

BLUE TOP



THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

November 2009

Engineers Give Virginia Roads A “D-”

In a first-ever report card on the condition of Virginia’s public assets, the Virginia section of the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the state an overall grade of D+. Getting a D- was the state’s road system, the third largest in the country. Due to big drops in state revenues, the Virginia Department of Transportation already has suffered massive budget cuts that have gutted highway construction and maintenance programs. While some of the state’s \$1 billion in federal stimulus funds is going for highway projects, it isn’t enough to stem a backlog of needed maintenance, said Thomas L. Fitzgerald, Virginia section President.

Asked if something catastrophic such as a bridge collapse or dam break could happen in Virginia, Jake A. Keller, a National Technical Director of Civil Engineering for Parsons Brinckerhoff in Norfolk who headed up the roads portion of the report card, replied, “It hasn’t happened, yet. We want to act before anything happens. To wait is not acceptable.”

By coming out with a public report card, the non-profit engineers group said it hopes to start a dialog with the state’s policy makers.

To improve infrastructure, Fitzgerald says Virginia needs a sustained source of funding. User fees, public-private partnerships and the use of innovative technology to affect demand for some assets could all be tapped in coming up with a funding solution, he said. To see a summary of the report card, visit www.ascevirginia.org/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/21/Summary%20Sheet2.pdf. A full report with complete source citation will be available in January.

It’s Your Responsibility To Vote On Nov. 3

You and your employees will be electing a new Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and all 100 members of the House of Delegates on November 3. To quote the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, “If you choose wisely and elect pro-business candidates, the 2010 General Assembly could jumpstart this stalled economy.”

The web site of Virginians For Better Transportation features a good analysis of the races and what is at stake. Visit www.itstimevirginia.org.

Virginia FREE is another excellent resource to help you choose wisely. One tool is a listing of legislators’ pro-business scores and how they voted on issues important to business during the 2009 Session. Go to www.virginiafree.org.

Your future is at stake. Vote!

Maintenance Funding Shortfall: \$461 Million Annually

The Code of Virginia requires the Virginia Department of Transportation to report, by September 15th of each odd-numbered year, on the condition of and needs for maintaining and operating the existing surface transportation infrastructure based on an asset management methodology.

“VDOT recently submitted its second Biennial Report on the Condition of and Investment Needed to Maintain and Operate the Existing Surface Transportation Infrastructure for FY 2011 and FY 2012.” View the entire report at http://vtcaonline.com/images/uploads/Biennial_Needs_Report_2009.pdf.

The report provides updates on the condition and performance of the VDOT-maintained portion of Commonwealth’s transportation infrastructure, as well as new information on the condition of locally maintained roads and bridges. The report provides detailed information on estimated investment needs to maintain and operate the existing VDOT maintained network, the standards on which those needs are based and methods used to conduct the needs assessment.

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Dedicated to advancing the interests of the transportation construction industries.

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A monthly publication of the
Virginia Transportation
Construction Alliance

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Welcome To Our New Member

Hirschler Fleischer, PC

The law firm of Hirschler Fleischer includes the Practice Areas of Business, Real Estate and Litigation. The firm embraces a passion for the practice of law that engenders a commitment from their attorneys and staff to provide creative and practical solutions for their clients and the community.

The attorneys below who will be active in VTCA focus on public-private partnerships, land use and related legislative issues. Visit www.hf-lw.com to learn more.

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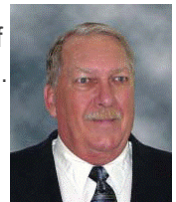
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Ryan & Wetmore, PC has been honored as one of the top 50 accounting firms in the metropolitan Washington, DC region by the Washington Business Journal. "We're honored to be in such distinguished company," said Peter Ryan, CPA, a founder and partner. "Over the past year, both our staff and client base have grown significantly. We attribute this increase to the dedication of our personnel, our continued commitment to incomparable customer service, and our comprehensive host of accounting and management consulting services that help clients grow their businesses, manage their finances and achieve profitability."

