

## LOOKING AT THE LAST FIVE YEARS

### INTRODUCTION BY VIVIAN NGUYEN

Wow. We did it. One of the most difficult years is now behind us, and we can look forward to new and exhilarating opportunities. Here's to being cautiously optimistic about what 2021 has in store for us. I, for one, hope that it involves a plethora of toilet paper and good health.

That being said, I think we all know we'll be discussing the ongoing chaos for months to come. Let's be honest — we're only human, and we tend to find solace in commiserating about our mutual misery. While it's cathartic to discuss everything we've been through as we stare at a screen and waiting for our colleagues to finish buffering, I'd like to focus our attention on some of the positive aspects that have resulted from the past year and provide a little distraction and tips for best practices in the industry as we move forward.

I was discussing this idea with one of our seasoned authors for Right of Way Magazine, Jim Kent (whose article is also featured in this section), and he had a lot of valuable insight to offer about what our reality will look like in this industry as we recover from the pandemic:

“Doing business as one did in the 20th century and the first decade of the 21st will absolutely not work in the post-pandemic world of citizens’

consciousness of their power to take care of their communities,” said Kent, JD President of the JKA Group and Social Ecology columnist for Right of Way Magazine. “Project managers and corporate hierarchy will have to shift from an intrusion model (i.e. ‘we know what is best’) to an empowerment model (i.e. ‘together we will figure out the benefits of the projects to the people impacted and larger society’) where listening and learning through listening is key. Recognizing that people and their communities for the first time stand on an equal basis with the project will be the New Reality.”

Jim has many excellent points. This last year has affected all of us, but perhaps the societal changes we've experienced will bring about better practices, more innovative ways of problem solving and continuing to care about one another as we form a “New Reality” that merges what we knew with what we could be. However, in order to look forward, it's essential to look back on what we've learned.

The following articles are some of Right of Way Magazine's favorites from the past five years; their important practices and tips have withstood the test of time and continue to be relevant to the right of way industry. Hopefully these articles present a pleasant distraction from all the stress and will remind you of what really matters and why you are a part of this exciting, ever-changing industry.

Without any further ado, let's take a trip back in time together.

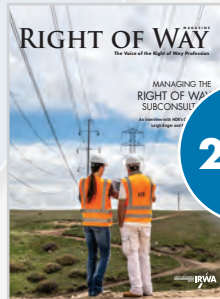
# RIGHT OF



2020

March/April

The Mindful Negotiator



2019

July/August

Value Buildings if They're Not Being Taken?



2018

January/February

The Power of Community Engagement



2017

March/April

Leveraging Data and Metrics



2016

July/August

Do We Have Time For That?

WAY