

BLUE TOP



THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

October 2011

VBT To Survey General Assembly Candidates On Transportation

As we all know, transportation plays a vital role in our daily lives. It connects us with our families, jobs, hospitals and schools. It supports community revitalization, economic development and job growth. A strong system allows Virginians mobility and accessibility, with reduced congestion, maintained roadways and multimodal options. It creates a safer and more secure Virginia.

However, in mid-September Governor Bob McDonnell said that “limited funds and growing capital and maintenance needs have led to deficient pavements and structures, congestion, higher crash density and safety concerns. The Commonwealth cannot continue to be a leader in economic development and job creation if we do not address our transportation needs.”

Therefore, as part of Virginians for Better Transportation’s (VBT) public awareness campaign, and as the November election quickly approaches, we believe it is critical that all Virginians have an accurate view of where their respective candidates stand on the transportation funding issue.

In early October VBT will submit a six-question survey to each candidate for the Virginia General Assembly in an effort to learn more about their stances on transportation funding. Survey questions touch on issues of maintenance funding, PPTAs, tolls, taxes, General Fund allocations and bonds. Candidates also will have the opportunity to describe any proposals or ideas they may have to fix Virginia’s transportation funding crisis.

For a full list of candidates running for office this election season including contact information, visit <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/candidates/2011OfficialGeneralAssemblyCandidateList.xlsx>.

We are hopeful that the candidates are mindful of this important issue that affects all Virginians and take the time to respond in a timely manner. Once VBT has collected the candidates’ responses we will distribute the results and post the information, including a copy of the questionnaire, on the VBT web site (www.itstimevirginia.org).

District Dialogues Set For Hampton And Northern Virginia

VTCA and VDOT join forces to present District Dialogues -- unique opportunities for VTCA members and VDOT District staff to discuss important issues of the day. Each Dialogue begins with presentations on what is going on in the District -- discussion on contracting, construction, maintenance, operations, consultant engineering and CEI business opportunities.

Next, an interactive panel discussion focuses on project and program delivery followed by open conversation on the presentations.

Last, and most dynamic, discussion continues at lunch Round Tables where VDOT professionals will host topic tables -- you choose your topic and sit with those VDOT experts. Table topics include:

- Preliminary Engineering
- Maintenance
- Operations
- Construction
- Civil Rights
- Mega Projects
- PPTAs
- Locally Administered Projects

Mark your calendar for November 17 in Northern Virginia and November 30 in Hampton. Details are on the VTCA web site.

2011-2012 VTCA Directory Of Members Is Out

The 2011-2012 **VTCA Directory of Members** is out and it looks great! The VTCA Directory is one of the most valuable tools you can have.

Each member will receive two copies in the mail. Our publisher, Naylor, mailed the two copies in separate envelopes so you may receive one copy before the other. Be sure to look for these great features:

- ☑ The special "outsert" from Dyno-Nobel
- ☑ Asphalt Plant Maps begin on page 26
- ☑ Quarry Location Maps begin on page 49
- ☑ Prequalified Contractors List is found behind the Index tab, beginning on page 148
- ☑ Index of Advertisers begins on page 183

Additional copies are available. Contact Dana Morris, dana@vtca.org for an order form. The price for VTCA Members is \$52.50. The price for non-members is \$89.25.

Have a Problem? VTCA Supports Its Members

Your association staff and leadership are here to help you. If you have issues with VDOT, MSHA, OSHA or other industry-related organizations, you can turn to VTCA. You can contact your respective Leadership Committee chairman or any VTCA staff member to discuss and seek support on industry issues. VDOT specifications, MSHA regulations, procurement issues, contracting issues, materials issues -- these are areas where the expertise of your staff and the volunteer leaders who represent you can be of immense value.

