

BLUE TOP



THE VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION CONSTRUCTION ALLIANCE

October 2010

VDOT Audit Results Will Put \$1 Billion Into Projects

The results of an independent audit of the Virginia Department of Transportation identified over \$1 billion in unallocated federal and state contingency funds. The bulk of the money comes from three sources:

- (1) about \$400 million had accumulated in construction and maintenance accounts;
- (2) an additional \$654 million in federal money was never allocated to any projects or can be reallocated from projects that did not advance or were not closed out in a timely manner;
- (3) \$200 million in federal reserves.

VDOT will advertise \$800-\$900 million of maintenance and construction projects by December 31, 2010. In addition, VDOT will advertise and award 261 projects in the Six-Year Program totaling \$471 million dollars between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011.

As a part of this effort VDOT is developing \$450 million in paving- and maintenance-related projects to close the gap between available allocations and awarded contracts. Over \$200 million of contracts are under development now. The remaining \$250 million will be under contract by the spring of 2011.

Governor McDonnell said he intends to infuse more money in to transportation in the 2011 legislative session and that the audit can help “restore more confidence in legislators to invest in transportation.” According to McDonnell, “Our problems are far greater than a one-time \$1.5 billion investment. Our needs today total tens of billions of dollars.”

The audit’s more than 50 recommendations to accelerate project planning and delivery include:

- Tailoring approval practices to match the complexity of a project;
- Designating certain projects for state funding only to speed completion by avoiding federal red tape;
- Improving internal communications and monitoring practices;
- Increasing preliminary engineering funding to develop more “ready-to-go” projects;
- Revise reserve policies to reduce from a 5.5-month reserve to a 60-day reserve (\$200 million);
- Converting \$400 million in credits that it receives from the federal government for maintaining toll roads into money it can use as state matches for federal projects. That will free up state money for other projects;
- Actively monitor the district spend plans and budgets to spend all available funds;
- Implement a risk-based approach that would shorten the project development process by simplifying the rules on smaller, low-risk projects;
- Shorten the procurement time for obtaining consultant engineers.

The Governor has charged Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton to develop a comprehensive implantation plan within 45 days.

View the complete copy of the audit at: http://vtcaonline.com/images/uploads/CBH_Performance_Audit_Report_for_VDOT.pdf.

Dedicated to advancing the interests of the transportation construction industries.

Dialogue With The Northern Virginia District

On November 16 VTCA will host a "Dialogue with the Northern Virginia District." The senior VDOT staff will meet with VTCA members to discuss doing business in the District. Topics include:

- ✦ Organizational Structure and Staffing
- ✦ District Construction Program
- ✦ District Maintenance Program
- ✦ Anticipated Consultant Procurement
- ✦ 2011 Paving Schedule
- ✦ Contractor Performance Evaluation
- ✦ District PPTAs
- ✦ Locally Administered Projects

If you have specific topics you would like discussed, please send them to Jan Morehead at the VTCA office. You are also encouraged to submit questions in advance, which will be presented anonymously to VDOT panelists throughout the day.

The half-day Dialogue will be held at the Marriott Fairfax at Fair Oaks. Visit www.vtca.org for complete details and to register.

A block of rooms has been reserved for those who wish to arrive on November 15. Call Marriott Reservations at 1-800-228-9290 and ask for the VTCA rate of \$99.00. The block of rooms is guaranteed through October 25.

Transportation Construction Management Institute February 16-25, 2011

The prestigious Transportation Construction Management Institute (TCMI) will be held February 16 through the 25 at Virginia Tech.

Designed specifically for transportation construction industry professionals, TCMI 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. The 2011 Institute will add a special emphasis to the curriculum focusing on the preparation and management of Design-Build contracts and insightful information on building and maintaining a safe working culture for your organization.

During these difficult times the importance of highly skilled managers is more important than ever. Join the elite corps of VTCA and VDOT graduates. Mark your calendars now, online registration will be open soon and space is limited.

Welcome To Our New Member

Chesapeake Electrical Systems, Inc.
CES is a full service electrical contractor with a focus on highway lighting, traffic signalization, ITS and airfield lighting.

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Phone: 301-206-5020
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President: Joseph P. Tominovich
Vice President: Tim Harlow
Project Manager: Charles Tamayo

In Memoriam

Chris Bucher, Senior Vice President of **Shirley Contracting Company**, passed away suddenly September 4 at the age of 51. Funeral services were held September 8 in Leesburg. Chris was a former VTCA Board member and long-time colleague. He was a 1982 graduate of Virginia Tech. We ask that you keep his wife Sherry and his daughters Mackenzie and Madison in your thoughts. In memory of Chris you may make a donation of John Hopkins Oncology, 1650 Orleans St., CRB-1,186, Baltimore, MD 21231, Attention Hatim Husain.

