

# CABBINESS

## ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER  
March 2017





# Cabbiness

engineering, llc

NEWSLETTER, Volume 8



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Created By:

NEW  
ELEMENT  
MARKETING

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Cover Image:

Taken during our marketing and project reconnaissance process for our James Garner Boulevard project in Norman, Oklahoma

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# SALES TAX on PROFESSIONAL SERVICES 1.0

Recently, Governor Mary Fallin has proposed a modernization of the state's tax system, including enactment of a Sales Tax on Professional Services. Oklahoma officials and professionals, alike, are convinced that Oklahoma's transportation program is in serious jeopardy unless major changes to Oklahoma's tax system are enacted this year, including the Sales Tax on Professional Services.

Our challenge, posed by Secretary Ridley, was for ACEC OKLAHOMA, member firms, and their employees to become engaged in the legislative process and assist the Oklahoma Legislature in developing a long-term, stable funding system, not only for the state's transportation program but for state government as a whole.

With that, below is our firm's letter written to the Norman Transcript in support of this new system. Additionally, the hyperlink below includes support letters written by other engineering firms throughout the state.



February 28, 2017

The Norman Transcript  
215 East Comanche Street  
Norman, OK 73069

To the Editor:

As a proud, lifelong Oklahoman it has always been my professional engineering aspiration to make this state better. For the most part, I believe our small family owned company and 13 great employees have accomplished that with our myriad of civil engineering projects throughout the state. But now I feel the need to take a difficult, extra step and advocate for a tax upon our own profession in order to help our financially strapped state. It may be a very unpopular step with my fellow engineering peers and other professional service providers, but being a leader sometimes means you have to make difficult and unpopular decisions.

For the record, I dislike taxes as much as I dislike politics. Unfortunately, our state is at cross-roads where these two will collide with all Oklahomans being injured. It is apparent that our elected officials have not been successful in providing stable funding solutions for the state's needs for infrastructure, public education, public health, and corrections. It is an undisputed fact, the past budget cuts to all state agencies have been detrimental across the board. And with another significant budget shortfall this year, the outlook is bleak for every state agency. So as I see it, Oklahoma professionals have to take a small, but bold step in helping our elected officials do what needs to be done. And what needs to be done is taxing professional services in Oklahoma, including the engineering profession of which I am a part of, to develop at least one stable and sustainable revenue source. This is a very difficult choice for me because it will affect my family's financial wellbeing. It also directly affects my employees and the others in the community that benefit from our company's success. This includes our church, our public schools and other local charities we financially support. But as someone once said, the right decisions are always the hardest decisions. It is time for all Oklahoma professionals to come to the rescue of our great state that has afforded every one of them the very opportunity to be successful.

Sincerely,  
Cabbiness Engineering, LLC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Bret Cabbiness'.

J. Bret Cabbiness, PE  
President

cabbinessengineering.com

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## Additional Reading:

Professional Services Tax - Support  
Letters:

<http://www.cabbinessengineering.com/images/Ridley%20and%20Firm%20Ltrs.pdf>

President Trump's Proposed Budget  
Impact on Infrastructure:

<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/president-trumps-proposed-budgets-impact-on-infrastructure/>

ODOT - Transportation: Lifeblood of  
the Economy

<https://www.ok.gov/odot/Lifeblood.html>



# EMBARCK OKLAHOMA CITY STREETCAR

1.0

The MAPS 3 Modern Streetcar, to be known as the Oklahoma City Streetcar or OKC Streetcar, will link important districts in and around downtown Oklahoma City. The OKC Streetcar will run on rails flush with the street.

## QUICK FACTS:

- Project Budget: \$131 million
- Construction: Underway
- Storage & Maintenance Facility: SW 7th Street and Hudson Avenue

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

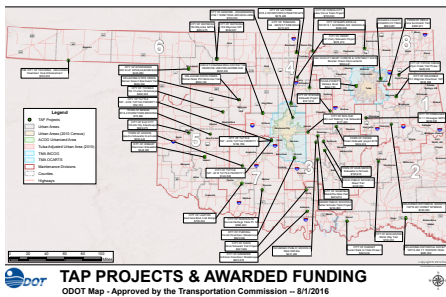
- MAPS 3 Modern Streetcar/Transit: <https://www.okc.gov/government/maps-3/projects/modern-streetcar-transit>
- Oklahoma City Streetcar: <http://embarkok.com/learn/services/okcstreetcar>





### Consulting Engineering Services for the Design of Roadway/ Drainage Modifications at James Garner Boulevard - Flood Avenue to Acres Street Norman, Oklahoma

Our team is thrilled to be working in our hometown of Norman, Oklahoma. We are teamed with [Freese and Nichols, Inc.](#) on this iconic roadway redesign project that will ultimately directly connect the north part of Norman to the Downtown area.