The Leadership Committee chairmen and respective VTCA staff liaisons are:

Aggregate Producer Leadership: Jeff Perkins, Boxley, 540-777-7600. Sam Hollins, staff;

Associate Leadership: Ed Wiles, Roanoke Cement, 540-314-5368. Jan Morehead, staff;

Contractor Leadership: Charles Tamayo, Chesapeake Electrical Systems, 301-206-5020. Tom Witt, staff;

Engineering Consultant Leadership: Lee Yowell, RK&K, 804-782-1903. Tom Witt, staff.

Contractor Leadership Committee Seeks Priority Issues From Contractor Members

VTCA's Contractor Leadership Committee is sending out a survey to the Alliance's Contractor members. The survey requests members to identify their priorities on a number of issues affecting the industry. The survey invitation will be emailed to Contractors the first week of October. A timely response is requested. The input of every contractor member is vital to our success in addressing critical industry issues. For additional details or if you have any questions, please contact Tom Witt.

Welcome To Our Newest Members

Hatch Mott MacDonald, a full service consulting engineering firm, offers clients multi-disciplinary expertise and comprehensive capabilities in planning, project development, studies and analysis, design, procurement, construction engineering and inspection; project, program and construction management, and facility maintenance and operations.

200 Westgate Parkway, Suite 103
Henrico, VA 23233
Phone: 804-325-8970
Fax: 804-360-1789
Web: www.hatchmott.com
Email: michael.loehr@hatchmott.com

Vice President: Darryl K. Brogan
Vice President: Michael Loehr

Gannett Fleming provides an array of consulting, planning, and construction management services in the transportation, water/wastewater, facilities, environmental, and information technology disciplines.

7021 Harbour View Boulevard, Suite 112
Suffolk, VA 23435-2869
Phone: 757-483-3838
Fax: 757-483-0141
Web: www.gannettfleming.com
Email: lmoore@gfnet.com

Vice President: R. Ed Blair
Transportation Program Mgr.: Larry Moore

J.R. Tharpe Trucking specializes in contract hauling of materials including asphalt, sand, stone, dirt and lime with a fleet of both dump trucks and dump trailers.

201 Algerene Road
Drakes Branch, VA 23937 (mailing)
1713 E. Patrick Henry Highway
Burkeville, VA 23922 (physical)
Phone: 434-767-4384
Fax: 434-767-2360
Web: www.jrtharpetrucking.com
Email: timtharpe@embarqmail.com

Vice President: Tim Tharpe

VDOT Local Assistance Offers Email Update Subscription

In a survey conducted this summer by VDOT's Local Assistance Division, respondents expressed an interest in receiving regular email alerts for updates and information related to the LAD program. VDOT has established an email update system to quickly reach their partners with news and guidance. The email subscription service is open to anyone interested in receiving the LAD updates. The Department plans on using the updates to let customers know when the Local Assistance Webpage has been updated, when new guidance is available and to deliver its tri-annual newsletter.

If you are interested in subscribing follow these steps:

1. Send email to: vdot_local_assistance-request@virginiainteractive.org.
2. Type "subscribe" in the body of the message and click send. No subject is needed for the email. Please remove any automatic signature.
3. You will receive an email asking you to confirm that you want to subscribe. Click the link in the email and then click subscribe. You are now subscribed.

If you have any questions about the email updates or have difficulty signing up, please contact Penny Forrest at penny.forrest@vdot.virginia.gov.

Shay Ponquinette Appointed In VDOT Civil Rights Division

On September 19, VDOT Chief of Administration Grindly Johnson announced the appointment of Shay Ponquinette as Acting Division Administrator of the Civil Rights Division. Shay has been the Assistant Division Administrator of External Programs for the Civil Rights Division for the past five years. In this position Shay will have responsibility for direct oversight and management of all operational and programmatic functions within the Division.

ARTBA P3 Conference In November

Public-Private Partnerships (P3) have become one of the cornerstones of infrastructure investment. In this arena, information is key. The ARTBA P3 Conference will include 20 informational sessions exploring business opportunities in the hottest P3 markets across all modes of transportation. Experts will also update you on some of the latest advancements in P3 legislation, technology, and best practices.

The Conference is the private infrastructure community's best opportunity to network with leading executives and public officials. The Conference will be held November 15-16 at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information visit www.artbap3.org.