Ed Nance, Chairman of **Nance Corp.**, passed away on September 15. Born in 1927, Mr. Nance graduated from Virginia Tech in 1950. He established Nance Corporation in 1960 and grew the company into a well-respected supplier of aggregate and industrial equipment. Ed was known for his integrity, innovative approaches and most of all his sincere interest in other people. A memorial service was held at River Road Presbyterian Church in Richmond on September 17. We ask that you keep his wife, his daughter and his extended family in your prayers. In memory of Mr. Nance, memorial contributions to River Road Presbyterian Church are suggested.

Proposed PPTA Manual Available For Comment

Virginia has developed draft Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA) Implementation Manual and Guidelines. The document provides guidance for project development and implementation processes for both solicited and unsolicited PPTA projects, and proactively identifies, assesses and delivers the Commonwealth's priority transportation projects in a consistent, transparent, timely and cost effective manner.

The Commonwealth's PPTA process was reviewed in March 2010. Input has since been solicited from stakeholders and representatives from the Commonwealth's transportation departments - the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and representatives from the Office of General Counsel and external legal advisors.

Over the next 30 days, the public can provide comments and suggestions on the document via email to PPTAcomments@virginia.gov. VDOT will host a webinar 1 to 2 p.m. eastern standard time on October 15, 2010, to provide an overview of the draft and a question and answer period.

For more information or to view the draft PPTA Implementation Manual and Guidelines visit VDOT's web site at <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ppta-default.asp> and the Secretary of Transportation's web site at <http://www.transportation.virginia.gov/>.

Are You An OSHA 10 or 30-Hour Class Instructor? Are Your Teaching Credentials Current?

OSHA 500 instructors must renew their teaching credentials every four years. If you have not taken an OSHA 500 or 502 course in the past four years, you will not be permitted to teach 10 or 30-hour OSHA courses.

The American Road & Transportation Builders Association, in partnership with the National Resource Center for OSHA Training, is now offering Course #502: Update for Construction Industry Outreach Trainers. This course focuses on the heavy and highway segment of the industry. This ensures that your training will be relevant to the types of hazards you and your fellow workers face each day. The course will be held in Washington, DC October 26 - 28, 2010. Details are available online at www.artba.org.

VDOT Wins Two National Awards. VTCA Members Designed And Built The Projects

VDOT has won two awards in America's Transportation Awards' southeastern regional competition. Sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The competition honors America's very best transportation projects. The winning projects were:

Battlefield Boulevard in Chesapeake
Prime Contractor: **E.V. Williams**
Lead Designer: **Kimley-Horn & Associates**
CEI: **McDonough, Bolyard and Peck**

Jeremy's Run in Staunton
Prime Contractor: **General Excavation**
Bridge Subcontractor: **Fairfield-Echols**
Lead Designer: **HDR Engineering**

The Top Ten winners from regional competitions will compete for the Grand Prize and People's Choice Awards. To learn more visit www.americastransportationaward.org.

Supreme Court Decision Affects VDOT Contractors

On September 16 the Virginia Supreme Court issued an opinion that affirmed in part, and reversed in part, a decision issued by the Virginia Court of Appeals in June 2009 in the case of AMEC Civil, v. Commonwealth of Virginia. The opinion contains critical guidance for contractors working on VDOT projects in the areas of required notices of intent to file claims, what constitutes a differing site condition, and how to price claims.

A summary prepared by Pat Genzler of VTCA member **Vandeventer Black** is available online at http://vtcaonline.com/images/uploads/AMEC_vs_VDOT_Case_Summary.pdf.

VTCA-VDOT Consultant Forum Focuses On The Future

Highlighted by VDOT Commissioner Greg Whirley's detailed discussion on the previous day's release of the VDOT audit report (see cover story), over 300 consultants, VDOT staff and local government attendees gained valuable insight into VDOT's future at the September 24 Consultant Forum.

The Forum included excellent presentations:

- Thelma Drake, Director of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, discussed DRPT's efforts and plans to advance rail transportation in Virginia.
- Alison Premo Black, ARTBA economist, revealed insightful national industry economic projections and the latest update on efforts to push Federal Reauthorization
- Irene Rico, the Federal Highway Administration's Virginia Division Administrator, unveiled the "Every Day Counts" campaign.
- Former VDOT Commissioners Hal King, David Gehr and Philip Shucet provided their perspectives on where VDOT and the consultant industry need to focus in order to strengthen Virginia's Transportation program for the long term.
- A panel of representatives from Virginia Tech, George Mason and the University of Virginia provided valuable forward-looking insight on Virginia's transportation program from higher education's point of view.



The presentations from the Forum are available on VTCA's web site, www.vtca.org/resources/events/type/vtca_-_vdot_consulant_forum_2010/.