TransCon Supply is pleased to announce the launch of its web site. Visit www.transconsupply.com. TransCon is a one-stop shop for a variety of construction related materials, products and services for the transportation construction and energy transmission industries. Contact Larry Thomas, VP and General Manager, at larry.thomas@conmatgroup.com or 866-419-9747.

Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) is pleased to announce that James A. Sabo, PE has joined the Richmond, Virginia office as a Senior Associate in the Construction Management Division. Jim's responsibilities will include management and marketing of JMT's construction management and inspection services in Virginia. Jim brings more than 40 years of professional experience in the area of construction engineering. Jim can be reached at 804-323-9900, jsabo@jmt.com.



Austin Brockenbrough & Associates is pleased to announce relocation to a new LEED facility. Please update your *VTCA Directory of Members*:

Austin Brockenbrough & Associates, LLC
1011 Boulder Springs Drive
Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23225
Phone: 804-592-3900

In Memoriam

Patricia McCaslin Brooks, **P.D. Brooks Co., Inc.**, passed away on October 5 at the age of 74. A devoted wife and loving mother, Mrs. Brooks is survived by her husband, Paschal D. Brooks, Jr., and three children – Sarah Brooks Sprouse, George H. Brooks and Paschal D. Brooks, III. A memorial service was held on October 9 at Dover Baptist Church in Manakin Sabot, VA.

VTCA Winter Meeting January 30 – February 4 In Palm Springs

Most of us are concerned not only about equipping our companies to survive the economic downturn, but also to be positioned to prosper as the economy recovers. That is the focus of the 2010 VTCA Winter Meeting.

We have put together educational sessions that will give you fresh ideas and useful tools. Industry leaders will spark your creative thinking. You'll be challenged to action. You'll take away solid information that can make a difference for your business. Whether you are a contractor, producer, consultant or supplier, there is something for you in the program:

- ✍ Best Practices For You and Your Business — Seven Things To Focus On
- ✍ Construction Markets Update — What You Need To Know
- ✍ Making Public Affairs and Community Relations Work For Your Company
- ✍ Off Road Engine Emissions Standards: Is Heavy Equipment Retrofit Coming To Virginia?
- ✍ Building the Mega Project: The L.A. Metro East-Side Extension
- ✍ The 2010 General Assembly — “Will Someone Please Fund Transportation?”

Following two very successful Winter Meetings on the east coast, your Winter Meeting Committee selected The Miramonte Resort & Spa in Palm Springs, California for 2010. Check it out at www.miramonteresort.com.

We are working very hard to make it beneficial to attend. The registration fees have not increased over 2009 and air fare is convenient and affordable. Look for the brochure to arrive in your mailbox and be up on our web site in early November.

Laura and I truly look forward to seeing you in California!



Gerry Hargis
R. R. Dawson Bridge Company



Lunchbox Seminar - Tax Planning Update December 1

Hear the latest insight from industry experts on tax savings strategies for you to use as 2009 draws to a close. Don't be too late to take advantage of current tax laws before they change.

This VTCA members only seminar, offered in cooperation with **Brown, Edwards and Company**, will provide the latest information and insight helping you refine your year-end 2009 tax planning strategy with the latest tax information. Program highlights include:

- Retirement plan changes - The IRS has changed rules regarding 401(k) contributions – what are the new rules and how will they affect you, your employees, and company?
- Energy credits - What you need to know about the recently implemented energy credits – sorting fact from fiction.
- And more valuable advice just in time to finalize your tax year strategy.

The Lunchbox Seminar will be held in the VTCA Past Presidents Conference Center in Richmond from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on December 1.

If you wish to attend the Lunchbox Seminar please register online at www.vtca.org or fill out the printable registration form and submit it along with your payment to VTCA. Space is limited to 20 participants so register early. Fax registration forms are accepted to reserve your spot.

