

Speaker Bio

Ron Coles, P.E., Vice President and Principal

Hanson Professional Services

Ron is a civil engineer with a masters degree in business who worked for two large firms for 18 years before founding W R Coles & Associates in 1990 to focus on port and economic development projects. In July 2005, his firm merged with Hanson Professional Services and Ron accepted a position as Vice President and Principal.

Ron's understanding of port issues comes from completion of over 110 port projects around the country for a variety of clients and from holding leadership positions in several national and regional transportation and trade organizations.

Services for port and economic development projects provided by Coles have included

- strategic market assessments;
- transportation logistics studies;
- site selection and master plans for ports, intermodal facilities and industrial parks;
- engineering design, plans and specifications and construction management; and
- port operations consulting.

Clients have included

- State DOT's and State Port Authorities,
- Local public port authorities and private sector terminal owners/operators,
- farmer co-ops, fertilizer and grain companies,
- chemical, steel, power and cement industries,
- barge lines,
- the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US DOT and other federal agencies.

The firm has recently completed Phase 1 of the Alabama Freight Mobility Study for the US Department of Transportation and the Coalition of Alabama Waterways Associations.

In addition to project experience, Ron has served in elected leadership positions with national waterways and economic development organizations. He is a past President of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals, Inc. (IRPT), past Treasurer for the National Waterways Conference, Inc. (NWC) which is headquartered in Washington, DC., has served as a Governor appointee on the Tenn-Tom Authority Board, is a past Chairman of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Council and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Council as well as the Tennessee River Valley Association. Ron is registered to practice engineering in several states and the European Economic Community.