Many Thanks To Our Forum Sponsors

A. Morton Thomas and Associates
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Engineering Scholarship Awards

The Engineering Consultant Leadership Committee awarded \$2,000 scholarships to two deserving Virginia Tech Engineering students at this year's Consultant Forum. For the second year in a row Patrick Carter has been awarded a scholarship by VTCA's engineers. Patrick is double majoring in Aerospace Engineering and Classical Studies and is anticipating completing his degrees in 2012. Patrick Joyce is this year's second recipient. He is a junior in the Civil Engineering program. In addition to notable extracurricular activities he maintains a 3.97 GPA.

Both students attended the Forum, accompanied by their mentors Gary Johnson, **RK&K** and Brad Stipes, **Whitman, Requardt & Associates**.

The VTCA Transportation Engineering Scholarship awarded its first scholarship in 2003 and to date has given over \$20,000 to deserving engineering students in Virginia.



Commissioner Whirley, Patrick Carter, Brad Stipes



Commissioner Whirley, Patrick Joyce, Gary Johnson

2010 VTCA Engineering Awards

VTCA is proud to announce the winners of the 2010 VTCA Engineering Awards program. This program recognizes outstanding transportation design work by VTCA members for projects managed and performed in Virginia.

Submissions are judged and are awarded in two main categories. There is also one Grand Prize winner.

Projects Smaller than \$10 Million, VDOT

A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. for the Route 340 Bridge over Jeremy's Run, Page County, VA



Projects Greater than \$10 Million, VDOT

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB) for Gilberts Corner Roundabouts, Loudon County, VA



Grand Prize

Austin Brockenbrough & Associates, LLP for Design and Construction Administration of the I-95 Southbound Safety Rest Area & Welcome Center, Fredericksburg, VA



Down The Road

For details on VTCA-sponsored events, visit the VTCA Calendar tab online at www.vtca.org.

October 5: Basic Belt Drive Principles, Charlottesville

October 8: VTCA Dialogue with the Hampton Roads District of VDOT, Newport News

October 8: ESCCC, Roanoke

October 14: The Old Dominion Section of the American Society of Highway Engineers (ASHE) is offering a lunch program from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the VDOT Central Office Auditorium in Richmond. The topic is the Huguenot Bridge Replacement Project, presented by VDOT's Russell Martin, PE, Structural Coordinator for the project. This seminar is worth 1 Professional Development Hour (PDH). Please visit www.asherichmond.org for more information.

November 12: ESCCC, Richmond

November 16: Dialogue with the Northern Virginia District, Fairfax

February 3-6, 2011: VTCA Winter Meeting, The Mansion on Forsyth Park Savannah, Georgia

Status Of Mine Safety Reform Legislation

The U.S. House of Representatives' "Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act of 2010" (H.R. 5663), which was reported out of committee without including aggregates and other surface mining as well as all sectors of non-flammable gassy underground mining, is not yet scheduled for consideration by the full House. With the House adjourning a week earlier than anticipated and with so many Democratic members in tight elections, the question of whether the House leadership will schedule such a controversial bill (which includes OSHA reform provisions opposed by many business and industry voices), is unlikely.

In the Senate, a Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee staff working group has been drafting that chamber's version of mine safety legislation. Various NSSGA members and Government Affairs staff have met with all the members or staff of the HELP committee to continue the education process and urge targeting of the Senate bill toward the worst offenders and the greatest risks.

In an unusual surprise move on September 28th, West Virginia Democratic senators John Rockefeller and Carte Goodwin attempted to move the Act by unanimous consent. Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), senior Republican on the HELP committee, objected to the unanimous consent request saying that he felt negotiations were progressing on a bipartisan bill until talks were cut off. Regarding the lame duck agenda, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's staff told NSSGA last week that there were many items on that agenda (jobs and the economy), making it unlikely that the Mine bill would come up.

A sincere "thank you" to all of the VTCA members that reached out to members of Congress in an effort to further educate them on the differences between aggregate and metal/non-metal mining operations versus coal. The success of these efforts is proof that, when contacted and pressed, members of Congress do listen to their constituents!

Southeastern U.S. Mine Safety And Health Conference Coming Up

Effective October 1, 2010 all Virginia mining operations fall under the direction of the Southeastern (SE) District of the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The SE District, led by District Manager Michael A. Davis, is holding the 5th Annual Southeastern US Mine Safety and Health Conference November 3-5, 2010 in Birmingham, Alabama. The Conference will offer speakers and vendors from mining and government addressing current mine safety and health issues. In addition to the knowledge and insight that could be gained from the various sessions, this will offer a great opportunity to meet Mr. Davis and his staff.

