 2 hours to complete the data collection. At that time, this was the first of its kind innovation and after a few years it was copied and helped change the way several agencies inspect and manage this asset.



Mike participating in the ice bucket challenge with DEA co-workers

Mike has used his influence to benefit small consulting businesses, improve the diversity in our profession, and to develop younger leaders to prepare us for the future.

— Toby Rickman, PE, PTOE, PWLF
Northwest Public Works Institute Administrator
Deputy Director (Retired)
Pierce County Planning & Public Works
2022 APWA Top Ten Award Recipient

Innovations in Managerial Fields

A strategic and results-driven leader, Mike has successfully managed multimillion-dollar infrastructure projects, ensuring they are delivered on time and within budget while exceeding performance expectations. His ability to balance technical oversight with teamwork and stakeholder engagement has led to improved project outcomes, greater public trust, and stronger partnerships. His leadership style prioritizes collaboration, innovation, and professional development, creating high-performing teams that drive industry excellence.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP CAPACITY

Following DEA's reorganization from an office-centric business model to a business unit model in 2009, Mike Clark assumed the role of Regional Transportation Business Unit Leader. In addition, he became a key member of an ad hoc team tasked with developing strategies to position DEA for leadership and high performance as the economy recovered from the Great Recession. The team's goal was to establish a framework that would cultivate a strong network of leaders across the company to drive specific initiatives, including Work Processes/Capabilities, Organizational Structure, Management Processes, People, and Rewards/Recognition.

A key objective of these efforts was to ensure that DEA would become the first choice for clients, recognized for delivering innovative, value-based solutions and fostering strong collaborative relationships. Mike played a significant role in this process, helping the team produce a series of recommendations for the DEA Executive Leadership Team (ELT). These recommendations outlined portfolio focuses and strategies to engage firm leaders in shaping and achieving the company's objectives.

As the lead presenter of the findings and recommendations, Mike emphasized the importance of aligning these initiatives with DEA's culture—"the way we do things." The ELT embraced this perspective and reorganized the initiatives around six key Cultural Drivers: Clarity of Expectations, Effective Communications, Accountability, Collaboration and Teamwork, Initiative and Creativity, and Trust. This foundation became known as the "DEA Difference," representing the commitments and actions employees take to create positive and effective interactions both internally and externally.

Over the past 14 years, the DEA Difference has remained a core commitment, continuously evolving to integrate the next generation's styles and tools. Mike's contributions to these efforts have helped ensure that everyone interacting with DEA experiences this unique and value-driven approach.



JOB-RELATED TECHNICAL & MANAGERIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION DESIGN TEAM

After concluding his role in a leadership capacity, Mike joined the People and Rewards/Recognition Design Team. This nine-month initiative transformed the company's employee performance and pay evaluation system, which had previously varied by office, state, discipline, and job title. The new system aligned with the company's cultural driver theme, emphasizing equity, inclusion, and success.

Mike played a pivotal role in reshaping job classifications and pay ranges, ensuring equity across all regions. The evaluation process shifted from inconsistent, retrospective metrics to a standardized, success-driven system. This approach incorporated performance metrics and jointly developed tactics, allowing supervisors and employees to collaborate quarterly. Personal career growth metrics were introduced, supporting employees in advancing their careers, education, and industry engagement.

The pay system was standardized, replacing office-determined structures with a calibrated system based on job classification, location, performance, and experience. The rewards system transitioned from manager discretion to a company-wide, four-step metric-based system. Performance outcomes were assessed across four categories—Company, Business Unit, Region, and Individual—providing equal opportunities for recognition. Mike's contributions helped establish a fair, transparent, and growth-oriented system fostering equity and collaboration.

Commitment to Advancing other People in Career and Profession

ACEC/ WSDOT/ SOUND TRANSIT — MENTOR PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM

Mike was an initial member of this Mentor Protégé program. He helped co-create a program where consultants could actively engage in developing and then meeting with various Minority / Disadvantaged / Underserved business partners to share business practices and information, and develop potential relationships. Once a relationship is established a formal MOU was executed that extended for a one-to-two-year window to work with each partner monthly to collaborate on a specific business practice and then provide support and tools to help the protégé develop better business practices so they can grow and be more profitable. The commitment required a monthly progress report to be sent to WSDOT. At the same time, Mentor's also agreed to be readily available available for the protege to call and discuss their concerns. This program has evolved with spinoffs such as Regional Agency Contracting Fairs where the small / disadvantaged business could schedule time to meet with key prime consultants and work on tactics to help them be more successful in procuring work.

BALANCED REPRESENTATION AT ACEC

As the Director, Vice Chairman, and Chairman of ACEC Washington, Mike focused on ensuring ACEC Washington initiatives formed at the annual board retreat would best support all ACEC members: large firms, small firms, minority owned firms, and woman owned firms. Mike also focused on the ACEC Washington Board make up — from Board members to Chairperson. Making it known that the leadership team should reflect the makeup of our industry. This led ACEC-WA to actively focus on recruiting more woman, small business, and minorities to be involved in ACEC Leadership. Over his 12-year role with ACEC Leadership and his role as standing member of the ACEC Nominating Committee, ACEC-WA now has more women than men involved in the leadership of the organization, including leadership roles for minority firms and leadership roles on committees and engagement events with agency leaders and elected officials.

STUDENT OUTREACH AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Throughout his involvement with APWA, Mike has been a strong advocate for outreach to youth, high school, and college students, sharing the story of public works and highlighting its value as a career path. He emphasized the role of public works professionals as stewards of both the built and natural environments, making a tangible difference in communities every day. Mike underscored that there is a meaningful and rewarding role for everyone in this field.

He actively supported the outreach team by funding education kits used in schools and at events, recognizing their outstanding efforts in promoting public works. Mike has also been a passionate advocate for scholarships, beginning with the establishment of a single $10,000 scholarship over



15 years ago. Under his guidance, the program has grown to award $25,000 annually through seven scholarships to university and trade school students.

