Understanding the Dynamics of Risk on a Tunnel Project

A case history of how risk profiles can severely shift between phases of a tunnel project when multiple contract interfaces are involved. On May 24th, 2013 the Waller Creek Tunnel in Austin, TX (pictured here) experienced a devastating flood during a 10-year rain event. How did the tunnel become exposed to flooding when all access points were well above the 100-year flood level? This presentation will look at how flooding became a risk to the tunnel, what could have been done to avoid the impact of the flood, the lessons learned from this event and the application of those lessons on future tunnel projects.

Jacob (Jake) Coibion is currently a Project Manager with the Guy F. Atkinson Construction Company serving as the Tunnel Manager on the Sound Transit E330 Downtown Bellevue Light Rail Tunnel Project in Bellevue, WA. Jake grew up in St. Louis, MO and is a 2003 graduate from the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly the University of MO-Rolla) with a degree in Mining Engineering. After a one-year stint at an open-pit mine in Little Rock, AR, Jake had the opportunity to fulfill his desire to be working in the tunnel industry and joined W.L. Hailey & Co in Austin, TX to work as a project engineer on the Shoal Creek Wastewater Improvements tunnel project. Since 2008, Jake has been working as the contractor’s project manager for tunnel projects in Georgia, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. He has experience in hard rock TBM, drill-blast, and NATM tunneling techniques building projects in the water/wastewater, energy and mass-transportation industries.

Wednesday, January 11
12:00 p.m.*
Berthoud Hall 243

*LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED