

BLUE TOP



THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

January 2010

VTCA Turns Five!

Five years ago VTCA was born from the union of the Virginia Road and Transportation Builders Association and the Virginia Aggregates Association. A lot of great things have happened in those five years, benefitting every member of the new Alliance.

Although the successes of many of our efforts are easily measured, there are many intangible successes that would not be possible without the work we do. The Alliance's strength lies in its members. Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and the firm foundation of a dedicated staff, VTCA will continue to effectively represent and pursue the advancement and interests of its membership.

Expanded Industry Training - VTCA provides you with dozens of training opportunities each year -- often training you cannot get anywhere else.

- ◆ Erosion & Sediment Control Certification
- ◆ Work Zone Certification
- ◆ Spring Conference & Trade Show
- ◆ Consultant Forum
- ◆ Smoke Schools
- ◆ Safety Seminars
- ◆ Lunchbox Seminars

The VTCA Spring Conference & Trade Show is the only one of its kind in Virginia, offering you an unparalleled opportunity to interact with more than 550 other professionals engaged in the transportation construction and aggregates industries. More than 61 vendors exhibited at the 2009 Trade Show.

Enhanced Industry Advocacy - VTCA works closely with state agencies on policies and practices that impact you. To protect you and the business climate you operate in, we stay on top of critical issues – both those that are ongoing and those that pop onto the radar screen without notice.

- VTCA helped establish a coalition to oppose “card check” legislation.
- VTCA conducted training schools designed to familiarize Department of Environmental Quality personnel, especially permit writers, with the workings of aggregate mining sites.
- VTCA worked with VDOT to create a diversified package of projects to receive stimulus funding.
- VTCA's Design-Build Committee continues working closely with VDOT leadership and staff to refine design-build procurement policies and contract management.
- VTCA engaged in discussions with state regulators to bring proposed requirements for reverse operation signalization in line with more realistic expectations.

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Connaughton Selected Secretary Of Transportation

On December 22 Governor-elect Bob McDonnell announced that Sean T. Connaughton will serve as Secretary of Transportation.

Connaughton, 48, a lawyer and former United States Coast Guard officer, served as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Prince William County, Virginia from January 2000 until 2006. In 2006 he was appointed by President Bush as Maritime Administrator, the head of the U.S. Maritime Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Transportation, where he served until 2009. He now works as the corporate vice president of government affairs for the American Bureau of Shipping.

Connaughton is a 1979 graduate of Chaminade High School in New York. He received a B.Sc. from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1983 and a law degree from George Mason University in 1992. Connaughton also has a Masters in Public Administration from Georgetown University and is a graduate of the Naval War College.

VTCA wishes to congratulate Mr. Connaughton on his appointment. We look forward to working closely with him.

Dedicated to advancing the interests of the transportation construction industries.

VTCA Turns Five

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- VTCA engaged members and VDOT's Materials Division staff in discussion on changes to the Department's quality assurance and control programs that resulted from VDOT staff reductions (see page 5).
- VTCA's Engineering Consultant leadership was successful in encouraging VDOT to simplify requirements for verifying industry compliance with the Title VI program.
- VTCA is working with the Mine Safety and Health Administration to create a training DVD designed to familiarize the contracting industry with frequently written citations in order to minimize those in future MSHA inspections.

Transportation Funding - Insuring adequate funding for transportation continues to be a top priority. We are working closely with Governor-elect Bob McDonnell and his transportation transition team to promote long-term, dedicated and sustainable funding.

VTCA was instrumental in the creation of Virginians for Better Transportation (VBT), a public information campaign about the need for sustainable transportation construction and maintenance programs. Many business leaders say that VBT is a key in getting the legislature to address transportation funding. Today VBT has more than 900 individual and corporate supporters.

Marketing - The *VTCA Directory of Members* is the premier source for marketing member services. Our web site also allows for marketing opportunities for members. Our printed and electronic Aggregate Producer Member Quarry Location Map and Asphalt Producer Member Plant Location Map have been well received, with the web sites getting hundreds of "hits" since inception.

Communications - In 2009 VTCA published 38 communications pieces designed to keep you on top of what's going on. These include our monthly newsletter the *Blue Top*, periodic industry news reports in "Heard Along the Highway," technical reports and updates in the "Tech Log" and General Assembly Updates.

Your Board and staff value your membership and appreciate your support. We look forward to continuing to work for you and Virginia's transportation construction and aggregates industries.

