**In this issue:** Volume 10, Issue 8

**Special Points of Interest**

- Sign up for the 2013 Twin Rivers Charity Golf Tournament
  Onion Creek County Club in South Austin (September 5)
- Register for the Eminent Domain Seminar (September 6)
- Course 200—Principles of RE Negotiation (September 19-20)
- Membership Drive Challenge
- Paragon Partners 20th Anniversary & Rebranding
- Career Hotline *new postings*

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**About our Chapter**

Bluebonnet Chapter No. 74, is the Austin, TX, chapter of the International Right of Way Association. Our Chapter was founded in 1985 by professionals in the right of way field to unite members for education, to improve service to employers and the public, and to advance our members within the profession. We are part of Region 2 of the International Association. Our current membership includes professionals involved in a wide array of projects requiring real estate and right of way services.

**Board of Directors Meetings** are held the first Tuesday of each month at the City of Austin. All are welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact a Chapter 74 Officer.

**Next Monthly Luncheon** will be held October 8, 2013
*details to come*
The year is more than half-way gone, summer vacation is over and school is about to start. It has been a busy, busy, busy with the IRWA. West Virginia hosted this year's annual education conference. For a small chapter, they did an exceptional job with the event. Charleston is a beautiful city and I was happy to have been able to participate next year. We didn’t win the Website of the year, but we came close! Next year!

At this year’s Region 2 Education Refresher Seminar at Texas A&M, our very own Teri Morgan was named 2013 Region Professional of the Year! Congratulations and very well deserved! Here’s something to think about as well, three of the last five Professionals of the Year for the Region have come from Chapter 74! I keep saying it and this proves it, we have the greatest people in this organization! At the Chapter level, we will be sending out a request for nominations for Professional of the Year and Employer of the Year, which will announced at the Christmas party in December. More details about the nominations process and who to contact will be coming up shortly, but I would encourage you all to think about who you would like to nominate and then take action and send it in. So many times I hear from people that this or that person is deserving or this or that company really supports their people and the IRWA and should be named employer of the year, but then nobody actually sent in any nominations. Our nominations committee will receive nominations, but they don’t actually make the nominations, you, all of you do that. So please, nominate that co-worker or friend or boss or company!

Also at A&M this year Mark Mendez and Harsh Doshy, the Young Professional Co-Chairs put together the first annual YP Happy Hour and Mixer. The event raised $700.00 for the Oklahoma Red Cross to assist with the tornado recovery in the aftermath of the tornados in Moore, OK this past spring. Oklahoma is one of the Region 2 member states and Mark and Harsh wanted to be able to do something to help them out! The event was well attended and keep an eye out for pictures from the event. Well done!

Still to come is our annual Eminent Domain update seminar on September 6. Held in San Marcos in conjunction with Chapter 39 in San Antonio, this year promises to be especially great. The ED seminar team has worked really hard and put together a great program! Continuing education credits are underway from IRWA, TALCB, TREC and the State Bar of Texas. And don’t forget the golf tournament on the 5th, which benefits the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Last year the tournament raised over $8,000 for Make-a-Wish and they hope to be able to raise even more this year! The switch to Onion Creek was great and as always, the team has worked really hard to bring it together for fun and fellowship, while supporting a worthwhile organization.

And of course, keep an eye on your e-mail boxes, the Save the date has gone out for the Christmas Party. Don Toner is setting up the event to be held at Austin Marriott North (2600 La Frontera Blvd) on Saturday December 14, 2013. He has also reserved a block of rooms for our group so if you can stay over and make a weekend of it you can! Details will follow, but save the date, it promises to be a great event. There are also rumors of a wine toss...

What Good Things are Going to Happen Today!!

Denise L. Skinner, SR/WA
Chapter 74 - President
**Committee Updates**

**Monthly Luncheons** are typically held on the second Tuesday of each month. Please check the website each month as locations may change.