Mike firmly believes that fostering conversations among students about APWA and offering numerous meaningful scholarships enhances the organization's brand. By investing in education and outreach, he has worked to inspire the next generation of public works professionals while solidifying APWA's reputation as a leader in the field.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INSPIRED INDIVIDUALS AND YOUNG LEADERS TO PARTICIPATE AND LEAD

While leading the Conference Programs Committee from 1998 to 2010, Mike established a proactive process for developing technical sessions through committees, aligning them with conference themes and current Public Works trends. He introduced a formalized approach involving proactive outreach to committees to gather session outlines well in advance of each conference. This effort resulted in a surplus of high-quality submissions, exceeding the number of available presentation slots.

During his tenure on the executive board, Mike also played a key role in initiating the annual Committee Summit event, held each February. This half-day event brought together committee chairs and co-chairs to focus on three key objectives: enhancing committee leadership, expanding committee membership through outreach, and creating opportunities to develop technical sessions for conferences. This initiative facilitated collaboration among committees to build themed session tracks for conferences. As a result, the Conference Committee expanded the number of presentation rooms to meet the growing demand, routinely hosting over 30 sessions per conference. These efforts allowed more members to present, gain visibility, and advance their careers as recognized experts in their fields. Annually, over 100 members and industry partners had the opportunity to deliver relevant and meaningful presentations.

In his roles as Office Leader and Transportation Group Leader, Mike mentored and encouraged his team members to take active roles in professional organizations such as APWA, ACEC, WTS, ASCE, TRB, ITE, WASHTO, and Western Bridge.

Recognizing the connection between these organizations and the business of Public Works, he supported individuals in pursuing their passions within these fields. By fostering this engagement, Mike not only strengthened the firm but also provided team members with opportunities to innovate, collaborate, lead, and build their personal brands and reputations within Public Works.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR OUR APWA TEAMMATES TO ADVOCATE

As a board member, Mike championed the idea of engaging a lobbyist to help the Public Works industry establish stronger connections with elected officials. Initially, this proposal faced significant challenges due to board members' concerns about potential conflicts with their respective agencies' elected representatives. However, Mike persevered and ultimately secured board approval to hire a lobbyist in 2012. This decision proved transformative, with the lobbyist becoming an integral part of the organization.

Today, every conference includes a Legislative Update session, during which the lobbyist facilitates discussions on the state of political affairs and funding issues relevant to members. Over time, the lobbyist's support team has grown into a committee that includes representatives from other associations, such as the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), the County Road Advisory Board (CRAB), the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB), and WSDOT Local Programs. This collaboration has strengthened the organization's brand and connections with elected officials. Many of these collaborators have also become members of APWA, further enhancing the organization's influence.

Through these efforts, APWA member insights have become a valuable resource for elected officials. In addition to the Legislative Update sessions, the group has organized informational sessions focused on advocacy strategies, effective communication with elected representatives, and specific public works needs. These sessions have consistently attracted the highest attendance at conferences, with team members becoming stronger advocates for public works and gaining confidence in navigating the political landscape.



INITIAL & LIFELONG EDUCATION



Reading time at the Clark House, encouraging early learning

[Mike has] continuously looked for opportunities to develop or integrate parallel initiatives to better leverage common themes into the APWA organization on a local and national scale.

— Cindi Polychronis, JD
Chief Administrative Officer &
Senior Vice President
David Evans and Associates

1994

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Project Management Certificate

1989

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

State of California - #43857

State of Washington- #26046

1983 - 1984

SAINT MARTIN'S UNIVERSITY

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering

1981 - 1983

SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pre-Engineering

1980 - 1981

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Pre-Engineering and Football

Additional Training

- APWA WA 2 times per year, since initial membership
- PWX from 2010 to 2024
- ACEC 2 times per year, since initial membership
- ACEC national conference, 8 times
- WASHTO conference
- AI Disruptive Technologies and the Future of Engineering, ACEC, 2024
- Essentials of Project Management, ACEC, 2023
- Future Proof your Firm and how to optimize, and plan in a Rapidly changing Business Environment, ACEC, 2023



INITIAL & LIFELONG EDUCATION

- Incident Reporting and Management, DEA, 2023
- Design Build for Engineers, ACEC, 2022
- Diversity Equity and Inclusions, DEA, 2021
- Building a Resilient Business: Help Your Firm Weather the Storm and Prepare for the Next One, ACEC, 2021
- Safe Driving, DEA, 2021
- Relationships Matter: How to Strengthen Relationships Grow your Network and Build Stronger teams., ACEC, 2021
- Raising the Bar for Engineers the Role of Engineers as Trusted Advisors, ACEC, 2020
- Creating a Sustainable Company People Planet Profit, ACEC, 2019
- Steering a Course for the Future of Engineering, ACEC, 2019
- Building a Culture of Inclusion , ACEC, 2018
- The Changing Face of Engineering in the Northwest, ACEC, 2018
- Improving Retention through Stay Interviews, DEA, 2018
- Anti Harassment and Anti Discrimination, DEA, 2018
- Building a Culture of Inclusion , ACEC, 2018
- DEA Difference, DEA, 2017
- Brain Of The Future What We Need To Retain, Engage And Perform , ACEC, 2017
- Develop Your Next Generation of Seller-Doers... Without Throwing Them To the Wolves, ACEC, 2017
- Business Development Flywheel, DEA, 2017
- The Negotiation Waltz, ACEC, 2016
- Building A Better Brain Improving Your Decision Making, ACEC, 2016
- Digital Media - A Tool for Protecting Your Firm's Reputation While Promoting and Growing Your Business, ACEC, 2015
- The Marketing Engineer, ACEC, 2015
- DEA Leadership Initiative (4 3-day sessions) , DEA, 2014
- Rethinking Your Business Model, ACEC, 2014
- Leadership—Building Your Team." , ACEC, 2014
- Moving from Survival to Growth, ACEC, 2013
- The Cauldron of Change, ACEC, 2013
- Follow the Money- non Traditional Mechanisms for Infrastructure Funding, ACEC, 2012
- Leadership Game Changers What Got You Here Wont Get You There, ACEC, 2012
- Strategic Marketing Management, ACEC, 2011
- The Future Is Here Confronting Leadership Challenges, Building Leadership Capacity And Proactively Dealing With The Challenges, ACEC, 2011
- Crucial Conversations, DEA, 2008
- Keys to Creating An Accountable Workforce , DEA, 2007
- Negotiations, DEA, 2005
- Office Leadership (1 Day a month), DEA, 2001
- Fluvial Analysis, USGS, 1986
- Contract Plans Reading, WSDOT, 1985



PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS



Mike participating in conference life at an APWA Conference

Presentations

- **APWA 2023 Spring Conference Alternative Project Delivery Methodologies for Local Agencies:**
  Traditional Design Build – Murray Morgan Bridge Rehabilitation
- **PacTrans 2022 Region 10 Transportation Conference:**
  How do we make turnover an opportunity to address workforce challenges
- **2013 ACEC Conference: Coming Out of the Recession**
  Shaping your workforce and business model to adapt to the new economy.

Publications

APWA WA Public Works Magazine

- Spring 2015 Presidents Message: Get Involved And Enjoy The Journey
- Summer 2015 Presidents Message: Have You Hugged a Public Works Professional Today
- Fall 2015 Presidents Message: Get Noticed! Take the Stage and Wear Some Dirt
- Winter 2015 Presidents Message: Be Confident Harness The Power of the Public Works Spotlight

Over the last 40 years, Mike has tirelessly helped shape the transportation infrastructure across the Puget Sound region. His ability to bring owners, consultants, and contractors together to find common ground in difficult situations is unmatched.

— Donald J. Huling, P.E.
Principal Geotechnical Engineer
HWA Geosciences INC.
2020-2022 APWA Washington State Chapter President
Current APWA Washington State Delegate



Mike Clark with other Washington Chapter Past Presidents

Mike spent much of his time on lobbying for WSDOT and Sound Transit Funding to obtain passage of the Connecting Washington transportation funding package and, similarly, in passage of the Sound Transit 2 (ST2) funding package in 2016. These resulted in some of the largest transportation funding packages in the country.

— Van A. Collins
President/CEO
ACEC Washington

Legacy of Advocacy

Mike's legacy in public works is defined by unwavering advocacy. He has driven strategic partnerships between APWA and key industry organizations like ACEC and CRAB, strengthening the collective voice of public works professionals. His leadership helped secure two of the nation's largest transportation funding packages in 2016, advancing critical infrastructure. Mike also played a pivotal role in shaping contracting amendments that improve efficiency and fairness. His bold vision led the APWA WA Chapter to hire a lobbyist—a once-controversial move that has since delivered major legislative wins, benefiting public works projects statewide.

1996 - Present
American Public Works Association

WA CHAPTER POSITIONS

- 2022-2024 Chapter Delegate
- 2019-2022 Chapter Alternate Delegate
- 2016 Past President
- 2015 President
- 2014 Vice President
- 2013 Secretary
- 2012 Vice President
- 2009 Board of Director
- 2008 Board of Director
- 2002 -2009 Conference Programs Chair
- 1996 – 2002 Transportation Committee Member

2005 - Present
American Council of Engineers- Washington

- 2016 Chairman
- 2015 Vice Chairman
- 2014 Vice Chairman
- 2013 Board of Director
- 2012 Board of Director

2011- 2018
WTS (Women in Transportation)

Mike joined WTS to support team members and invest in an organization dedicated to encouraging diversity in public works.



Mike Sailing

A life-long learner, Mike is someone who readily shares that knowledge with others. With an interest in coaching, mentoring, and advancing communities through sharing skills, Mike has invested thousands of hours in community service activities.

Community Activities

- **Annual Office Food Drives –** Various foodbanks
- **Vision House –** Fundraising to support mothers with children needing shelter, services and meals.
- **Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center –** Organized team day of maintenance -cleanup and facility repairs
- **Rebuilding Together –** Organized team for day of repairs and maintenance for elderly and disabled.
- **Adventuress Cup: A Race for the Salish Sea –** A public, values-driven event aboard the tall ship The Adventuress to engage people who care about our marine environment. The Adventuress Cup fundraiser enables works with community partners to reach underserved youth including BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and those otherwise unable to participate for financial reasons, or who do not traditionally have access to the waterfront.
- **Youth Sports Coaching & Officiating –** Baseball, basketball, and swimming: assistant coach, umpire, referee, official

Service to Others

1999

Committee Chair Troop 636

Mike was responsible for oversight of operations of the troop and liaison with region leadership.

2000 - 2005

Scout Master Troop 636

Mike took over as Scout Master Committee Chair in a well-established boy scout troop. As the new leader, Mike established a collaborative leadership approach that focused on youth leadership skills and accountability. Mike initiated a parent / youth mentorship program to mentor and coach the boys in the appropriate leading, planning and scheduling of each of the weekend outdoor events. This approach created many unique opportunities for the boys as several parents (moms and dads) had significant experience in outdoor adventure activities or other skill and were wonderful teachers. This led to hiking Mount Saint Helens, Mount Adams, and multi-day beach hikes in the Olympics. Trips to Philmont and



Successful Scouts



Youth Mission trip

SeaBase, and many other activities that were much more interesting than past activities. The troop doubled in size over the next 5 years. Through fundraising activities and donations and Mike and the troop leadership team made it a point to ensure that any boy that wanted to participate could. The troop gained a significant amount of troop-owned gear and made that available to any boy that needed gear for an event. The troop maintained a high interest level and over 25% of the boys attained Eagle Scout. Most of the Eagle projects were associated with community service or environmental stewardship. Giving back to the community and helping all was a constant theme.

