

BIOGRAPHY

Dave Zelenok



Dave Zelenok has thirty years of senior transportation-related management experience at the municipal, state department of transportation and federal levels as well as a consulting engineer managing the “full spectrum” of transportation and public works operations, including Aviation, Mass Transit, Traffic Engineering, Toll Highway, Street Maintenance, Engineering Design and Construction Services. He has worked for a number of engineering consultancies and is now the Manager of Local Government Services for **HR Green, Inc.** He consults with public sector agencies and the private sector on transportation, engineering, innovation processes, Public-Private Partnerships, broadband development and trends in technology.

From 2007 to 2015, he served in a number of roles for the City of Centennial, Colorado (population 110,000) – including **Chief Innovation Officer, Interim City Manager and Director of Public Works.** While with Centennial, he led the **outsourcing** of its entire Public Works Department, in a move which is widely recognized as the largest conversion of its kind to a public-to-private partnership (P3) in the nation. He was also heavily involved in a voter-approved initiative to authorize the deployment of **municipal broadband** throughout the community in partnership with the private sector, the first major city in Colorado to do so.

Dave served fourteen years as **Director of Public Works and Transportation** for the City of Colorado Springs. In those capacities, he oversaw the City Engineering, Traffic Engineering, Street Maintenance, Springs Transit and the Pikes Peak Highway, the nation’s highest toll highway. His responsibilities included the construction of 400 miles of new streets and highways and hundreds of new fiber optic interconnected traffic signals, largely through exactions and public-private partnerships (P3’s) with the development community valued at roughly \$2 Billion.

Dave also oversaw the management and operation of the **Colorado Springs Airport**, and was responsible for a major expansion project there, including the construction of a new runway and an entirely new mid-field airport terminal complex. The improvements enabled the creation of a new coast-to-coast airline with its operational hub and headquarters in Colorado Springs and the airport was designated the **nation’s fastest growing airport** under his direction for two consecutive years.

Earlier in his career, he held a number of senior engineering management positions with the **Pennsylvania Department of Transportation** and on active duty in the **United States Air Force.**

Dave has written and presented educational sessions on a variety of topics including Creating a Culture Innovation, Creating Municipal Broadband networks, Smart Growth, Traffic Calming, Livable Communities, Traditional Neighborhood Design, Innovative Infrastructure Financing and Context-Sensitive Design for groups such as the Colorado Municipal League, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA), the National Council for Public Private Partnerships (NCPNP) and to the American Public Works Association (APWA). He has testified before a number of Congressional subcommittees in support of increased funding for multi-modal, surface and air transportation-related issues.

In 2003, he took a leave of absence from his position to serve on active duty as an Air Force Reservist. Serving as Mobilization Assistant (MA) to the Director of Plans and Programs and more recently, as MA to the Director of Operations for Air Force Space Command (both **Brigadier General positions**), he was heavily involved in operating and managing much of the nation's \$11 billion annual military space program.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the **United States Air Force Academy** and a Masters Degree in Engineering from the **University of Texas at Austin**, and is registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Colorado and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is a 2014 graduate of the **Harvard Kennedy School's** Senior Executives in Government Program

Major Publications:

"Creating a Culture of Innovation" – American Public Works Association Reporter: Aug 2015

***Quoted in Wall Street Journal** – "Cities, Utilities are Poles Apart over Streetlights" Dec 24, 2011*

"Intergenerational Equity in Asset Management" – Colorado Municipalities: April 2011

"Lessons Learned from New Zealand Public Works Professionals" – APWA Reporter: Feb 2011

"A Complete Remodeling of our Urban Fabric – Smart Growth" – APWA Reporter: July 2006

"Converting Traffic Signals/Reducing Traffic Congestion" – APWA Reporter: July 2001

*"Building Partnerships and Homes" – The CE: Fall 2000, AF Civil Engineer's "**Article of the Year**"*

*"Groundbreaking Development"- MFH - Defense Communities: July/August 2000 (**cover story**)*

*"Municipal Airport Benefits from Proactive Planning"- Public Works: February 1997, (**cover story**)*

Community Involvement (Past & Present):

Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers' Issue 2C Advisory Committee – appointed Nov 2015

American Public Works Association – Colorado Chapter President 2012-2013

NCPNP, Pikes Peak United Way; Boy Scouts of America; Trails & Open Space: boards of directors

Chairman, Board of Directors, Colorado Springs Public Improvements Corporation

Southern Delivery System - Regional Water Infrastructure Authority - \$625M (water resources)

Invention Award: Krypton⁸⁵ Phosphorescent Airfield Lighting Device

Special Recognition Recipient:

- **Legion of Merit: two-time recipient** - United States Department of Defense
- **Minton Award** – "Most Outstanding" Article – Colorado Springs Affordable Housing
- **Best Of** award - Colorado Springs Independent "government official" category