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**Asset Management**  
Dean Harris, SR/WA  
City of Austin, (512) 974-7061

**Communication**  
Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC  
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 531-5915

**Education**  
Sam Nassour, SR/WA  
Contract Land Staff, LLC, (512) 346-6518

Luanne Dunn  
City of Austin, (512) 974-7787

Lisa A. Hughes, SR/WA, R/W-RAC  
Contract Land Staff, LLC, (512) 346-6518

**Local Public Agency**  
John Reed, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-URAC  
Compliant Relocation Services, LLC, (512) 468-5097

**Membership**  
Wade McNeill  
Integra Realty Resources-Austin, (512) 459-3440

**Nominations**  
Ron Olderog, MAI, SR/WA  
City of Austin, (512) 974-7193

Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA  
Cintra U.S., (512) 637-8545

Teri Morgan, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC  
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 431-2742

**Professional Development**  
Cheryl Speaker, SR/WA, R/W-AC  
(512) 415-5778

**Programs**  
Susan Dwyer  
(512) 658-8508

Alex Gale, R/W-RAC  
HDR Engineering, Inc., (512) 239-9750

**Relocation**  
David Harrah, R/W-RAC  
TxDOT-Right of Way Division, (512) 416-2962

**September Seminar**  
Elizabeth Norris  
Atkins, (512) 342-3443

**Transportation**  
Dennis Sedlachek, SR/WA  
Cintra U.S., (512) 637-8545

**Utilities**  
Kerry Fulton, SR/WA  
TxDOT-Strategic Project Division, (512) 531-5905

Freddy Lopez, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC  
LV Right of Way and Real Estate Service, Inc., (512) 913-6387

**Valuation**  
Lory Johnson, MAI, SR/WA  
Atrium Real Estate Services, (512) 453-7407

**Young Professionals**  
Mark Mendez  
Aria Consulting Management Group, Inc., (512) 351-2774
July Monthly Luncheon Photos

Thank You Sue Ayers!
Great Presentation!

Unique Challenges Facing Condemnors’ Counsel Today:
Tall Tales From An Easement Out West

JW
Presented by
Susan Dill
July 9, 2023
The 2013 Annual International Education Conference attracted more than 1,000 right of way professionals to Charleston, WV. Now you can view, download and share the conference photos. See what you might have missed!

IRWA Leadership for 2013-2014 fiscal year takes effect July 1st. View the Leadership Roster of your International Executive Committee, Region Chairs and Committee Chairs.

The Frank C. Balfour Professional of the Year Award is the highest honor bestowed upon an IRWA member. Finalists were William Busch, SR/WA, Vivian Howell, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC and C. Wayne Larsen, SR/WA, R/W-URAC, R/W-AC. Click here for the Professional of the Year recipient.

At the Annual Awards Ceremony each year, IRWA recognizes the extraordinary dedication and commitment demonstrated by individuals, chapters and employers. We salute this year’s award winners.
Now that all the dust has settled from the numerous events at the IRWA Region II Refresher Seminar, I want to share with you what I brought away from the event. The attendance was incredible this year with over 250 registered. I am pretty sure there were close to 300 in attendance with over 100 attendees being employed by TxDOT. This is sure evidence that our government dollars are being used to educate their employees. My hat is off to TxDOT for their dedication to education. The Ceremonies started with motivational speaker Frank Caddy. He didn't disappoint, as he certainly instilled some motivation in me. Owning a consultant business can be tough. More than once, I have thought I need to throw in the towel or I am tired of the race. After Frank’s speech, I found new motivation and came to the understanding that to be successful, you have to be willing to keep running the race no matter how many times it changes. So, I have picked up my baton! I am off again. The rest of the days were filled with educational seminars. I didn’t get to attend them all, but I did drop in on a few. Highways presented by John Campbell and the Local Public Agency workshop presented by John Reed were both very interesting and informative workshops. I must say, I tend to drop in on those presented by our very own Chapter 74 because I know what a wealth of information they have to share with us. I guess I am a little biased.