Please contact VTCA's Stephanie Rusnak at stephanie@vtca.org with any questions.

VDOT Special Notice

The October 27 advertisement contains only the Slurry Seal and Surface Treatment projects for the Staunton District. Chief Engineer Mal Kerley has decided to delay the advertisement of the Slurry Seal and Surface Treatment projects in the remaining Districts until November 10, 2009 with the receipt of bids due on December 23, 2009.

The statewide Plant Mix projects will be advertised on December 8th with the receipt of bids due on January 27, 2010.

Please note that the DBE goals are now listed with the other pertinent information on the project information page, instead of on a separate DBE goals page.

The October 27 advertisement is available on VDOT's web site at www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/const/1009saaps.pdf.

VDOT Announces Changes To Reflective Sheeting and Pavement Marking Requirements – Comments Requested

Two new draft specifications have been released to industry for comments related to Section 246 of the *Road and Bridge Specifications* affecting temporary wet reflective pavement marking and Section 247 increasing the standard for reflective sheeting on temporary barrels, drums as well as permanent signs. VDOT has agreed to delay their original implementation date of the new Section 247 language by one year (January 2011) and has given the industry until December 11, 2009 to provide comments. Your review of these changes is strongly encouraged and your feedback is important.

A summary of the proposed changes as well as the proposed specification language is available at <http://tiny.cc/SpecChg246247>. Please take a moment to review the proposed specification and submit your comments to Tom Witt at VTCA no later than December 4, 2009.

VDOT Extends Legal Load Truck Certifications

As a result of VDOT's restructuring efforts and the subsequent reduction in staff, the Materials Division is modifying the Bonded Weigh Program; VDOT will no longer provide the service of certifying a truck's legal load limit.

During recent meetings with VDOT to discuss the impact of this decision, the Department agreed to consider removing contractual language that created the need for the program. However, because details are still being developed and the staff positions that performed the certification function no longer exist, VDOT has issued a guidance letter that allows the extension of any VDOT legal load certification for an individual truck that has or is set to expire prior to December 31, 2009.

The Department has stated that it is their goal to have any modifications to the bonded weigh program finalized by January 2010. VTCA is maintaining regular dialog with the Materials Division on this issue and other related changes and will report the details as they develop. If you have questions or comments please contact VTCA's Sam Hollins or Tom Witt.

OSHA Changes Position On Shear Connector Installation

OSHA has released a directive rescinding their de minimis policy on the use of pre-installed shear connectors during steel erection that has been in effect since 2002. In 2002 a review of the new steel erection standards and follow-up discussions with OSHA by FHWA and others resulted in OSHA offering relief to highway bridge construction activities. The FHWA and OSHA concurred that with 100 percent conventional fall protection for all workers, including those installing connectors and decking above 15 feet (trigger height), the presence of the shop-installed shear connectors on the steel beams would only be considered a de minimis violation of the standard. (De minimis violations are those that have no direct or immediate relationship to safety or health. Citations are not issued for de minimis violations.)

The de minimis policy adopted by OSHA in 2002 will continue to apply where the component was fabricated with shear connectors or other similar devices prior to September 30, 2009, or where the contract date for fabrication of the component with factory-installed shear connectors or other similar devices was prior to September 30, 2009. In all other instances the rescission of the de minimis language is effective as of September 30, 2009.

VTCA is working closely with ARTBA to determine the details of how this change in OSHA policy developed and will update you on how and when it will affect VOSH and VDOT requirements.

VDOT Gets Good FY 2009 Report Card

For fiscal year 2009 (ended June 30) VDOT again met or exceeded all of its on time and on budget performance goals. Added to 2007, this is the second time in the agency's history that all of those targets were met or exceeded.

For the fiscal year, 82 percent of all construction and maintenance contracts were completed both on time and within budget. VDOT also surpassed the statewide construction quality compliance goal with a 92.5 percent rating.

