Phil Bedient (Director) & Jim Blackburn (Co-Director) will host a two-day SSPEED conference. Over thirty experts & local leaders will present. A few noted speakers include:

Ed Emmett, Harris County
Stephen Costello, City of Houston
Jeff Lindner, HC FCD
Bill Read, National Hurricane Center
Jerry Cotter, USACE (Ft. Worth)
Rob Rogers, FAIA, ROGERS PARTNERS Architects + Urban Designers
David Conrad, Water Resources Policy
Roy Wright, FEMA

To register, please click here.
DAY 1 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

8:00 - 8:45  Registration & Coffee

OVERVIEW & KICKOFF
8:45 - 9:00  Welcome & Introduction
Reginald Des Roches | Dean of Engineering, Rice University
9:00 - 9:10  Overview of Conference
Phil Bedient | SSPEED Center, Rice University
9:10 - 9:35  Hurricane Harvey's Impact
Jeff Lindner | Meteorologist, Harris County Flood Control District

SESSION I. MOVING FORWARD FROM HARVEY | SESSION LEADER, PHIL BEDIENT
9:35 - 10:00  The Path to Prevention
Ed Emmett | Judge, Harris County
10:00 - 10:20  Harvey Impacts and Flood Resilience Update
Stephen C. Costello | Chief Resilience Officer, City of Houston

10:20 - 10:50 BREAK

10:50 - 11:20  Future Houston
Jim Blackburn | SSPEED Center, Rice University
11:20 - 11:40  Hurricane Harvey: Experiences, Consequences and Public Support for Proposed Policies
Robert Stein | Professor of Political Science, Rice University
11:40 - 12:00  Influence of Climate Change on Hurricane Harvey & Future Storms
Dan Cohan | Associate Professor, Rice University

12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH

KEYNOTE WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE
1:00 - 1:30  John Nielsen-Gammon | Texas State Climatologist, Texas A&M University

SESSION II. URBAN DESIGN FOR FLOOD PROTECTION | SESSION LEADER, SAM BRODY
1:30 - 1:50  Flood Risk Reduction & the Urban Built Environment
Sam Brody | Director of CTBS, Texas A&M Galveston
1:50 - 2:10  Integrated Approaches for Flood Risk Reduction & Urban Development
Anne Loes Nillesen | Principal, Defacto Architecture & Urbanism
2:10 - 2:30  Hurricane Harvey: Come Hell or High Water
Phil Bedient | SSPEED Center, Rice University

2:30 - 3:00 BREAK

SESSION III. URBAN FLOOD POLICY | SESSION LEADER, CHARLES PENLAND
3:00 - 3:20  Taking Advantage of the Paradigm Shift - New Policy Opportunities in Development Regulations
Charles Penland | Senior Principal (Infrastructure), Walter P Moore
3:20 - 3:40  A Vision for the Future with a Historical Perspective
Russ Poppe | Executive Director, Harris County Flood Control District
3:40 - 4:00  The Future of our Flood Resiliency & Infrastructure Development
Jim Thompson | Chief Executive Texas & Gulf Coast Infrastructure, AECOM
4:00 - 4:30  Risk-Based Solutions for Urban Flood Risk Reduction
Marten Hillen | Director Water, Royal HaskoningDHV

CLOSING & RECEPTION
4:45 - 6:30  Reception & Poster Presentations
Sponsored by AECOM, Arcadis, LAN, & Walter P Moore

Severe Storm Prediction, Education, & Evacuation from Disasters Center presents
URBAN FLOODING & INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE: MOVING FORWARD FROM HARVEY
DAY 2 | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

8:00 - 8:30  
Coffee & Pastries

KEYNOTE  
8:30 - 9:00  
PROGRESS: A LOOK BACK AT TROPICAL CYCLONE FORECASTING OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS  
Bill Read | Former Director, National Hurricane Center

SESSION I.  
9:00 - 9:25  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | SESSION LEADER, PHIL BEDIENT  
Jery Cotter | Chief of Water Resources Management, USACE (Ft. Worth)  
Harvey and the State and Federal Response  
Coraggio Maglio | Chief of Hydraulics & Hydrology, USACE (Galveston)

SESSION II.  
9:45 - 10:05  
COMMUNICATING CURRENT & FUTURE FLOOD RISK | SESSION LEADER, JIM BLACKBURN  
Bill Wheeler | Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management

SESSION IIIA.  
11:00 - 11:20  
FLOOD WARNING SYSTEMS | SESSION LEADER, NICK FANG  
Nick Fang | Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Arlington  
Advanced Flood Warning System & Its Performance during Hurricane Harvey  
Jacob Torres | Senior Hydrologist, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc.

SESSION IIIB.  
11:20 - 11:40  
COMMUNICATING CURRENT & FUTURE FLOOD RISK | SESSION LEADER, JIM BLACKBURN  
Eric Berger | Editor, Space City Weather  
Flood Warning Systems in Highly Urbanized Environments  
Lies, Damned Lies, & Statistics - Communicating Risk  
Andy Yung | Principal (Infrastructure), Walter P Moore

SESSION IV.  
12:00 - 1:00  
COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPACTS | SESSION LEADER, CLINT DAWSON  
Clint Dawson | John J McKetta Centennial Energy Chair in Engineering, UT Austin  
Urban Flooding Impacts on Transportation Infrastructure  
Protecting the Houston-Galveston Region from Coastal Flooding: A Systems Approach (H-GAPS)  
Larry Dunbar | Project Manager, SSPEED Center

SESSION V.  
2:00 - 2:15  
NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE | SESSION LEADER, PHIL BEDIENT  
The Impact of Small Things  
Rob Rogers, FAIA | Founder, ROGERS PARTNERS Architects + Urban Designers  
Comments on What We've Heard - Looking Backward and Forward from Harvey  
David Conrad | Consultant, Water Resources Policy

3:05 - 3:30  
Hurricane Harvey: An NFIP Perspective on Recovery and What It Takes to Build a Culture of Preparedness  
Roy Wright | Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation, FEMA

CLOSING  
3:30 - 3:35  
Closing Remarks