Our Awards luncheon was another great event. Our President Elect, Don Toner, congratulated those who recently received new certification and then he asked for everyone that was part of Chapter 74 to stand up. WOW! We literally filled half the room and that was an exciting visual. Even more exciting than that was the announcement of PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR, our very own previous chapter president Teri J. Morgan. I could tell you many stories about this wonderful lady. She has been my inspiration and mentor for a number of years. One of the hardest things I ever did was to tell this wonderful woman I was leaving her employment. Of course, with all the grace and professionalism she possessed she smiled and wished me luck and even told me not to hesitate to call her if I needed any assistance and to remember to take baby steps. She said “don’t try to do too much too fast so that you don’t lose the quality of your work”. As I walked away and started putting my own company together, many times I have called her to ask her advice or just cry on her shoulder and always she has made time to either be that shoulder or give me her best advice. I can’t tell you what a gift her friendship is to me. Teri Morgan, YOU are the best of them all and I wish you many more years of success.

Finally, the Young Professional Event: That was the most fun I have had in years. There was a pool tournament, dart tournament, and shuffle board tournament. What a blast it was. I would estimate there were at least 100 people there. Our YP chairs, Mark Mendez and Harsh Dorshy did a wonderful job putting this event together. I won’t steal their thunder by telling you all about the event because I am sure those young guys have that covered, but if you missed the event, you missed a great opportunity to see how the next generation networks. I have enjoyed mentoring them through this event. Don’t miss the next one. I am sure they have much more in store for us.

All in all, I want to say, this was the best IRWA SEMINAR I have been to in years!

Your Chapter Treasurer and aria Consulting Management Group, Inc., President Virginia J. Pompa, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
CONGRATS TO
THE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR!!!

TERI J. MORGAN, SR/WA, R/W-NAC, R/W-RAC
The 10th Annual Twin Rivers ED Golf Tournament is benefiting Make-A-Wish on September 5, 2013. Click here for details on how to sign up to participate or sponsor this event. Tournament fees are made payable to Chapter 74—ED Golf.

It's not too early to call for sponsorships. It's the same this year: hole sponsor $100, silver sponsor $250, gold sponsor $500 and platinum sponsor $1,000. Contact any golf committee member (David Harrah, Steve Bohuslav, Bill Maples, Denise Skinner, Cheryl Speaker, Randall Potts, Martha Dowlearn, Maggie Schedler or John Reed). Sponsorship checks made payable to Make-A-Wish.

Last year's donation sent Alan, a three-year old boy, from Pflugerville to Disneyworld in June!!

On Monday July 8th, a sendoff party was held for the recipient of last year's Twin River's Charity golf tournament benefiting Make-A-Wish Central & South Texas. The tournament committee was represented at the party and a good time was had by all. Alan (pictured above) is the child we were able to sponsor after last year's event. He is a remarkable three year old boy who has been diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia and has been undergoing treatment for the past 18 months. Alan's condition hits especially close to home as his condition is shared by a family member of one of chapter 74's members.

Alan's entire family, parents, grandparents and six year old brother have come together to support one another during this time. With the true resilience of a child his spirits were high in anticipation of his trip to Disney. The wish that has been granted is not just for Alan. It allows the entire family a chance to enjoy some much needed rest and relaxation.

Thank you to all who supported last year's event! The entire golf committee wants you to know that through the generous support of our sponsors, last year’s tournament set a new high and this year we are hoping to do even better. With an ambitious goal of helping to grant two wishes we need your support once again. In the coming days you'll be receiving emails and IRWA member fuse notifications with information about the upcoming tournament and how to register. Sponsors are still needed so if you or your company would like to support this tournament we'd love to hear from you, please contact John Reed or David Harrah for more details. Lastly, a special thanks to those who are serving on this year’s tournament committee or helping to support this tournament. The volunteer efforts of everyone are doing more good in our community than anyone could imagine.
Eminent Domain Seminar News

September 6, 2013
San Marcos Texas

2013 September Seminar & Golf Tournament

IRWA Seminar
"Hot Topics in Real Estate and Eminent Domain Seminar" for Attorneys, Legal Staff, RCO Agents, Appraisers, Engineers, Consultants, City and Land Planners, Real Property Analysts, Government Agents, Real Estate Agents.