Eighty-six percent of maintenance contracts were completed on time in Fiscal Year 2009 and 96 percent were completed within budget. Additionally, 84 percent of construction contracts were completed on time and 87 percent were completed within budget.

"These numbers are a reflection of VDOT and private sector (consultants and contractors) hard work and dedication to the citizens of the Commonwealth," said Commissioner David S. Ekern. "Even in these uncertain times when we must reduce services and make cuts, we are still committed to deliver good value for taxpayer investments in transportation and to provide citizens with the safest possible transportation system."

To view the quarterly report cards, visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/info/ctb-qtrlyrpt.asp>.

VTrans2035 Update

The Commonwealth of Virginia is currently updating its statewide long-range multimodal transportation plan, known as VTrans2035. VTrans2035 will examine the accomplishments of VTrans2025, the current statewide long-range multimodal transportation plan that was completed in 2004. As part of the process, the new plan will:

- ◆ Review accomplishments since VTrans2025. (Fall 2008)
- ◆ Examine socioeconomic trends and forecasts. (Fall 2008)
- ◆ Explore the long-term viability of the motor fuels tax. (Fall 2008)
- ◆ Explore through a series of issue papers transportation policy trends and choices in the following areas: safety, system preservation, freight, mobility, accessibility/connectivity, land use, regionalism, economic development, technology, congestion and environment. (Spring/Summer 2009)
- ◆ Inventory and integrate existing modal agency plans. (Summer 2009)
- ◆ Examine the characteristics and deficiencies in significant statewide corridors, and identify strategies to improve movement through and between them. (Summer 2009)
- ◆ Determine the economic impact of the transportation investment. (Fall 2009)
- ◆ Examine the adequacy of transportation funding. (Fall 2009)
- ◆ Include extensive public and stakeholder involvement. (Ongoing)

A draft report for VTrans2035 is available on the web (www.vtrans.org) for review and comment starting the week of November 2 and ending November 30.

Daimler Recalls 25,000+ Trucks With Caterpillar C15 engines

Daimler Trucks North America is recalling more than 25,300 MY 2004-2010 trucks equipped with Caterpillar C15 engines because of the risk of an oil leak. The variable valve actuation oil line may rub against the P-clips retaining the oil line, leading to an oil leak, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported.

The trucks affected by the recall are the Freightliner Argosy, Freightliner Century Class, Freightliner Columbia, Freightliner Coronado, Freightliner FLD, Sterling A-Line, Sterling L-Line, Western Star 4900 and Western Star 6900.

Safety Seminar Registration Now Online

Registration information for the annual VTCA Safety Seminars, scheduled for December 1st and 2nd in Richmond and Roanoke respectively, is now online. The Richmond seminar will be held at the Double Tree Hotel, Richmond Airport and the Roanoke location will be The Holiday Inn Roanoke Valley View.

Despite these tough economic times, all producers must remember the value in continued training/education in the safety and health fields for their key employees. Contractors should also recognize this as a great opportunity to meet a large portion of their annual MSHA Part 46 refresher training requirements. Don't miss out on this great opportunity. Register today!

New Hours For DMME Charlottesville

To reduce operating costs, the Charlottesville office of the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) has begun new hours of operation. The hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.

DMME's Division of Geology and Mineral Resources (DGMR) and Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) work from the Charlottesville offices. Services provided from these offices include mineral mine reclamation and safety services, mine permit and license application drop-offs, and miner certification training and examinations.

The new office hours DO NOT affect the responsibility of mine operators to immediately contact DMME mineral mine inspectors in the event of a mine emergency.

Office Location: Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Fontaine Research Park
900 Natural Resources Drive
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Telephone: Division of Geology and Mineral Resources
Phone: 434-951-6341; Fax: 434-951-6366
Division of Mineral Mining
Phone: 434-951-6310; Fax: 434-951-6325

If you have any questions concerning the new schedule of operation, please contact the numbers listed above.