RFP - Rt. 29 Bypass In Albemarle County

VDOT has issued a Request for Proposals for the Route 29 Western Bypass in Albemarle County. VDOT is seeking proposals to build the new road using its Design-Build project development process. The project will build a new 6.2-mile, four-lane, limited-access roadway stretching from Route 29 just north of the South Fork Rivanna River to the Route 29/250 Bypass. Under the terms of the RFP the successful bidder will be responsible for final design and construction of the road.

A project information meeting and utility scoping meeting will be held on October 6 at the Culpeper District Office Auditorium beginning at 9:00 a.m. The deadline for initial response is November 29, 2011. Final proposals are due at 4:00 p.m. EST, April 17, 2012. Information about the RFP can be found at: <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/request-for-proposals.asp>.



Motorist Alert: I-81 Bridge Reconstruction In Marion

Preliminary work is underway to replace sections of the Interstate 81 bridges over Route 658 (Scratch Gravel Road) in Marion. The bridge project, located near Exit 45, will replace the north and southbound concrete bridge deck, steel beams and railings. I-81 will be restricted to one lane at the bridges. This lane restriction will remain in place for approximately 11 months. Motorists on I-81 may wish to take alternate routes such as Route 11 while the lane closure is in place. Work underneath the bridge may cause slight delays for motorists traveling on Scratch Gravel Road.

Check 511virginia.org or call 511 for project information. Also, sign up to receive mobile alerts from 511virginia.org by going to 511Virginia.org and clicking on My 511 Control Room to create a free account.

Safety And Health Safety Seminars Scheduled

Each year VTCA 's Safety and Health Seminars provide Virginia's aggregates industry with training focused on making operations the safest they can be. Participants are given the latest information and tools necessary to protect personnel, avoid penalty assessments and ensure continued safe operation of plants.

Who should attend? Anyone involved with the safety and welfare of those working for or with them should! This year's topics will cover a wide range of safety related matters that impact everyone in the aggregates industry. This includes senior safety managers, front-line supervisors, hourly workers and independent contractors.

Participation will count, in part, towards MSHA annual training certification, a key component to an operation's training plan. This is also a unique opportunity for contractors that may be working at a plant to get their employees the MSHA Part 46 refresher training they need.

Mark your calendar -- details will follow soon.

- ◆ Roanoke - December 6 at the Holiday Inn Valley View
- ◆ Fredericksburg - December 7 at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House

“Stop, Think, Act”

Southeast Mine Safety and Health Conference in November

Are you interested in mining health and safety? If so, mark your calendar for the 6th Annual Southeastern US Mine Safety and Health Conference, November 8-10 at the Ross Bridge Conference Center in Birmingham, Alabama. You will learn from keynote speakers from the health and safety industry, and you will benefit from sessions taught by safety professionals across the southeast. You will also enjoy a unique chance to interact with other states that form the Southeast District.

This year's theme, “Stop, Think, Act,” calls on every miner to be effective through his or her awareness of the essentials of mine safety & health. The process of a successful safety & health program for every mine begins with each of us. As our economy continues to improve, our responsibilities also grow. Our topics focus on current issues and will provide you technical information from government, community and industry leaders.

It is important that the Virginia mining community exhibits its support of the Conference, and ultimately of Mike Davis, SE District Supervisor, by attending in large numbers. Also, it is hoped that VTCA, under the leadership of the Safety and Health Committee, will be rolling out its Contractor DVD at the Conference. This is a great example of the hard work our members have put into this project. The project is slated for national distribution and your support would be appreciated.

For more information, visit <http://southeastmineconf.org>. If you plan to attend, please let VTCA's Sam Hollins know (sam@vtca.org). He will be in attendance.

Re:Con 2012

GeoSonics/Vibra-Tech is pleased to host *Re:Con 2012*, January 15-18 at The Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida. *Re:Con 2012* (formerly named the Blasting Technology Transfer Conference) is the premier conference for blasting and blast-associated risk. Learn to protect your company, communicate with the public and improve blasting efficiency from the experts in vibration and acoustic monitoring.