Click here for Brochure to Register for Seminar being held on September 6th at San Marcos Activity Center.

Checked should be made payable: IRWA Chapter 39

Seminars Agenda
2013 EMINENT DOMAIN SEMINAR
CURRENT LEGAL ISSUES IN RIGHT OF WAY
IRWA CHAPTERS 39 & 74
September 6, 2013
San Marcos, Texas

7:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast
8:15 Welcome
   Randy Williams, SRWA, MAI, FRICS, Program Moderator

8:30 Session 1: Two Years Later - The Municipal Perspective
   Lee Fucked, J.D. - City of San Antonio
   Paul Burchet, J.D. - Burchet, Hixson PC

9:15 Legislative Update - Transportation
   John Campbell, P.E., SRWA - TxDOT Director, Right of Way Division

10:00 Morning Networking Break

10:30 The Relocation Assistance Program
   John Reed, IRWA, RCO/AC, RCO/AC - Compliant Relocation Services

11:00 Current Eminent Domain Issues - Texas and US Supreme Court
   Hyema W. Salsedo, J.D. - Caucas-Wyman Swedel LLP
   Tony Blunk, J.D. - Office of the Attorney General
   James Kirk, J.D. - Right of Way Attorney, TxDOT Right of Way Division
   Steve Adler, J.D. - Barron & Adler

12:00 Lunch

1:15 Appraising in a Post SI 18 World, When Is Direct Access Materially Impaired - A Panel Discussion
   Randy Wall, J.D. - Right of Way Attorney, TxDOT Right of Way Division
   Lynn Eckman, MAI - Principal, Eckman Grill, Inc.
   Randy Robinson III, MAI - Principal, Austin Valuation Consultants
   Chris Cleugh, J.D. - Barron & Adler

2:15 "Easements: Don't Forget to Say the Magic Words"
   Jim Olivares, J.D. - Ross Molina Olivares PC

5:00 Afternoon Networking Break

4:15 Louisiana Pipeline v. Donsdal Land - Pipeline Remains for Damages
   Urdin Stone, J.D. - The Snow Law Firm
   Jack Ross, J.D. - Ross Molina Olivares PC

4:30 Closing Remarks and C.E. Credit Signatures
Save the date for the upcoming
IRWA Chapter 74 Christmas Event

More details to follow.....

Marriott is offering a special room rate of $125.95
the night of the event so if you are interested,
please reserve your room today by clicking here
Chapter 74 will be offering 3 classes in 2013.

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<td>04/05 &amp; 04/05</td>
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<td>10/04</td>
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<td>Right of Way Agent's Development Program</td>
<td>10/31 &amp; 11/01</td>
<td>Sam Nassour</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Course 215 now has new dates

If you need additional information on courses, contact:

**Sam Nassour, SR/WA**
512) 346-6518

**Luanne Dunn**
512) 974-7787

**Lisa A. Hughes, SR/WA, R/W-RAC**
512) 346-6518
Chapter 74 would like to welcome our new members:

Julia Borrego, TxDOT  
Harsh Doshy, TxDOT  
Michael Galloway, TxDOT  
James Huang, TxDOT  
Manual Kilpatrick, TxDOT  
Christy Lambert, TxDOT  
Melinda Longoria, TxDOT  
Pam McDavid, TxDOT  
Mark McKinley, TxDOT  
Aide Morrow, TxDOT  
Elizabeth Osgood, TxDOT  
Jeffrey Porter, TxDOT  
Kent Skiles, TxDOT  
Tara Crowley, TxDOT  
Eric Hammack, City of Austin  
Diana Gonzalez, TxDOT  
Matt Jimenez, TxDOT  
James Kirk, TxDOT  
Rosa Leon, TxDOT  
Brad Matejowsky, TxDOT  
Deana McHorse, TxDOT  
Anthony Molina, TxDOT  
Laura Nelson, TxDOT  
Gregory Polasek, TxDOT  
Christina Roque, TxDOT  
Hettie Thompson, TxDOT

Contact Wade McNeil to become a Chapter 74 member or visit www.irwa74austin.org to submit your application electronically.
Agency membership brings new members to IRWA, spurs professional development among TxDOT employees

TxDOT’s Right of Way Division, under an agency-membership agreement with IRWA, recently brought in 70 new members. Nearly half of these new members are now affiliated with Chapter 74; the others have joined local chapters elsewhere in Texas.