Environmental Committee Takes Field Trip



The Aggregate Producer Environmental Committee's fall quarterly meeting was held at Kyanite Mining in Buckingham, VA. The meeting consisted of a tour of Kyanite's recently completed reclamation work at their Baker Mountain site, followed by a visit to the active site, the Willis Mountain Plant. This was a great opportunity for the committee to get together in an outdoor environment and learn about one of the state's unique mining operations.

Lunchbox Seminar On Blasting – Register Now!

Registration for the season's first VTCA Lunchbox Seminar is now online! This seminar will focus on blasting seismic principles, including a segment on recent changes to the safety and health regulation and a Q&A session with staff members of the Division of Mineral Mining (DMM). This will be a great opportunity to get answers to your questions pertaining to those changes.

The seminar is set for November 10 at the DMM office in Charlottesville. The program will run from 10:00 – 12:30 and lunch will be included. Go to VTCA's web site to register or contact Sam Hollins, at sam@vtca.org, with questions.

VAST Conference Preparation Continues

VTCA's Aggregate Producers continue to actively participate in the Virginia Association of Science Teachers' annual conference. The conference takes place November 5 – 7 in Dulles Airport Hilton Hotel. Last minute preparations are underway.

One of the tasks is the preparation of 500 rock sample kits. It requires filling hundreds of small plastic bags with various samples from our members around the state, then putting them into larger totes that teachers take back to their classrooms. It is not a glorious job. Many thanks to members of the Operations Committee for getting the job done.



ARTBA Announces 2009-2010 Officers

On October 6 Larry C. Tate, Worldwide Product Manager for Quarry & Construction Trucks and Wheel Tractor Scrapers of Caterpillar Inc., was elected 2009-2010 Chairman of ARTBA. Tate joined Caterpillar in 1981. He has served in a variety of ARTBA leadership positions, including Senior Vice Chairman, First Vice Chairman and Central Region Vice Chairman. As co-chair of the 2007 Long Range Planning Committee, Tate helped develop expanded programs and services to benefit ARTBA members.

Several VTCA members were also elected to the association's executive committee:

- ◆ Bill Cox, President of Corman Construction, will serve as Senior Vice Chairman
- ◆ Steve Wright of Wright Brothers Construction will serve as Southern Region Vice Chairman
- ◆ Jeff Southard, Executive Vice President of VTCA, will serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Jeff was also elected by his peers to chair the ARTBA Council of State Executives. The executives of each state chapter meet regularly to share information and build consensus on national transportation issues. Congratulations, Jeff.

VTCA Member Bill Cox Joins DC Rally For Transportation Bill

VTCA member and ARTBA Senior Vice Chairman Bill Cox, president & CEO of Corman Construction, spoke at an October 28 Washington, DC rally calling for prompt action on a robust multi-year highway and transit program authorization bill. The "Start Us Up USA" event was organized by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers and the Associated Equipment Distributors.

Representing the ARTBA/AGC co-chaired Transportation Construction Coalition, Cox told attendees "Continued uncertainty at the federal and state level about future transportation investments makes it very difficult for contractors to make capital investment decisions."

Speakers were joined by House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) who told the assembled industry workers and media about his continuing efforts to deliver a multi-year reauthorization bill that puts Americans back to work. Photos of Cox, Oberstar, and other participants are available on the TCC web site at www.transportationconstructioncoalition.org.

2008 Work Zone Crash Statistics

Work zone crash data analysis for 2008 has been completed. In Virginia in 2008 there were:

2013 crashes, an 11.2% decrease from 2007

1001 injuries, a 9.2% decrease

7 fatalities, a 36.5 % decrease

While the decrease in the numbers is rewarding, remain vigilant in teaching and preaching work zone safety to your employees, your friends and your family. Remember, it is most often the motorist that is killed in a work zone fatality. In 2008 five of the seven killed were motorists.