2002 - 2012

Co-leader of Faith United Methodist Youth Mission Trips to Tecate, Mexico to build homes for selected families in a Barrio of Southwestern Tecate.

Mike was one of the initial parent leaders coordinating and leading this program and one of the two parents with residential construction experience. Each year, the program typically included four adults and 16 teenagers, evenly split between women and men. A San Diego-based Methodist Church leader, in collaboration with a counterpart in the Barrio of Tecate, would select a family who had acquired property but could not build a home—often due to illness depleting their funds—and were living in makeshift shelters with basic power, water, plywood walls, and a tarp. Families accepting this offer were expected to help future families by supporting the construction team with logistics and providing dinners.

The team was typically responsible for roofing, stucco siding, windows, doors, electricity, insulation, and wallboard on one of the homes. Teenagers gained hands-on experience in home building, exposure to the trades, and the satisfaction of a hard day's work in the heat. More importantly, they got to know the family, heard their story, and gained a deeper understanding of their circumstances as well as the stories of other local families who participated. They worked alongside local children, forming personal relationships with them and their parents.

On the last night of the stay, the local community hosted a street party with food, traditional music, dancing, and storytelling, allowing participants to experience the local culture. The program proved to be rewarding, with many teenagers returning in subsequent years to reconnect with their new friends. Some returned at least four times, and others gathered years later for another opportunity to support the initiative. Many participants developed long-term friendships with Tecate families. The program offered valuable hands-on trade experience, fostered learning and skill-sharing, supported families in need, built a sense of community, and promoted respect and understanding of other cultures—life core values that many of the youth continue to exhibit today.



2024 Roy Morse Winner

2024 APWA Washington Chapter Roy Morse Award

Mike has been involved in APWA since 1990. First simply attending events, then joining the Transportation Committee in 1996. Next, Mike led the Conference Programs Committee to develop the technical sessions for each of the conferences for about 10 years until 2009. Mike was elected to the Board in 2008, elected to the Executive Team and served from in 2011-2016 and was finally appointed the Chapter Alternate Delegate and Delegate for 2018 – 2024. Mike's distinguished career has made Washington State a better place. His mentorship has ensured the next generation of engineers have to tools they need to succeed.

2021 APWA Chapter Pillar Award

Mike has been a dedicated member of the APWA for over 3 decades, embodying the values of Dick Andrews through his tireless contributions to the Washington Chapter. He has mentored members, encouraged participation, and played pivotal roles in developing technical sessions and special projects. Serving as Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, National Delegate, and President in 2015, Mike's leadership extended to chairing committees, enhancing the chapter's website, and establishing the Government Affairs Committee. His efforts culminated in securing Seattle as the host for PWX 2019, advancing education, student outreach, and collaboration within APWA.



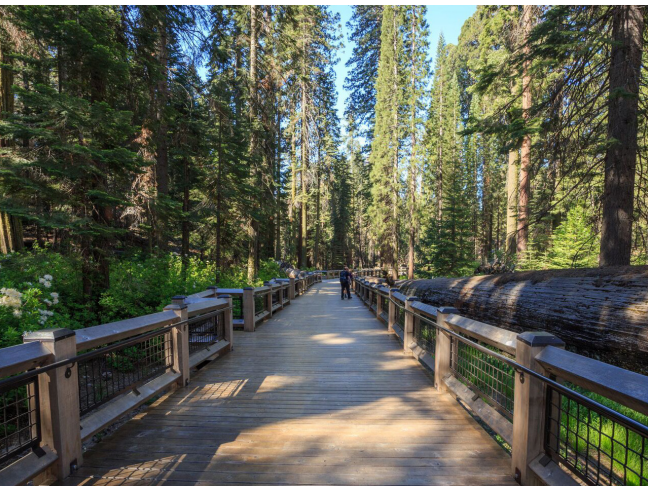
Ribbon Cutting at McCormick Park

Civic Award

1995

City of Gig Harbor and Gig Harbor Little League Special Recognition

Special recognition for donating the design for Gig Harbor Little League Ball Fields at McCormick Park. The fields are still in use today.



National Parks Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias



City of Gig Harbor Cushman Trail

Project Awards

2019

ACEC National, Special Projects Recognition

National Parks Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias

The primary purpose of the Restoration of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias Project was to transform the lower grove area from a parking lot to a giant sequoia habitat. This was accomplished by restoring the degraded habitat and natural processes critical to the long-term health of the giant sequoias, wetlands, plant and wildlife communities within Mariposa Grove, and to improve the visitor experience. Key solutions to restoring the health of giant sequoias and surrounding wetland habit was met through improved hydrology by removing a parking lot whose 1 ½ acres of pavement covered sequoia roots, relocating an access road outside of sensitive areas, replacing the former roadbed with an elevated boardwalk that protects the natural environment by designing a pin pile foundation system with adaptable spans to be installed on a case-by-case basis after exposing the tree roots so that the pile installation would not harm the roots. The project also included new visitor centers parking areas, shuttlebus systems to maintain the service for over 1 million visitors a year.

2017

APWA WA Project of the Year, Environment, Less Than $5 Million

City of Gig Harbor Cushman Trail

This project completed a key 1-mile long segment of the regional Cushman Trail that serves thousand of user and allowed them to bypass and unsafe narrow roadway with limited shoulders. The project required a sensitive approach to minimize impacts to the adjacent Class 1 wetland and stream. Two solutions were applied: retained fill with a porous pavement for locations adjacent to the wetlands and a timber boardwalk overlayed with porous pavement within the wetland using top down construction with pin-pile piers to support the structure.