Below we profile a few of the TxDOT people new to Chapter 74 and the IRWA.

**Harsh Doshy** is employed as an engineering assistant with the TxDOT Right of Way Division in Austin and is engaged in the Map, Survey & Utility Section. He works with district personnel to accommodate utilities within TxDOT right of way, to execute utility agreements, and to provide an understanding of utility rules and regulations. Harsh earned his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University in 2009. He then worked in utility construction in the private sector. In March of 2012 he joined TxDOT in the Bryan District as a construction inspector overseeing contractors. He co-chairs the Chapter 74 Young Professionals Group. He also is a member of Capital City A&M Club and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Harsh is a fan of Texas A&M football, professional basketball, boxing, and enjoys outdoor activities.

**James Kirk** works as an attorney with the TxDOT Right of Way Division headquarters in Austin assisting the division’s Acquisition team. He received his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Tulsa and his law degree from the University of Houston. Having been involved in right-of-way work for nearly a decade, James cites his work in the Transportation Division of the Texas Attorney General handling eminent-domain cases for TxDOT and other state agencies. When he’s not spending time with his wife and daughter, he likes to stay active and often competes in local Austin athletic events. He was born and raised in Tahlequah, OK. He sees professional networking, and involvement in the local chapter on legal issues, as among the main benefits offered by IRWA membership.
Agency membership brings new members to IRWA, spurs professional development among TxDOT employees

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Below we profile a few of the TxDOT people new to Chapter 74 and the IRWA.

Tara K. O’Neal is a contract specialist with the TxDOT Right of Way Division in Austin, and assists the division’s Resource Management team. She previously had worked in the division’s Administrative Section. Tara is a student at Texas State University where she is completing her bachelor’s degree in arts and sciences – all this while caring for her two-year-old “fireball” of a daughter. She also worked for the YMCA After-School and Summer Camp Program as a multi-site director. Born in Austin and raised in central Texas, she resides in north-Austin. She enjoys spending time with family, especially when she gets to sing with her father. She says she is aiming to achieve the SR/WA designation and one day becoming IRWA Region 2 president.

Matthew “Matt” Jimenez, born and raised in Austin, works as a right-of-way assistant in with the TxDOT Right of Way Division in Austin, having joined TxDOT as a contractor in 2012 and as a regular full-time employee in June 2013. He is a graduate of Crockett High School and has attended Huston-Tillotson College and Wayland Baptist University, where he studied history. He then worked in the private sector with Ikon Office Solution. He describes himself as a “huge fan” of the Texas Rangers and he loves spending time with his wife and three-year-old daughter. Regarding his IRWA membership, he also said he aims “to get as much knowledge as possible” about the right-of-way profession.
Is STILL in the LEAD!!

If you have a competitive nature, here’s the deal! Chapter 74 wants to challenge each organization to promote and encourage their employs to become members of our chapter.

The organization that has the most amount of people to join our chapter will receive a full year of advertising on our Chapter website for 2014.

The winners will be announced in mid-December. May the best organization win!!!!

Past Presidents >>>

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>John Reed, SR/WA</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>George Schlemeyer, SR/WA</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Cheryl Bennett</td>
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Professional Development News

Congratulations!

