



Bridging the Gap

Your Connection to Engineering Services

August 2026

Bridge Engineering Seminar Builds Connections Across California

California's bridge engineering community came alive this February as hundreds of experts gathered for a landmark event that set the standard for collaboration and innovation. The inaugural California Bridge Engineers Seminar (CABES) marked an important milestone for Caltrans, the Division of Engineering Services (DES), and the broader bridge engineering community. Held on February 25, 2026, at the California Secretary of State Building in Sacramento, CABES brought together internal Caltrans staff, external



engineering partners, local agencies, academia, and industry professionals for a full-day seminar focused on technical exchange, collaboration, and shared learning.

CABES was designed to be more than a traditional seminar. It was envisioned to be a forum where bridge professionals across California could come together to discuss current practices, emerging challenges, innovative solutions, and lessons learned from real project experience. The event successfully drew approximately 200 attendees, with representation from 36 unique firms and academic institutions, along with strong participation from Caltrans staff. This showcased the collaborative nature of bridge delivery and the value of bringing multiple perspectives into one shared space.

The program included ten technical presentations covering a wide range of bridge engineering topics. These provided insight into design approaches, project delivery, technical advancements, and practical lessons to support future work across the state. The seminar also created opportunities for networking, professional dialogue, and relationship building between Caltrans and its partners.

A major outcome of CABES is that the seminar content will continue to serve as a resource beyond the event itself. All presentations were made available online, allowing attendees and others in the bridge community to revisit the material and share it with their teams. This supports the broader goal of CABES: to strengthen knowledge-sharing and improve communication across the bridge engineering profession.

CABES 2026 demonstrated the value of intentional collaboration, strong planning, and technical leadership. Its success established a strong foundation for continuing the seminar on a biannual basis and reinforces DES's commitment to advancing bridge engineering excellence throughout California. More importantly, CABES showed that when public agencies, private partners, and academic institutions come together with a shared purpose, the entire engineering community benefits.

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