2013

APWA National Project of the Year, Transportation, Less Than $5 Million

City of Bellevue SE 34th Street to Bellevue Way

The project required reconstruction of a 50-year-old neighborhood street to allow multimodal connection to regional systems. The community required preservation of mature trees and eagle habitat. The project required use of sustainable technologies and application of Filterra Bioretention System, LED luminaires and Green Street Principles as well as shifting alignments to avoid impacting key neighborhood attributes.



2013

ENR's Northwest Best Highway Project

City of Tacoma Murray Morgan Bridge Rehabilitation

This 100-year-old 1760 long structure was closed due to significant deficiencies and structural integrity and saving the bridge was controversial and required engagement with the council and mayor who needed more clarifying information to gain concurrence. DEA analyzed the structure modeling the critical components to pinpoint the areas of concern and the opportunities to repair and retrofit the bridge. The solution resulted in reducing the roadway section from 4 lanes to 2 lanes and bringing the external walkways internal. DEA developed the Design-Build Procurement documents and then administered the construction of the project which was successfully completed on time and within the $47 million price.

2011

Municipal Excellence Award
Association of Washington Cities

City of Gig Harbor SR 16/ Burnham Drive NW Interchange and Roadway Improvements



The team developed an alternative solution to a costly complete SR 16 interchange rebuild by utilizing roundabouts at the interchange ramps and strategically relocating the ramps to minimize impacts to streams and wetlands. This tactic allowed construction of a significant regional hospital and other planned developments in the North Gig Harbor area -meeting the commitments between the hospital and the City.

2005

ACEC National Recognition

Sound Transit Commuter Rail Track Improvements Reservation Junction Sound Transit



This was the key project to get commuter rail service up and running to officially establish revenue for the new Sound Transit program. The project required replacement of 1,600 feet of tmber trestle over compressible soils with a retained fill and a second track. The team designed PVC wick drains to be placed in the soft subsurface soils to expedite consolidation and accelerated MSE wall construction to meet the opening of service date all while protecting existing utilities and maintaining vehicular traffic and access to adjacent businesses.



Letters
of Reference for Mike Clark

January 10, 2025

American Public Works Association

2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 700

Kansas City, MO 64108

Subject: Mike Clark's Top Ten Nomination

Dear Award Committee Members:

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Mike Clark, for the APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader Award. Mike has an outstanding professional career in the public works arena. His leadership on transportation projects has served our state's communities well, but it is his leadership and advocacy work in the legislative arena that also makes him worthy of this award. Mike's nearly 40-year career in public works is marked with leadership of many high-profile and pivotal initiatives during his time at David Evans and Associates and his time in APWA. Throughout his career, Mike has embodied commitment and passion for public works and service to the communities he serves. I've known Mike for over 20 years and have been inspired by his dedication to our profession, our industry and the APWA community. Mike led the Washington State Chapter in developing our advocacy effort in pushing for laws that benefit our public works community's ability to meet the needs of our communities.

Mike is also a regional leader in the American Council of Engineering Companies, and he has bridged a partnership between APWA and ACEC. We have many common interests in legislation and with Mike's leadership, we have been able to present a stronger voice when we unite our points of view. Mike has used his influence to benefit small consulting businesses, improve the diversity in our profession, and to develop younger leaders to prepare us for the future.

Mike has served APWA at the Washington State Chapter and at a national level. Mike served on the chapter board, as a chapter officer including chapter president in 2015, and for 6 years as our chapter delegate to the APWA Council of Chapters.

In conclusion, Mike Clark has had a distinguished career in public works, worthy of recognition. His contributions have made APWA more successful.

I am pleased to recommend Mike for this award.

Sincerely,

Toby Rickman, PE, PTOE, PWLF

Deputy Director (Retired), Pierce County Planning and Public Works

Northwest Public Works Institute Administrator

2022 APWA Top Ten Award Recipient

HWA GeoSciences Inc.
DBE/MWBE

January 7, 2025

American Public Works Association
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 700
Kansas City, MO 64108-2625

Attention: APWA Awards Committee

Subject: **Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year**
Letter of recommendation for Mike Clark, P.E.

Dear Awards Committee,

I have had the true honor to work with, learn from, and consider Mike Clark a close friend for the last 13 years. Throughout the time I have known Mike, I have found myself inspired by his impact on Public Works in our region, the APWA Washington Chapter, and the careers of countless people in our industry. Mike's soft-spoken charisma and genuine empathy for all is infectious and leaves a lasting mark on all around him.

Mike's career in Public Works started in 1984 and is known for being synonymous with excellence. Over the last 40 years, Mike has tirelessly helped shape the transportation infrastructure across the Puget Sound region. His ability to bring owners, consultants, and contractors together to find common ground in difficult situations, is unmatched. An example of Mike's ability to bring all parties together is his role in finding a solution for light rail track connections to the I-90 floating bridge structure. This feat of groundbreaking engineering was unprecedented and friction had developed between the owner and the contractor. Mike's calm and practical approach was able to guide all parties to an innovative solution that many thought impossible.

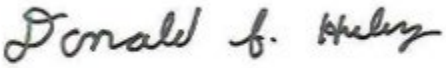
Mike's ability to bring people together towards a common goal also extends to his leadership within the APWA Washington Chapter and beyond. Mike has been an active member of APWA since 1990 and has served in many capacities over the years. Since 2008, Mike has been an important voice on the Washington Chapter Board of Directors, serving as Chapter President in 2015. During his time on the Board, Mike was pivotal in increasing the Washington State Chapter's advocacy efforts, pushing for the Chapter to employ a lobbyist working to advance Public Works issues in the Washington State Legislature. This effort has helped local agencies in Washington State, for the past 10 years, have a valuable seat at the table during development of Public Works legislation. From 2018 to 2024 Mike represented the Washington State Chapter as a delegate to the Council of Chapters. During this time, he advanced initiatives on both the local and national level. Over this time, Mike was a consistent champion of the Washington State Chapter increasing their scholarship efforts. Over his tenure as Chapter Delegate, Mike's perseverance was pivotal in increasing the Washington State Chapters' scholarship offerings

from $10,000 per year to $27,000 per year. A change that will affect generations of Public Works heroes for generations.