ALC Welcomes Four New Members

Four Associate members have been elected to serve on the Associate Leadership Committee. Each was elected to a three year term beginning January 1, 2010. Congratulations to:

Joe McGowan of **Spivey Rentals**, representing suppliers of Traffic Control Devices

Clint Diers of **Rutherford**, representing the Bonding and Insurance members of VTCA

Jerry Harless of **Associated Asphalt**, representing Asphalt and Petroleum Suppliers

Mitch Rainero of **Permatile Concrete Products Co.**, representing Concrete Pipe & Precast Products Suppliers

The complete ALC roster is on the VTCA web site, under the Committees tab. The ALC represents and advances the unique interests of the Associate membership of VTCA.

BLUE TOP

A monthly publication of the
Virginia Transportation
Construction Alliance

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Miramonte Extends Winter Meeting Room Block Until January 8 - Register Now!

We are pleased to let you know that the Miramonte Resort & Spa has extended its deadline for room reservations for the VTCA Winter Meeting. You now have until January 8!

We know you may have put the brochure aside. Just go to http://vtcaonline.com/images/registration/VTCA_wm_brochure10.pdf.

Here you will find all the details about the Winter Meeting, the solid educational program, the exciting tours and the stunning Miramonte Resort and Spa in Palm Springs. The dates are January 31 – February 4. Don't delay – make your plans today.

Need help? Call Jan or Stacy at the VTCA office.

Winter Meeting Highlights

- ❖ "Best Practices For Your Business" Workshop
- ❖ Construction Markets Update
- ❖ Making Public Affairs Work For Your Business
- ❖ Jeep Tour of the San Andreas Fault
- ❖ Guest appearances by Lucille Ball and Dean Martin!

Member News

We wish to recognize and thank **L. B. Foster Company** for fifty years of membership! Along with its application for membership in May of 1960 came a glowing letter of recommendation from Mr. William F. Croghan of Thorington Construction Company.

We thank L.B. Foster and District Manager Tim Maier for their continuing support.

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. is pleased to announce that Grady P. Andrews, PE has been appointed Mid-Atlantic Construction Services Manager in the Richmond office. With over 30 years of experience, Grady has a wealth of knowledge and experience in all aspects of highway construction from planning to project completion. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from Virginia Military Institute. He is a retired Army National Guard Senior Engineer Officer and a registered Professional Engineer in Virginia and North Carolina.

Get well wishes go out to Warren Martin of **NXL Construction Services**. Warren is successfully recuperating at home following a "surprise" triple bypass. Our thoughts are with Warren, and especially with his wife Leslie while she is taking care of him!

Congratulations to Mike and Emily Higgins on the birth of their first grandchild. Claire Elizabeth Jones was born on December 16th. Mike is with **Branch Highways** and serves on the VTCA Board of Directors.

Welcome To Our New Members

AI Engineers, Inc.

Founded in 1991, AI provides comprehensive engineering services with a focus on bridge inspection, construction engineering and inspection, transportation/traffic and bridge design.

919 Middle Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: 860-635-7740
Fax: 860-635-7312
Email: vbishnoi@aiengineers.com
Web: www.aiengineers.com

President/CEO: Abul Islam, PE, FASCE
Director-Business Development:
Shanila Aslam, saslam@aiengineers.com

Sandvik Mining and Construction

Sandvik is one of the world's leading providers of equipment and solutions for mineral-exploration, surface and underground mining, bulk-materials handling and environmental restoration. Sandvik also offers solutions for many applications in the construction industry, including surface rock excavation, tunneling, demolition, recycling and road rehabilitation.

Products include rock tools, drilling rigs, underground loaders and trucks, crushing and screening machinery and bulk-materials handling systems. Every product is backed with a worldwide service network offering on-site service, training and around-the-clock support.

Virginia/West Virginia/Maryland Sales

Tom Shaver
P.O. Box 1032
Hot Springs, VA 24445
Cell: 540-960-1355
email: tom.shaver@sandvik.com

Region USC (US + Canada) HQ

300 Technology Court
Smyrna, GA 30082
Phone: 404-589-3800
Fax: 404-589-2900
Email: info.smc-us@sandvik.com
Web: www.miningandconstruction.sandvik.com

President: Dan Allen
Marketing: Kelly Balmes
kelly.balmes@sandvik.com

Spring 2010 Erosion Control Class Schedule Announced

VTCA has scheduled four ESCCC classes through June of 2010. The class dates and locations are:

- o March 19, Fairfax: Marriott Fairfax at Fair Oaks
- o April 30, Richmond: Holiday Inn Select Koger South
- o May 21, Abingdon: Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
- o June 11, Roanoke: Holiday Inn Tanglewood

Registration will open for these classes in mid-January. Online registration, a new feature including secure payment by credit card, will also be available at www.vtca.org.

This ESCCC course is intended to train individuals involved in implementing Erosion and Sediment Control Plans on VDOT projects and rights-of-way. Participants who complete the course and pass the examination will receive a certificate of completion. This program meets VDOT's E&S certification requirements for contractors.

Registration Underway For TCM I

Give your company a chance to thrive tomorrow by giving your up-and-coming leaders the tools they need to survive today. The prestigious Transportation Construction Management Institute at Virginia Tech is set for February 17-26, 2010.

Designed specifically for transportation construction industry professionals, TCM I benefits those who are responsible for the completion of projects – those whose work focuses on communication and leadership in addition to the more technical construction management subjects. This year a special emphasis will be added to the curriculum that focuses on the preparation and management of Design-Build contracts and insightful information on building and maintaining a safe working culture for your organization. Additionally, the rigorous and rewarding Institute will improve participants' ability to:

- Administer contracts and make decisions.
- Establish effective teams and maintain strong relationships and high trust levels with and within VDOT and the road building industry.
- Resolve disputes on-site and complete projects in a more cost-effective and competitive manner.
- Apply newly acquired leadership, management and interpersonal skills to areas of increased responsibility and authority.

During tough times the importance of highly skilled managers is more important than ever. Join the elite corps of VTCA and VDOT graduates. For more information about TCM I and to register online visit www.cpe.vt.edu/tcmi. You may also call Tom Witt at VTCA for more details.

VTCA Spring Conference Set For April 14-16 In Hampton

One thing you can be assured of is that attending the annual VTCA Spring Conference is the best way all year to catch up on the constantly changing environment for the transportation construction, engineering and aggregate industries.

VDOT continues with unprecedented changes and we will have a new administration well into their efforts to address the difficult problems we face in Virginia. With breakout sessions designed for engineers, contractors and aggregate producers, there will be something for everyone to bring back to their businesses.

Registration for the 2010 Spring Conference will open in late January but make sure your calendar has it marked. This year official conference lodging is at the Hampton Embassy Suites and the Marriott Courtyard Hampton. You must register for the conference to be eligible for the conference rates at either hotel.

Exhibitor registration will also open in January. Exhibitors should note that VTCA members will receive first choice of booth location on a first come first served availability. So register early to get the best booth locations!

Watch VTCA's web site and your mailbox in late January for an announcement of the opening of registration.



FHWA Finalizes New MUTCD Rules

The Federal Highway Administration published the final rule for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways (MUTCD) in the Federal Register of December 16. The new language revises standards, guidance, options, and supporting information relating to the traffic control devices in all parts of the MUTCD with the intent to expedite traffic, promote uniformity, improve safety and incorporate technology advances.

The new MUTCD, with these changes incorporated, is being designated as the 2009 Edition of the MUTCD and is effective January 15, 2010. FHWA has developed a detailed PowerPoint presentation which includes discussion on the majority of changes included in the 2009 edition. The presentation and links to a downloadable version is available at http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/kno_2009.htm.

VDOT Staff Reductions Prompt Changes In Asphalt Materials Testing

Implementation of the Department's "Blueprint" has significant and far reaching consequences. The mandate to reduce staff, and subsequently services, is materializing in changes to the Asphalt Quality Assurance Program.

Led by VDOT's Materials Division, a team of representatives from VDOT and the industry reviewed the impact of staff reductions on the asphalt program. This team has forwarded recommendations for changes to Department leadership. The proposed changes will impact the asphalt testing responsibilities of VDOT personnel and contractors. They are expected to be applied to all currently advertised contracts through an addendum. In the case of ongoing contracts, a no-cost change order is anticipated. A brief summary of the proposed changes:

1. Collection and Entry of Contractor Laboratory Quality Control Data - Implement a web-based program to input QC data by the contractor as results are available. Will allow VDOT immediate access to data without the need for VDOT personnel to regularly visit the plants.
2. Independent Verification (IV) and Assurance (IA) of Contractor Field Quality Control Data - Move IV testing on projects to cores obtained by the contractor, eliminating the need for VDOT to be present to perform IV and IA during control strip and test sections. Contractor will obtain cores at locations identified by VDOT and will be able to proceed with paving without Materials presence at the control strip. Contractor will be able to perform QC testing using nuclear gauge or cores. By moving to cores for acceptance, Contractor may elect to use non-nuclear methods for monitoring and not have NRC license. IA testing will be a combination of project and system based checks.
3. Depth Checks on Base Material - Have the contractor obtain the depth check cores at VDOT specified locations rather than having VDOT personnel core base mixes for acceptance.
4. Independent Verification and Assurance of Contractor Laboratory Quality Control Data - Increase the lot size from 2,000 tons to 4,000 tons and change testing frequency to lot based. The change in lot size will not change the Contractor's testing frequency.