The conference will feature presentations by experts in the field. Keynote speaker Dr. Vincent Covello, founder and director of the Center for Risk Communication, will discuss the ways high stress situations can change the rules of communication. Continuing education credits are available.

Visit www.geosonicsvibratech.com/recon/ to learn more and to register. You may also call GeoSonics at 1-800-992-9395.

Individual Safety Awards Presented

In the month of September, several safety awards presentations were held to honor those individuals with selective continuous years of service without a lost time injury. The awards, presented by Dave Benner, Division of Mineral Mining, and Sam Hollins, VTCA, were given at **Martin Marietta's** Red Hill Plant and **Titan America's** Roanoke Cement Plant. The recipient for the Red Hill Plant was Steve Bennett for 25 years without a lost time injury. The following received 35 year awards at Roanoke Cement: Earnest Chambers, Thomas Fernatt, Michael Lackey, Gary Simpson, Michael Waldron and Samuel Whitacre. Congratulations to those individuals for setting the standard for safety in the aggregates industry!



APLC Announces New Member

The Aggregate Producer Leadership Committee is proud to announce the addition of Bill Hough, Vice President of Sales for **Chantilly Crushed Stone**. This action was in response to Chris Kearnes moving to North Carolina to take a position with **Martin Marietta**, thereby creating the vacancy. Bill has served in the mining industry for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership skills to the APLC. Please join us in welcoming him aboard!

Smoke School Update

The 2011 Fall Smoke School classes were successfully concluded with attendance of nearly 100 members and non-members. Our thanks go out again to VTCA member facilities that hosted the schools: **Boxley, Luck Stone** and **W-L Construction and Paving, Inc.**

Postion Sought

Graduate of Virginia Tech with a B.S. in Engineering is seeking a position in the greater Richmond area. Coursework in groundwater hydrology, rock mechanics, mineral processing, land & water resources engineering. For a copy of this resume, contact Stephanie at the VTCA office, stephanie@vtca.org.



MSHA film crews wrap up final filming of important Contractor DVD.

Arc Flash Hazard Alert

- ★ All energized electrical equipment carry the danger of potential arc flash at any moment.
- ★ Each year, more than 2,000 people are admitted to burn centers with severe arc flash burns.
- ★ Arc flashes can reach temperatures of 35,000°F and are fatal at distances up to 10 feet.
- ★ These tremendous temperatures can vaporize metal, resulting in pressure waves that can rupture eardrums and collapse a person's lungs.
- ★ Shrapnel expelled from an arc flash can exceed speeds of 700 mph, fast enough to completely penetrate the human body.



Mark Norden Joins E. Dillon & Co.

Mark Norden has recently accepted the position of Assistant to the President of **E Dillon & Co.**, in Swords Creek, VA. He previously managed Martin Marietta aggregate operations in Virginia, Maryland, and Iowa, Medusa Cement in PA, and Amax/Homestake Mining in MO. Mark wants to thank all the VTCA staff and many members for their support during his recent transition, and looks forward to continued involvement with our organization.

Obama Signs FAA And Highway Bill Extensions

The “Surface and Air Transportation Programs Extension Act of 2011” was signed by President Obama on September 16. It represents the 22nd short-term funding extension for the Federal Aviation Administration (bill expired in 2007) and the eighth extension of the highway bill (expired in 2009).

Passage of the measure by Congress came just in the nick of time as the FAA extension was set to expire on September 16 and the highway extension was scheduled to expire on September 30. The bill funds the FAA through January 2012 and highway programs through March 2012. It also authorizes the collection of federal gas tax, which brings in an estimated \$100 million per day.

Obama's signature averted a second partial shutdown of the beleaguered FAA in two months. About 4,000 workers were furloughed at the agency in August when Congress could not resolve an impasse over the short-term funding bill that expired. Transportation advocates estimate that another 70,000 construction workers were placed out of work by the shutdown as well because more than 200 airport projects were halted. The FAA shutdown cost the federal government about \$30 million per day because sales taxes on airline ticket sales could not be collected.