Mike's contributions to the Public Works profession and APWA are unmatched. However, these contribution pale in comparison to the positive impact Mike has had on the people lucky enough to know him and work with him. Mike's true legacy is the knowledge, training, and mentorship that he has gifted to his peers and the next generation of Public Works professionals. I would not be the engineer and leader I am today if it were not for guidance that Mike was gracious enough to give to me over the time that I have known him. I will always be thankful for the impact that Mike has had on my life, and I know that thousands of others in our industry feel the same.

Mike is an inspiring engineer, mentor, and leader that is very much deserving of recognition by APWA as one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the year. It is my honor to know Mike and provide this letter of support for your consideration. If I can provide any additional assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me (dhuling@hwageo.com , or (206)-794-1515).

Sincerely,



Donald J. Huling, P.E.
Principal Geotechnical Engineer
HWA Geosciences INC.
2020-2022 APWA Washington State Chapter President
Current APWA Washington State Delegate

ACEC
American Council of Engineering Companies
of Washington

American Public Works Association
1275 K Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005

January 14, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is my privilege to provide and absolute unqualified letter of recommendation for Mike Clark and to be able to write about his leadership and dedication to both the consulting engineering community of Washington State and, more specifically, as a leader and active member within the American Council of Engineering Companies of Washington (ACEC).

Mike has been an active ACEC member for over 25 years and during that time, he has served in numerous capacities as a volunteer member. Here are a number of examples:

External Advocacy

- Mike has been an external advocate as a member of our joint liaison committees with both WSDOT and King County. His role in these communities was to work collaboratively on matters of mutual concern. This included improving contracting terms and procurement processes as well as helping to promulgate these agency's policies and delivery expectations to the broader consulting engineering community through meetings, forums, and education.

  These activities also placed Mike in the role of advocacy in support of these partners. For example, Mike spent much of his time was on lobbying for WSDOT and Sound Transit Funding to obtain passage of the Connecting Washington transportation funding package and, similarly, in passage of the Sound Transit 2 (ST2) funding package in 2016.

  This were large lifts and required Mike's active and regular involvement in the "Reinventing WSDOT Roadshow" where he worked with Industry representatives to help create a positive public message for WSDOT and required meeting one on one with elected officials and travel to their legislative districts, counties, cities or towns to make presentations and advocate for support to both the elected officials but also to their constituents in attendance.

  Mike was also an integral player in obtaining a $100K check from ACEC to help found the Connecting Washington Campaign in 2015.

  Following the WSDOT campaign, Mike was similarly involved with the campaign to support ST2 which also included many meetings and outreach events including active campaign events to work with Voters to better understand the value of the ST2 program.

Again, this also resulted in an ACEC donation of $100k to support the funding of the campaign.

Member and Firm Capacity Development

Mike has been a vocal advocate for the development of small, minority and diverse firms. This advocacy was demonstrated by Mike's participation as an initial member of the ACEC/WSDOT/Sound Transit Mentor Protégé program. In this role, he helped to co-create a program where experienced consultants could actively engage with and meet various small and minority partners.

Mike's leadership demonstrated his commitment, in more than word but by deed, to share business practice information and to develop relationships. This involved a one to two-year commitment to work with each identified partner on a monthly basis to answer questions and provide guidance, support and the tools to help make the assigned proteges better consultants and to become more profitable.

Lastly, Mike was very focused on growing the next group of leaders by working with many of the young leaders at his firm, David Evans and Associates, to become active members in ACEC and encourage them to become enrolled in our Core Competencies for Professionals Program which focuses on the business aspects of the practice of consulting engineering.

ACEC Internal Advocacy and Participation

Mike has

- Mike has been an internal advocate as a member of the national level ACEC Risk Management Committee, where Mike collaborated with cohorts from across the United States to share local trends and to advocate for fair and reasonable terms and sought to integrate new business trends with an understanding of the legal and insurance ramifications involved.

- Mike has been a committed and dedicated participant as a frequent attendee at various business practices seminars and workshops as well as uncounted numbers of our larger ACEC Fall, Winter and Spring Conferences.

- I am also an active APWA leader and always kept a keen eye on developing or integrating parallel initiatives to better leverage common themes into each organization on a local and national scale. Advocacy was my primary focus as well as diversity and inclusion, and outreach to broaden our membership and grow our next group of leaders.

ACEC Leadership

Page 3 of 3

Because of his dedication, involvement, personality and intellect, the ACEC membership furthermore, and unsurprisingly, also called upon Mike for his leadership skills.

- In 2012, Mike was nominated by his peers to serve as a Director on the ACEC Board of Directors.

- From there, Mike moved upon withing ACEC's leadership, taking on the role of Vice Chair in 2014 and then culminating in his service as Board Chair in 2016.

In addition to providing oversight of ACEC's fiscal matters and annual calendar of events, etc., Mike focused on executing ACEC's development and programming as planned by the ACEC Board of Directors while representing the full scope and diversity of the ACEC membership whether it be large firms, small firms, minority-owned firms, or woman-owned firms. Mike did not serve as a representative of David Evans and Associates with a pecuniary self-interest, but rather he served as an ACEC representative and adamantly understood the difference.

Mike further more exemplified his commitment to the diversity of ACEC in terms of firm size, race, gender, and race by acting for the past 12-years as a member of the ACEC Nominating Committee which has the responsibility of identifying and recruiting people with to serve as ACEC leaders. His leadership is this area is demonstrated by the diversity of our current Board of Directors and Officers where we have four female directors being female and one of color. Moreover, the immediate past Board Chair is female as will be our next Board Chair.

