



Texas Section American Society of Civil Engineers

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PRESS RELEASE & MEDIA INVITATION

RENEWING TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE CIVIL ENGINEERS GIVE TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE A “C-” IN THE 2004 TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

EMBARGOED FOR**RELEASE:**

6:00 AM CST

Friday, October 1, 2004

PRESENTATION:

The Woodlands Waterway Marriott

Hotel & Convention Center

The Woodlands, Texas

7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m., Friday, October 1, 2004

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Houston, Texas – The Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will release its *2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card* in which the state’s infrastructure received a cumulative grade of “C-” for 13 infrastructure areas. The report card will be unveiled at the ASCE Texas Section Fall Meeting at the Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center in The Woodlands, Texas on Friday morning, October 1, 2004. The presentation will be made at 7:30 - 8:45 a.m. with elected state officials including State Representative Bill Callegari and State Representative Wayne Smith. We invite the media to attend this presentation.

The condition of Texas’s *roads, bridges, transit, aviation, schools, drinking water systems, wastewater, dams, solid waste, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, flood control, and energy* were examined in terms of conditions and performance, capacity versus need, and funding versus need. The dismal cumulative grade of a “C-” for Texas indicates a below average condition in many infrastructure categories including roads and highways, bridges, drinking water systems, dams, flood control, navigable waterways, and schools in Texas. Although the state has made significant investments and improvements in areas such as transit, aviation, solid waste, hazardous waste, and energy, many other areas continue to need substantial investments for repairs, rehabilitation, and expansion in order to provide quality service to the growing state population. The largest statewide needs are in schools, drinking water, dams, navigable waterways, and flood control infrastructure, which received a poor “D or below” grade.

The *2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card* follows the *2001 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure* and the *2003 Progress Report for America’s Infrastructure* in which ASCE determined that our nation’s infrastructure received a cumulative grade of “D+” for 12 infrastructure areas. ASCE assessment shows that America’s infrastructure is on a continued decline with deteriorating conditions of our nation’s roads, bridges, drinking water systems, schools, and other public works. Texas is no exception, suffering from aging infrastructure and the need for federal, state, and local funds to bring the state’s infrastructure conditions to adequate levels.

Founded in 1852, ASCE represents more than 130,000 civil engineers worldwide and over 8,000 civil engineers in Texas. ASCE is America’s oldest national engineering society. www.asce.org