There are many resources on the internet to help you with your work zone safety program. Start with www.workzonesafety.org – The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse.

Additional data on Virginia's 2008 incidents, such as analysis by District, by type of roadway, by age, etc. is available from Jan Morehead at VTCA.

Keeping Teens Safe In Our Work Zones

Kathy Hinson of **A. Morton Thomas & Associates** presented the "VTCA/VDOT High School Work Zone Safety Awareness Presentation" to 210 students at Dinwiddie High School on October 13. Kathy reports that the day went well and student participation was great.

We continue to encourage VTCA members to get involved and make our presentation. If you have kids in high school, just call their Health/PE/Driver's Ed teacher(s) to set it up. We will give you everything you need! Contact Jan at the VTCA office to learn more.

Bridges To Baghdad

Rear Admiral Charles R. Kubic, CEC, USN (Ret.) is the father of VTCA member Andy Kubic. Andy is with **Ammann & Whitney**. Rear Admiral Kubic has written a book titled "Bridges to Baghdad – The U.S. Navy Seabees in the Iraq War." We thought Blue Top readers might find the book of interest. Here is a portion of the press release announcing the book.

The Navy Seabees are America's premier expeditionary construction force. During Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in 2003, they stormed into Iraq alongside the First Marine Expeditionary Force. Under division-level command of Rear Admiral Chuck Kubic, the Seabees maneuvered, built, and fought their way to Baghdad.

Marines and Seabees faced one of the world's harshest environments and advanced against some of the fiercest adversaries they had encountered since Vietnam. During this intense campaign, Seabees carried out their primary missions to build bridges and roads along the attack route, and to conduct Civil Military Operations in the face of a cunning, often hidden enemy. They built military bridges during the historic march to Baghdad and cultural bridges during the subsequent reconstruction of a liberated Iraq. These Navy "builders and fighters" raised the bar of the legendary "Can Do!" tradition set by their WWII forefathers.

Bridges to Baghdad tells the story of the "fighting Seabees" and their role in the Iraq War, focusing upon their individual experiences from the time they "snuck" into Kuwait in the fall of 2002 through their redeployment to Iraq as part of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II in 2004. Bridges to Baghdad also recounts the Seabees' operations at the command level from the perspective of their commander, Rear Admiral Kubic, including the story of the creation and employment of a new division-level organization, the First Marine Expeditionary Force Engineer Group. This was the first Naval Expeditionary Engineer formation of its kind since World War II.

Bridges to Baghdad is available at www.seabeesmuseumstore.org for \$34.95. All proceeds are donated to the Seabee Historical Foundation to support the construction of the new Navy Seabee Museum.

Maintenance Funding Shortfall

Continued from Page 1

Based on updated data and expanded use of the modeling approach, the maintenance investment needs for the biennium are approximately \$3.784 billion, or \$1.885 billion and \$1.899 billion for FY 2011 and FY 2012 respectively.

The gap between the program budget and the FY 2011 and FY 2012 needs is approximately \$923 million, or approximately \$461.5 million annually.

May we suggest you contact your state Senator and Delegate and ask them what they plan to do about this? Use VTCA's policy statement on the transportation funding crisis for ammunition: www.vtca.org.

Tired of Paying Excessive Healthcare Premiums?

Jay Dew & Associates, VTCA's endorsed insurance agency has helped businesses tame their health insurance costs:

- ★ An employer with 2 employees saved \$19,000 per year!
- ★ An employer with 25 employees saved \$79,000 per year!
- ★ An employer with 300 employees saved \$225,000 per year!

Ask **Jay Dew & Associates** how they did it! Call 800-234-7817 and ask for Jay Dew or e-mail jaydew@jaydew.com.



VTCA Office Closed

The men and women of America's armed forces are working to sustain freedom and democracy. We salute our veterans and those now serving. The VTCA office will be closed November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

The office will also be closed November 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