Long-term bills for the FAA and highways have stalled in Congress as Republicans in the House and Democrats in the Senate have pushed vastly different versions of the bills. Regarding highway authorization, the Republican-led House has proposed a six-year, \$235 billion bill which equals a 35% cut in highway funding. The Democratically controlled Senate has proposed a two-year, \$109 billion bill with adjustments for inflation.

Although a six-month extension has been passed by Congress, that time will pass very quickly. We must continue the drumbeat for passage of a multi-year reauthorization bill. Your ongoing grassroots advocacy is essential to success. Please continue to reach out to your Representatives and Senators to urge them to pass a surface transportation reauthorization as soon as possible. Too much is riding on this for your business and for our nation.

House T&I Committee To Pursue Larger Transportation Bill

On September 23 House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman John Mica (R-FL) said he is now working to develop a six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that would attempt to preserve current levels of federal highway and transit investment. Mica's comments are consistent with a series of recent developments that signaled a shift in the year-long position of the House GOP leadership that the reauthorization bill must be constrained by existing Highway Trust Fund (HTF) revenues.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) also gave a major economic address where he expressed openness to finding a way to support greater levels of transportation investment than could be allowed strictly from the HTF.

Chairman Mica and his Republican T&I colleagues had rolled out a six-year reauthorization blueprint in July for a bill that would have provided \$230 billion over six years—the amount the HTF could support without supplementary resources. This level of highway and transit investment is estimated to represent a more than 30 percent reduction in current levels of investment. This approach was largely dictated by internal House rules and the FY 2012 budget resolution the chamber approved earlier this year.

In contrast, the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee has been pushing a two-year surface transportation bill that would preserve current highway and transit authorization levels and adjust them upward to compensate for inflation. Senate Finance Committee leaders are seeking support for a \$12 billion offset package necessary to fund the EPW plan.

Chairman Mica indicated he would be looking at a host of alternatives to support transportation investment and reiterated his desire to act on a multi-year reauthorization bill in his committee by the end of the year. It is expected the policy reforms articulated in the T&I reauthorization plans from July would be retained. As such, the reauthorization process in both the House and Senate has largely come down to finding a way to pay for future surface transportation investments.

Federal Reauthorization Fight Continues

By Pete Ruane, ARTBA President and CEO

The 2009 Recovery Act's road and bridge initiative was a set-back to the long-term movement for improved transportation infrastructure because it gave our leaders in Washington political cover to take a pass on the surface transportation legislation, now two years overdue.

It also set up the federal surface transportation programs for another unwarranted, but politically expedient, public relations pasing. The "shovel ready" caricature of the road and bridge "stimulus," crafted to counter right wing criticisms, misplaced the focus of these investments on temporary results instead of long-term value. In the process, this rhetorical sleight helped denigrate the work of thousands of skilled American men and women who plan and design transportation projects, and operate multi-million dollar pieces of sophisticated equipment.

This is not to say the Recovery Act road and bridge funding was wasted. Far from it. At peak spending in 2010, about 320,000 American jobs throughout the economy—108,000 on construction sites—were being wholly supported by the initiative. However, the road and bridge stimulus, at 3.5 percent (\$27.5 billion) of total Recovery Act outlays, was more of a job saver than creator.

The reason it did not create significant new jobs as hoped is because it did not result in significant market growth. Why didn't we see growth? Many states, reeling from the recession and facing constitutional mandates for balanced budgets, simply substituted the federal stimulus dollars for their own investments.

Unlike short-term stimulus, the multi-year federal surface transportation program requires states to provide matching funds in order to use federal dollars and helps drive investment in their own infrastructure. This type of net growing program creates new jobs and ensures progress toward meeting future needs.

If political dysfunction and intractable views on government spending continue to slow this process, know that ARTBA and its affiliate chapters, including VTCA, will continue to push aggressively for a robustly funded multi-year federal reauthorization bill until it's done.