**TRANSPORTATION  
ALTERNATIVES**

### On-Demand Transportation Alternatives Project Design Statewide, Oklahoma

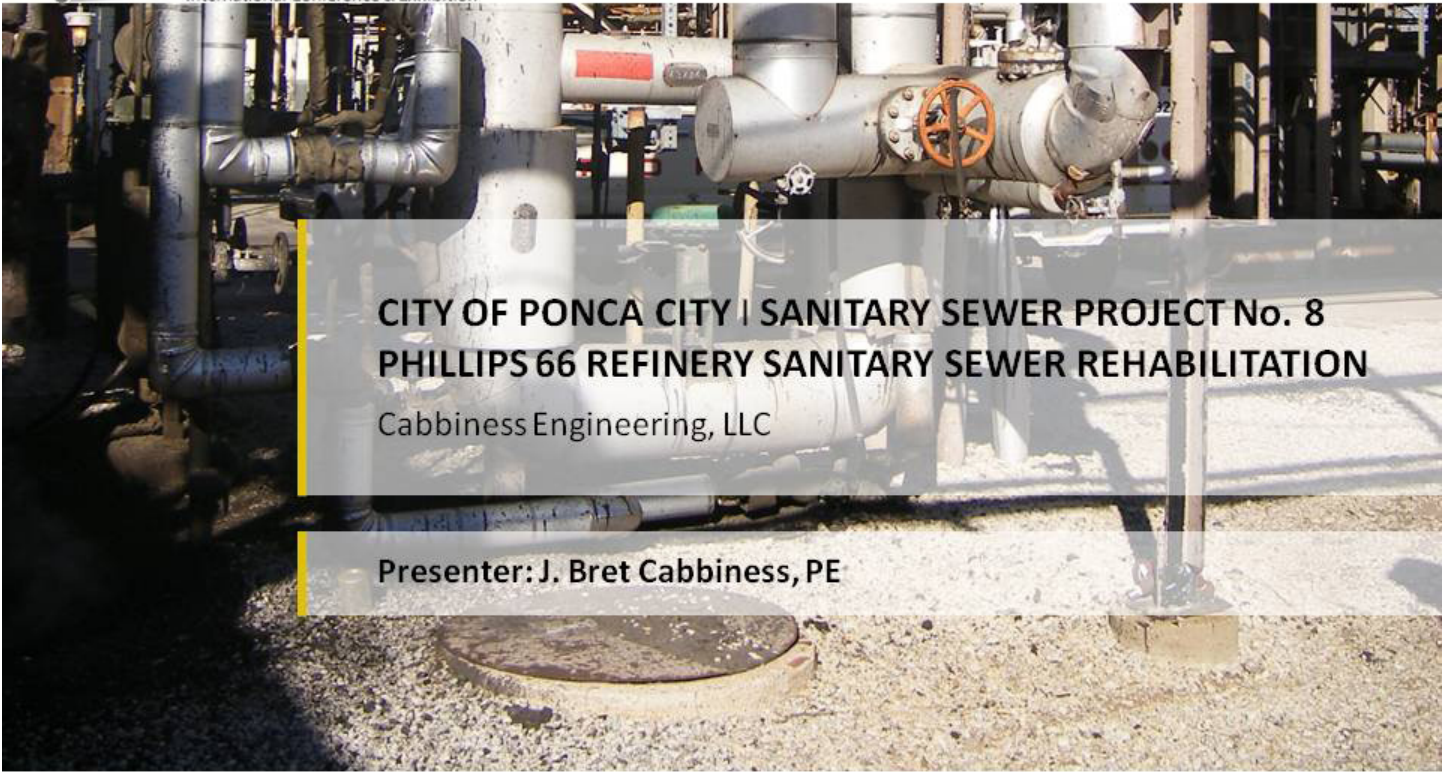
In total, our firm has 7 of these Transportation Alternative projects that spread across our state. These projects will consist of the removal, replacement and/or new construction of sidewalks, where needed. We will also be replacing any existing sidewalks that do not meet ADA requirements. Additionally, the existing roadway will be stiped and signed within the project limits for shared bicycle use.