In closing, Mike Clark is a hard-working, smart, ethical, and dedicated leader. Those who personally know him also know his humanity, kindness and unwavering character. Because of these qualities, because of his dedication to the mission of ACEC, and because of his numerous achievements, I am delighted to provide this letter of recommendation and to advocate for this recognition with all the passion and staunch resolution that I can possibly articulate.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Van A. Collins
President/CEO

DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

January 29, 2025

Awards Committee
Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year Award American Public Works Association
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 700
Kansas City, MO 64108-2625

Dear Awards Committee Members,

I am writing to recommend Mike Clark for the **APWA recognition of Top Public Works Leader of the Year**. For over 28 years, Mike has been part of David Evans and Associates, Inc. (DEA). He has played an integral role in growing and mentoring the Transportation team across the Puget Sound Region as a Project Manager, Office Leader, and as the Regional Transportation Group Leader. Mike has collaborated on and led projects that improve the quality of life in our communities, earning his position as the Consultant of Choice for many agencies throughout Western Washington.

APWA/ACEC

Mike has been an active member and leader in APWA since 1996, serving as President in 2015, and helping it become an association of choice for many of our clients and industry cohorts. His focus has been on spotlighting public works and increasing diversity and sustainability in public works. As a leader in ACEC, Mike advocated for the Consultant industry and WSDOT and Sound Transit during the post-financial crises to gain more funding for WSDOT and Local agencies through the Connecting Washington program as well as Sound Transits funding with the ST2 package. He continuously looked for opportunities to develop or integrate parallel initiatives to better leverage common themes into the APWA organization on a local and national scale.

Since 2002, Mike has been dedicated to fostering advocacy, diversity, inclusion, and expanding ACEC membership to develop future leaders. As a member of the ACEC/WSDOT/Sound Transit Mentor Protégé program, Mike helped co-create a program where Consultants could actively engage in and meet with various Minority partners to share business practices and develop relationships. He focused on making sure ACEC initiatives would support all members, increasing representation and opportunities for all. He successfully helped to diversify the ACEC Leadership.

DEA Leadership

After joining DEA in 1996, Mike was instrumental in growing the Transportation group from 10 to over 50 employees in just 7 years, enabling the team to capture some of the most significant work in the region. They earned multiple large projects with WSDOT, became Sound Transit's go-to firm for the Commuter Rail and Regional Express

As the Office Leader in Tacoma, Mike grew the office from 16 to 48 employees in 5 years. He led the effort to build DEA's external brand and developed a culture of collaboration, enabling the expansion of the Transportation, Heavy Rail, Survey, and Land Development teams.

From 2003-2018, Mike was an active participant in DEA's annual leadership summits, playing an active role in shaping DEA's focus and initiatives. Mike was a part of the team in 2009 that provided input to our Executive Leadership Team that would position DEA with stronger leadership and performance as we emerged from the great recession. This work helped create the foundation of the current DEA culture. During this time, Mike's team adapted to the circumstances and found meaningful roles for team members and stayed connected with DEA's clients to continue to be the Consultant of Choice. He also took on simultaneous executive leadership roles with APWA and ACEC to gain additional exposure and strengthen relationships with Clients and Consultant partners. Through these efforts, DEA maintained client and consultant relationships and was positioned to win the work once the projects got funding. Based on this foundation, the team continues to cultivate an exciting and promising future.

As Office Leader and Transportation Group Leader, Mike mentored and supported many teammates to take active roles in the organization of their choice (APWA, ACEC, WTS, ASCE, TRB, ITE, WASHTO, Western Bridge). Through his encouragement, Mike gave team members opportunities to innovate, collaborate, lead, and build their individual brand in Public Works. Mike consistently found ways for employees to present technical sessions, share their knowledge, and grow their reputation in our industry. Many of those he mentored, coached, and supervised have become key leaders for DEA in the Puget Sound area.

Project Work History

During his tenure as a Project Manager, Mike has led the design of multiple agency transportation projects and programs throughout the Puget Sound area that include: many urban and rural roadway projects; Unique projects such as the City of Tacoma's Murray Morgan Bridge rehabilitation and the Ground Transportation improvements at SeaTac Airport; Large transportation programs for WSDOT such as Multidisciplinary Services to support the completion of the $400 million rebuild of the SR 520 Montlake Interchange, $700 Million Widen of I-405 Between Renton and Bellevue, WSDOT Olympic Region Fish Passage program to reconstruct over one hundred stream culverts across State Highway that block Fish Habitats; and Sound Transits East Link Extension Light Rail project.

The Eastlink project demonstrates Mike's ability to foster teamwork and commitment to DEA's and our clients' success. Mike facilitated DEA's role in leading the track design with track attachment to structures and they developed a complex and unique design to attach the track to the floating bridge. To gain acceptance from skeptics, Mike's team completed full scale testing and modeling to prove it would function and perform as intended and established construction specifications to and procedures to ensure it would perform as intended. Despite the challenges, his team stood by this solution and has successfully adapted and overcame several circumstances to see the project through to completion.

Mike continuously led these projects while remaining dedicated to his role in office leadership and leading multiple Client Teams that focus on building the DEA brand with respective clients through the DEA Difference: Clarity of expectations, Accountability, Effective Communication, Collaborations and Teamwork, Initiative and Creativity, and Trust.

In addition, I have known Mike and worked closely with him for more than 22 years. He is a person of strong integrity and character who brings both strength and humility to his work and professional relationships. He is an excellent candidate for national recognition from APWA, and I recommend him highly. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,



Cindi Polychronis, JD

Chief Administrative Officer and Senior Vice President

January 28, 2025

Awards Committee
Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year Award American Public Works Association
2345 Grand Boulevard, Suite 700
Kansas City, MO 64108-2625

Dear Awards Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Mike Clark's nomination for APWA's Public Works Leader of the year. I have worked with Mike in a variety of capacities over the past 28 years. He is a true leader for our industry in the Puget Sound Area. Mike's leadership spans across several key areas critical to the success of public works in the Puget Sound area. In addition to providing leadership on major projects in the region, he has been active in leadership in two of the most influential public works organizations – APWA and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Washington State.

