



Iranian American Society of Engineers and Architects

General Meeting  
Dec. 2, 2009

## “Collapse and Reconstruction of I-35 W Bridge over Mississippi River Minneapolis, MN.”

- SPEAKER:** **Dr. Majid Sarraf, Ph.D., P.E., P.Eng.**  
Senior Project Manager/ Seismic Specialist, Parsons, Irvine
- WHEN:** **Wednesday December 2, 2009**  
Social and light dinner 6:30 to 7:00 pm  
Meeting 7:00 -8:30 pm
- WHERE:** **Irvine Ranch Water District:** 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine, CA 92718
- DIRECTIONS:** Refer to the map link at <http://iasce.org>
- CONTACT:** Dr. Maryam Alborzfar (949-878-2620) for any question
- FEE:** The event is free and open to the public. The presentation will be in English.

### ABSTRACT:

The I-35 W was a major steel deck bridge carrying 140,000 vehicles daily and in service for 40 years in Minneapolis. During rush hour on August 2007, the bridge suddenly collapsed while carrying 110 vehicles and plunged 110 feet into the Mississippi River. This catastrophic bridge failure led to loss of 13 lives, 145 serious injuries, and over \$500 million in damages. The recovery and replacement started immediately and the new construction was completed over nearly 13 months and at the cost of \$234 million!

This presentation will review the critical components of the bridge with regard to the factors most likely causing the collapse and provide an overview of the newly constructed bridge.

### BIO: MAJID SARRAF, Ph.D. PE.

Dr. Sarraf is a senior Project Manager and a Seismic Specialist, leading the bridge and tunnel group in Irvine office of Parsons Corporation. He has over 15 years of professional experience in design of bridges, buildings and other structures, as well as bridge testing, seismic research and teaching in steel and seismic design. He is a licensed professional engineer in California and Ontario, Canada. He led original design of South Detour Structure of San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge and seismic evaluation of a number of long-span cable structures bridges such as Manhattan Bridge, N.Y., and was responsible for seismic design of a new Cable-Stayed Bridge for the Port of Long Beach. Dr. Sarraf received his B.S. degree in Structural Engineering from Tehran Polytechnic University, and obtained his M.S. and Ph.D. in Structural Engineering with emphasis in seismic behavior and retrofit of long-span bridges from University of Ottawa. Dr. Sarraf also taught courses related to steel and seismic design for 3 years. He has over 25 publications in his area of expertise and a pending patent. He has served on several ASCE technical committees and is currently an associated editor for ASCE Journal of Bridge Engineering.

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