### Enterprise Car Rental/Sales Site Development Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Our firm has teamed up with the [McKinney Partnership Architects](#) of Norman to provide the civil site design and topographical survey for the redevelopment of the existing Enterprise Car Rental and Sales site. We love working with our preferred architectural clients and we are excited to see the final outcome of this redevelopment projects.





## CITY OF PONCA CITY | SANITARY SEWER PROJECT No. 8 PHILLIPS 66 REFINERY SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION

Cabbiness Engineering, LLC

Presenter: J. Bret Cabbiness, PE



## Underground Construction Technology Presenting Our Award Winning Project

Our President, J. Bret Cabbiness, PE, had the wonderful opportunity of presenting our award winning project,

### **City of Ponca City Sanitary Sewer Project No. 8 - Phillips 66 Refinery Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation**

at the 2017 Underground Construction Technology Conference - THE Event for the Utility Infrastructure Industry. The talk highlighted the History of the Project, the Project Challenges, Trenchless Rehabilitation Design Options, Working Relationships, Construction Challenges and the Successful Conclusion.

### Trenchless Rehabilitation Design Options

Items to Consider

- ☐ Bypass Pumping
- ☐ Inflow & Infiltration
- ☐ Fire Ponds
- ☐ Sensitive Refinery Equipment (vibration, Risk, etc.)
- ☐ Off-Set Joints
- ☐ Required Pipe Capacity Adjustment



# Team Member Spotlight



**Gary Schlotthauer, PE**  
QA/QC Director

[Gary@cabbinessengineering.com](mailto:Gary@cabbinessengineering.com)

Tell us a little about yourself. What are some of your hobbies, etc.?

I enjoy shooting guns, hunting, traveling (I would love to go to Europe, one day) and spending time with my family and granddaughters.

When did you first start at Cabbiness?

I started working for Cabbiness Engineering in March 2014.

How did you originally become interested in this field/industry? (Civil Engineering)

I started right out of college as a draftsman at ODOT and I thought it would be neat to be able to see and drive on a road that I helped draw up the plans for.

How has Cabbiness helped you in your career development?

Working here has expanded my exposure to different areas of civil engineering. Such as, civil site design, trail systems, the drainage and water supply plans that we do for the University of Oklahoma, as well as the cities we work with.

What do you find the most challenging about your job?

Trying to keep abreast of it all. Schedules, reviews, helping with challenges where I can, etc.

What has been your favorite project to work on/design?

For my career, it would be the US-62 through Blanchard, Oklahoma. We widened the roadway to five lanes through the heart of the town.

Since working at Cabbiness Engineering, LLC, it would be the scoping of new projects, seeing what may need to be done and working up a schedule for it.

What has been your proudest moment at Cabbiness?

When we were recognized nationally for the work Bret and Michael did on the pipe bursting project in Ponca City at the refinery - Quite the achievement for a small, but growing firm.

Tell us 1-3 things that most people don't know about you. And/or random facts.

I really enjoy going to my granddaughter's dance competitions, band concerts, gymnastics, etc. and watching them perform.

Top 4 life highlights?

1. When I married my wife. (Thankfully she said YES!)
2. When my three children were born.



# COMPANY HAPPENINGS

## Statewide Grand Tour

One of our business and marketing goals for this upcoming year is to garner client perspectives and feedback so that we can better serve our clients. With that, J. Bret Cabbiness, PE and our Marketing Coordinator, Mindi Coleman, are traveling to visit with all of our clients one-on-one to receive a comprehensive view and feedback regarding our proposals and interviews, as well as better prepare for future projects each of them are planning.

We are so thankful that each of them are taking the time to meet with us and we look forward to the meetings we have left! We have had some really great meetings so far and we can't wait to implement what we have learned.



## NEW SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



### SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2017



**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE VISIT:**

[cabbinessengineering.com/  
web/careeropportunities](http://cabbinessengineering.com/web/careeropportunities)



**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT  
RESUME & COVER LETTER**

Monday, March 13th  
@ 5:00pm



**QUESTIONS &  
SUBMISSIONS**

Michelle@  
cabbinessengineering.com

We are thrilled to announce our *NEW* Summer Internship Program! The deadline to submit cover letters and resumes was on Monday, March 13th and we are conducting interviews with some of the wonderful applicants the week of March 27th. Be on a lookout in our next newsletter for a highlight on our newest addition.

For more details, please visit:

<http://www.cabbinessengineering.com/web/careeropportunities>

This will be an annual opportunity, so feel free to pass this along to anyone who would be interested and/or eligible next summer.





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