VDOT is in the process of approving the changes and modifying specifications and Materials testing procedure documents to reflect the new processes. The final language and details of the contractor's responsibilities are expected to be out in early January.

PE Seal Requirement For Geology Log Sheets Eliminated

In a recent VDOT Materials Division Memorandum the requirement to have Geology Log Sheets digitally signed but not sealed has been deleted from the Memorandum issued on June 8, 2009.

The PE stamp is no longer necessary because the Geology Log Sheet only contains data and does not incorporate any engineering design work regulated by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations.

The original requirement was put in place by a VDOT committee formed in 2007 to develop policy and guidance on what documents needed to be signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer.

The memorandum removing the reference to the geology log sheets supersedes memorandum 317-09 issued June 8, 2009 and is available online at http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/Materials/MD_327-09.pdf.

Report From Meeting Of The Board Of Mineral Mine Examiners

On December 15 the Board of Mineral Mine Examiners met in Charlottesville. On the meeting agenda was a presentation by VTCA's Sam Hollins and Chris Kearnes of **Frazier Quarries** regarding changes to the electronic filing (e-Filing) system currently in place for mine operators in the State.

Comments focused on desired changes to the filing procedures, including the ability to make additional payments on-line for services such as GMM certification. Additionally, it was requested that operators have the ability to add/suspend a specific user rather than having to contact the DMM office, thus giving operators more onsite control. Finally, can forms such as the General Mineral Miner roster and BMME 4 be filed online?

The Board voted to authorize Conrad Spangler to file a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action, which will afford comments by industry as to the proposed changes to the regulations, intended to provide an easier, more user friendly way to do business electronically with the DMM.

Safety Seminars A Success

The 2009 VTCA Aggregate Safety Seminars were held December 1st and 2nd in Richmond and Roanoke respectively. Both were a huge success.

The seminars, attended by nearly 100 industry and VTCA members, included timely topics as well as knowledgeable speakers such as Joe Casper, Vice President of Safety Services with the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association. Attendees received credit towards their MSHA annual refresher training in areas such as back safety, workplace safety examinations, fall rescue and proper pre-shift examinations.



All of the presentations are available on the VTCA web site at www.vtca.org.

Jim Petrie To Retire

Jim Petrie, District Manager for the Mine Safety and Health Administration, will be retiring effective the beginning of 2010. Having served MSHA for 35+ years, Jim has been a long time friend to, and partner with, the industry. He will be sorely missed.



VTCA presented Jim with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts at the recent Aggregate Safety Seminars. While his replacement has not been officially announced, one of the leading candidates is the Assistant District Manager, Donald J. Foster, Jr. Our membership will be made aware as soon as a final decision has been made.

Our best wishes to Jim in his retirement!

Truck Scales Targeted By MSHA

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has made it clear that, in future inspections, truck scales are going to be held to the same standard as roadways concerning berming. This is a significant change in policy interpretation as industry has been successfully inspected for years with truck scales in their normal condition with manufactured bumper rails typically on the sides.

The new enforcement strategy puts operators in a position of having to expend thousands of dollars to retrofit truck scales that previously passed inspections, with much higher and more expensive side rails.

Jim Petrie, MSHA District Manager, indicated that inspectors should be giving operators ample notice to upgrade the rails as opposed to getting a citation on the initial inspection. This is a pattern that is already being followed in neighboring states.

VTCA has expressed concern over this matter and will continue to monitor.

McDonnell's Transportation Transition Team At Work

Governor-elect Bob McDonnell has appointed a diverse and highly experience transportation transition team charged with:

1. Serving as a liaison to the incumbent secretariat of transportation and as a representative of the Governor-elect;
2. Conducting a review of administrative practices and policies of the agencies within the transportation secretariat;
3. Evaluating any significant issues that will require the Governor-elect's attention after his inauguration;
4. Identifying opportunities to reduce the size and cost of state government;
5. Making recommendations regarding personnel within the Governor's appointment authority;
6. Reviewing any legislative or budget issues that will be pending before the next General Assembly; and,
7. Ensuring a smooth transition between Administrations.