I first met Mike when I was working at King County. As the County Road Engineer I oversaw the County's Road capital improvement program. At the time, Mike was leading a team that delivered improvements to one of the County's main arterial roads. The project provided much needed capacity and safety improvements. Mike worked closely with County staff in the Engineering Services Section as well as our Traffic Engineering group. His focus on successful delivery of the project created a true team environment.

At that time, I was also active in APWA Washington, serving on the Board of Directors. Mike served as a member of the Transportation Committee. The Washington APWA Chapter is a very active organization, holding two statewide conferences each year as well as numerous other advocacy efforts. Mike was an active member of the committee, seeking ways to improve information sharing and advocate for the transportation industry.

I subsequently held roles as the Deputy Northwest Regional Administrator for the Washington State Department of Transportation, Program Administrator for the Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement, and then Washington Area Manager for Parsons-Brinkerhoff (now WSP USA). One of the most challenging projects I have encountered in my career was one where PB was teamed with DEA to complete final design of Sound Transit's Link Light Rail extension on I-90 from Seattle to Bellevue. The segment includes installing light rail on a floating bridge, something that does not exist anywhere in the world. Mike's team at DEA was responsible for track design on the bridge. There were many challenges to overcome, and Mikes persistence and leadership were critical to achieving a design that met the need of Sound Transit and WSDOT, the owner of the bridge.

Mike has engaged in numerous committees with APWA and ACEC. He has work tirelessly to improve understanding between the engineering and the contracting community, particularly in the arena of alternative delivery. He was instrumental in getting ACEC a seat at the table with

WSDOT and AGC Washington as the agency was making greater use of alternative delivery and developing contract language.

I have seen Mike's leadership in the region grow as he took on increasingly responsible roles within APWA and the ACEC. In his roles with APWA and ACEC, Mike has been committed to the success of the region and insuring everyone shares in that success. He has been an advocate for underserved communities, small and diverse firms and improving the quality of life for everyone. He has been instrumental in getting our elected officials to recognize the need for additional funding for transportation and other public works projects. These efforts resulted in approval of some of the largest transportation funding packages in the country.

Whether working on a project, as a board member or other leadership roles within APWA and ACEC Washington, Mike has always strived to do what in the best interests of the public. I strongly believe he has established himself a leader deserving of this award.

Sincerely,



Ronald J Paananen, P.E.
Vice President / Senior Program Manager

HDR Engineering Inc
999 Third Avenue, Suite 2300
Seattle WA, 98104
206-402-7283
Ron.paananen@hdrinc.com

January 29, 2025

American Public Works Association
1275 K Street, NW, Suite 750
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Mike Clark, PE

APWA AWARDS COMMITTEE:

I am honored to submit this letter of recommendation for Mike Clark for the Top Ten Public Works Leader Award. Mike epitomizes what it means to be a leader in the public works industry. Mike's 35 years of dedicated service to the people of Washington state demonstrates his passion for public works and his commitment to the continuous improvement of infrastructure systems throughout the state.

I first worked with Mike in 2012 on the APWA Washington Chapter Board of Directors. As a young board member, Mike made me feel welcome and valued, and that my perspective mattered. His example as an Executive Board member helped me determine what I wanted out of my APWA participation. From 2018 to 2024, Mike and I had the opportunity to serve on the Washington Chapter Board again. Mike demonstrated his leadership by expressing an alternate way of viewing a situation calmly and respectfully. He often helped the Board see an issue from all sides which led to meaningful discussion and thoughtful decisions. His mentorship has guided me in being an effective leader for our Chapter.

Since 1996, Mike has been an active member of the Washington Chapter, making many contributions to the Chapter's growth. Mike led the Conference Programs Committee for 10 years where he established a proactive process to aid committees in developing technical sessions based on conference themes and current public works trends. This change engaged the committees in providing training for the membership and increased sessions submissions to the point that it has become highly competitive to speak at a Chapter conference today. When Mike took over the Conference Programs committee in 1999, the Washington Chapter had around 400 members. By offering timely and engaging educational sessions, the Washington Chapter grew to nearly 1500 members by 2012 when Mike was Chapter President.

As a member of the Board, Mike championed the idea of the chapter engaging a lobbyist to help the public works industry better connect with elected officials. True to Mike's nature – he pushed back against opposition to this progressive idea and ultimately persevered and now advocacy and government affairs is major part of the Chapter's program. The Washington Chapter was the first in APWA to hire a lobbyist, but advocacy has since become a key initiative for APWA. In his role in the Council of Chapter as the Washington Chapter Delegate, Mike continued to help shape and implement the National advocacy program which has become a respected voice with Congress in Washington DC.

Another initiative Mike advocated for during his presidential year included hosting PWX in Seattle in 2019. Again, this was not a popular idea with the Board, but Mike had the vision to see that as one of the largest chapters in the organization, we had an opportunity and an obligation to host PWX. The Seattle PWX ultimately became one of the best attended PWX events to date.

These stories fall far short of highlighting Mike's impressive engineering and leadership accomplishments outside of APWA, but I hope to convey the mentorship and caring he has bestowed on me and so many other APWA members throughout his career. I know I can always pick up the phone and he will be there for me. To me, there is no better definition of a public works leader than that.

Please accept my glowing recommendation for Mr. Mike Clark, PE for the 2025 Top Ten Public Works Leader Award.

Sincerely,



LAUREN J. BEHM MPA
Sr. Marketing Manager, Landau Associates, Inc.
2025 APWA Washington Chapter Alternate Delegate