~ TO ~

John Barnes
for completing the
Right of Way Agent Certification (RWA)

&

Kimberly Eckmann
for completing the
Senior Right of Way Agent Certification (SR/WA)

If you have any Professional Development questions, please contact Cheryl Speaker.
On August 1st, the Young Professionals of Region 2 made history by uniting for the first time to host a charity event at Fox & Hound in College Station. The event was for the Oklahoma tornado victims and ended up being a HUGE success with a turnout of over 100 professionals from various Chapters in our Region. The night was filled with tournaments and our very own David Harrah fought his way to victory in the Pool Tournament. There were a lot of darts being thrown that night, and Bill Buckner of Chapter 8 pulled off a nail biter against Dennis Sedlachek in the Championship round of the Dart Tournament. Kristen Bennett and Dalton Vann of Chapter 36 were dominant and coasted to victory in the Shuffleboard Tournament. The Oklahoma Chapter came out to show their support and made some sizeable donations for the victims. We received a $100 donation from Gene Land and $120 from Tami & Steve Benson. All in all it was a fun and exciting night of networking and the YP’s of Region 2 will be donating Drum Roll PLEASE....$700 to the Oklahoma Tornado Relief Fund (via American Red Cross). Not too shabby, but most importantly the Young Professionals have officially arrived and groups are growing across the Region. What does this mean? A new era is upon us, and you can expect to see more Socials and new innovating ideas to network and help grow the IRWA. Our growth would not be possible if it wasn’t for the strong support and guidance we receive from our “seasoned” members who gives us the keys to open the door to SUCCESS!

If you would like more information about Chapter 74 Young Professionals, please contact [Mark Mendez](#) or [Harsh Doshy](#)
Young Professionals

We would like to thank our amazing sponsors who made this event possible, and for those of you who did not attend, don't worry we'll be back next year!

Platinum Sponsors
- Aria
- Paragon Partners
- Rutherford Real Estate
- Contract Land Staff (CLS)
- Percheron
- HDR Engineering, Inc.
- Paramount Valuation Services
- THC

Silver Sponsors
- Integra Realty
- Weisser Engineering
- IRWA Chapter 8
- IRWA Chapter 74
- NTB Associates, Inc.
Contact Land Staff, LLC has various job openings. [click here](#) to view job details.

HDR Engineering, Inc. has various job openings in the TX area
* Sr. Right of Way Agent (Dallas)  * Right of Way Agent (Dallas)
* Right of Way Agent (Austin)   * Assistant ROW Manager (Austin)

Paul Hornsby & Company has an immediate opening for a real property appraiser with a minimum of three (3) years of experience. Practice areas include eminent domain, ad valorem tax, and general commercial litigation valuation. Please email inquiries in confidence to Paul Hornsby & Company at phornsby@paulhornsbyandco.com

Allegiant Group, PLLC has an immediate opening for a real property appraiser with commercial, residential and eminent domain appraisal experience. Please email inquiries in confidence to Patricia Bell-Clark at patti@allegiantgrp.com

City of Austin is offering an Appraiser Senior position with the Office of Real Estate Services. Primary activities include: appraisal, land plan and environmental report ordering, tracking and review; coordinating with City Attorney’s office for related litigation; and consulting with City Property Agents, project managers and property owners regarding appraisal issues. Minimum qualifications include: State Certified General License, Bachelor’s degree in related field and 4 years of appraisal experience. Preferred qualifications include experience in: condemnation proceedings, expert witness testimony and governmental processes. Excellent benefit package. For further details regarding position tasks, minimum qualifications, benefit package, compensation and general employment with the City of Austin access the website at [www.austincityjobs.org](http://www.austincityjobs.org) and click on Search Jobs.

TxDOT Strategic Projects Division (SPD) has an Administrative Assistant IV position opening. If you are interested, please review the job requisition [#020703](#).
Thank You to Chapter 74 Website Sponsors

www.irwa74austin.org

If you would like information on how to become a Website Sponsor, please contact:

Michelle Hawkins, SR/WA, R/W-RAC, R/W-NAC
HDR Engineering, Inc.
7745 Chevy Chase Drive, Bldg. 5, Ste. 220,
Austin, TX 78752
512) 531-5900 office / 512-801-7605 cell
michelle.hawkins@hdrinc.com

Chapter 74 Bluebonnet is a publication of the International Right of Way Association.