TRIP Report On Rural Roads

America's rural heartland is home to nearly 50 million people and its natural resources provide the primary source of the energy, food and fiber that supports the nation's economy and way of life.

But, according to a new report (http://www.tripnet.org/national/Rural_Roads_2011/TRIP_Rural_Roads_Report_Sep_2011.pdf) from TRIP, the **roads and bridges** that serve and connect the nation's rural areas face significant challenges, including inadequate capacity, limited connectivity, the inability to accommodate growing freight travel, deteriorated road and bridge conditions, a lack of desirable safety features, and a traffic fatality rate far higher than all other roads and highways.

"Rural Connections: Challenges and Opportunities in America's Heartland," was released September 1. It defines Rural America as all places and people living outside the primary daily commuting zones of cities with 50,000 people or more.

The report found that despite a recent decrease in the overall fatality rate on the nation's roads, traffic crashes and fatalities on rural roads remain disproportionately high, occurring at a rate more than three times higher than all other roads. In 2009, non-Interstate rural roads had a **traffic fatality rate** of 2.31 deaths for every 100 million vehicle miles of travel, compared to a fatality rate on all other roads of 0.75 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles of travel.

And although they carry only 25 percent of all vehicle miles of travel in the U.S., crashes on the nation's rural, non-Interstate routes resulted in 51 percent of the nation's 33,808 traffic deaths in 2009. Inadequate roadway safety design, longer emergency vehicle response times and the higher speeds traveled on rural roads are factors in the higher traffic fatality rate. In addition to disproportionately high traffic fatality rates, the roads and bridges in rural America have significant deficiencies.

BLUE TOP

A monthly publication of the
Virginia Transportation
Construction Alliance

Jeffrey C. Southard
Executive Vice President

Dara Jan Morehead, CAE
Director of Administration and
Membership Services (Editor)

Thomas M. Witt
Engineer Director

Samuel L. Hollins
Aggregates Program Manager

Dana C. Morris
Communications Technology Manager

Stephanie L. Rusnak
Administrative Operations
Manager

Sandy E. Farmer
Accountant

Designed by
tba Public Relations and Advertising
www.tbtheagency.com



ARTBA Presents Prestigious Awards To VTCA Members

Several industry professionals and organizations who are members of VTCA were recognized by ARTBA on September 7 for their “extraordinary leadership and dedication to innovation in the transportation construction field.”

❖ **Corman Construction, Inc.** received the Glass Hammer Award. It honors companies that have innovative programs and activities directed at successfully promoting women leaders. Corman stepped outside conventional boundaries and hired its first woman engineer 30 years ago. What emerged was unprecedented support by executive management from within Corman to promote women leaders. Today the firm has six female project engineers, three female executive managers and nine females in non-traditional roles with tenures spanning 5 to 31 years. Vice President JoEllen Sines accepted the award on behalf of Corman.



❖ **AECOM** also received the Glass Hammer Award. AECOM has dedicated significant resources to creating programs that promote the advancement of women. In 2010, the firm launched its Global Women’s Council, which acts as a change agent, focusing on improving retention, development and advancement of women within the company. AECOM also established the North America Women’s Leadership Collaborative, consisting of over 300 employee “volunteers” who encourage diversity and collaboration through activities such as mentoring and networking.

❖ Catherine Connor, Senior Vice President and Manager of Federal Government Affairs for **Parsons Brinckerhoff**, received the Ethel S. Birchland Lifetime Achievement Award. Named after ARTBA’s executive director from the mid-1920s, it is given to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and long-term service in the industry’s public or private sectors. Connor directs the company’s federal legislative, regulatory and political activities in Washington, DC.

In 2010 ARTBA created a Transportation Development Hall of Fame - the highest place of honor for the transportation design and construction industries. While the inaugural award to **Jack and Stan Lanford** was announced in 2010, it was presented during the September 7 ARTBA Gala.



Jack (second from left) and Stan Lanford (second from right) receive the ARTBA TDF Hall of Fame Award