Several sub-groups have been established including:

- ◆ PPTA
- ◆ Surface (roads)
- ◆ Rail
- ◆ Aviation
- ◆ DMV
- ◆ VDOT Administration
- ◆ Ports

VTCA's Jeff Southard is serving on the Surface sub-group and is assisting with the VDOT Administration group. Former VDOT Commissioner Charles "Chip" Nottingham is chairing the VDOT Administration sub-group and recently participated in a conference call with VTCA's Board of Director to solicit their input.

The transportation transition team's report is due to the Governor-elect on January 4.

36 Cents

Virginia's 17.5-cents per gallon gas tax went into effect on January 1, 1987.

According to the recently released draft VTrans2035 Report, its purchasing power today is about eight cents; less than half the original value. Restoring that purchasing power would require a tax rate of 36 cents per gallon.

The current state gasoline tax generates about \$850 million per year.

A 36-cent per gallon rate would generate about \$1.8 billion per year.

Had previous General Assemblies possessed the political will and common sense to adjust the rate gradually over the years, the result would have been billions more in revenue and a vastly improved transportation system.

Now, Virginia's transportation funding abyss is so deep that indexing alone is not nearly enough.

A gas tax isn't the only solution, not a silver bullet, not the long term solution. However:

- o Maintenance now consumes \$750 million of Virginia's state and federal construction dollars annually.
- o Secondary road funding has all but disappeared.
- o Virginia could lose federal dollars as early as next year for lack of state matching funds.

A gas tax may not have a "snowball's chance in hell" in the 2010 General Assembly.

So, Ask Your Legislator How He/She Intends to Restore Sustainable Purchasing Power to Virginia's Transportation Program.

Find your legislator's contact information at <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>.

Health Insurance Premiums Eating At Your Budget?

Jay Dew and Associates, VTCA's endorsed insurance agency, is pleased to announce its affiliation with a new health insurance company with an innovative benefit design that can cut your premiums by 30 to 50% -- "nHealth."

Each year you review your healthcare plan. But is your plan better or just more of the same? Do you ever save money? Does your plan encourage better decision making? Does it reduce future costs? Do your "fixes" ever really fix anything? It doesn't have to be that way. If you want different results, choose a different plan – the nHealth plan.

nHealth was founded by a management team with more than 100 years of combined experience. The unique benefit design saves on healthcare costs by engaging employees in their health and healthcare choices and using the benefits of a Health Savings Account (HSA).

To learn more, contact Jay Dew at 1-800-234-7817. You may also email Jay at jaydew@jaydew.com.

Down The Road: 2010 Events Calendar

January 13: General Assembly Convenes

February 17 – 26: Transportation Construction Management Institute, Virginia Tech

March 2: Dialogue with the Richmond District, location pending

March 19: ESCCC, Fairfax

April 30: ESCCC, Richmond

April 30: Hilliard Fellowship and Charity Golf Tournament, Bowling Green Country Club, Front Royal

April 14-16: VTCA Spring Conference and Trade Show, Hampton Roads Convention Center and Embassy Suites Hotel

May 21: ESCCC, Abingdon

May 24-26: ARTBA Legislative Fly-In, Washington, DC

June 8: Virginia Highway Workers Golf Tournament, Hunting Hawk Golf Club, Glen Allen

June 11: ESCCC, Roanoke

July 15-18: VTCA Annual Meeting, Wyndham Virginia Beach Oceanfront

October 1: Hilliard Fellowship and Charity Golf Tournament, Bowling Green Country Club, Front Royal

October 3-6: ARTBA National Convention, New York, NY

VTCA Staff In The Community

In addition to their work for the Alliance, VTCA staff members are active in their communities!



Tom Witt, far left, volunteers with the Central Virginia Food Bank.



Stephanie Rusnak participated in a Make A Wish Send Off Party over the holidays for a ten year old girl who will be heading to Disney World with her family in January.



Sam Hollins and Jan Morehead prepared and delivered meals for Richmond's homeless on November 26.



Jeff and Laura Southard manage the food pantry (a local community food bank) for Gayton Baptist Church.



Sandy Farmer volunteers with the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation for the Ride 4 Kids.



Dana Morris volunteers with Broken Loaves Food Pantry at Central Baptist Church.