Additional information, including registration, can be found at www.southeastmineconf.org. Questions can be directed to Judith Etterer or Sam Pierce at 205-290-7294.

Introducing New NSSGA Environmental Services Director

I'd like to introduce myself as the new Director of Environmental Services at NSSGA. For the past four years I served as Director of Regulatory Issues at the National Lime Association, working primarily on air and greenhouse gas issues. I am a professional geologist with a background in environmental consulting and water issues.

Eventually, I will be the primary liaison to NSSGA's Environmental Committee. As I get up to speed on issues specifically facing the aggregate industry, particularly the Coarse Particulate Matter NAAQS, John Hayden and I will be splitting environmental duties.

Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to assisting you with environmental issues.

Emily W. Coyner, P.G.
Director, Environmental Services, National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association
1605 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
703 526-1064

Safety Seminars

The annual VTCA Safety and Health Safety Seminars have been scheduled:

- ◇ November 30, Doubletree Hotel, Richmond Airport
- ◇ December 1, Holiday Inn Valley View, Roanoke

With many safety and health topics on the agenda, and national speakers from the Vermont chapter of the Associated General Contractors and the Florida Department of Mines, this will be a great opportunity for all individuals involved with safety operations.

Just added is a presentation by Michael Davis, District Manager for the MSHA Southeastern District. With Virginia operations now falling under the Southeastern District, hearing Mr. Davis outline his goals and objectives will be invaluable.

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.

Lunchbox Seminar

VTCA, in cooperation with Applied Industrial Technology and Goodyear, has set October 5 for the next Aggregate Lunchbox Seminar. This seminar will focus on V-belts, timing belts and the proper methods of checking and tensioning. The program will also provide helpful tips on how to maximize the effectiveness of belting applications. Don't miss this opportunity to provide valuable training for those in production/maintenance positions

The seminar at the Department of Forestry in Charlottesville. It will run from 10:00 a.m. to noon with lunch provided. Registration information is online at www.vtca.org. Questions? Contact Sam Hollins, sam@vtca.org.

Aggregate Scholarships Presented

Three students attending universities in Virginia have received a 2010 VTCA Aggregate Scholarship. The scholarships were presented at luncheons honoring the recipients.

In late August Joshua Morris and Matthew Wilkens, both in mining related programs at Virginia Tech, were presented with their scholarships at the Skelton Inn on campus. A site tour of Salem Stone's Acco Plant followed. Thanks go to M.J. O'Brien, President of **Salem Stone**, who sponsored the gathering for the second year.

On September 1 a luncheon was held for Stephanie Strother, a geology major at George Mason University. Ms. Strother, along with several of her professors, met at **Vulcan Materials'** Occoquan Plant for a site tour. That was followed by lunch at nearby Madigan's Restaurant.

Congratulations to all three students on their noteworthy accomplishments!



Left to right: Joshua Morris, Matthew Wilkins



Left to right: Jim Cooper, Vulcan's Occoquan Plant Manager, Stephanie Strother, Tom Brazill, mentor

Luck Stone Receives Grant

Luck Stone Corporation has received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce diesel emissions from heavy equipment at four Virginia plants. Funding from the EPA to Virginia Clean Cities and James Madison University will help launch the first construction repowering project in Virginia to reduce diesel pollution at plants in Richmond, Charlottesville, Leesburg and Burkeville.

EPA's \$710,000 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant, combined with \$1.1 million from Luck Stone, will enable the company to repower or replace 11 off-road vehicles with more efficient diesel engines and generators.

The new engines will result in a 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides and 65 percent reduction in particulate matter for each piece of equipment. Nitrogen oxides and particulate matter are prevalent air pollutants linked to asthma and other respiratory illness. Annually, the project will eliminate 30.85 tons of nitrogen oxide, two tons of particulate matter, 11.93 tons of carbon monoxide, and 2.74 tons of hydrocarbons from being emitted at the four plants. In addition, the project will create about 20 jobs.

BLUE TOP

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Demand for foundation support has led design-build contractor **GeoStructures** to promote some staff and add others:

- Wes Barton, promoted to Foundations Superintendent
- Tim Yezerski, Project Manager
- John Chernitsky, Project Manager
- Stephen Pause, Project Engineer
- Saed Abusaif, who will lead the CAD Department

Congratulations to **Belstar, Inc.** on its 25th anniversary. Belstar extends its appreciation to all of its clients, teaming partners, colleagues and employees for making its silver anniversary possible. Belstar also announces the addition of Frank Gunkelman to its staff. Frank is on the Richmond District Central Construction Inspection Services team. Greg Helmick has been promoted to Senior Structural Inspector on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project. Ali Bitar has completed his Certified Construction Manager (CCM) certification.

After twenty years of dedicated service Don Hillock has retired from **National Capital Industries** as their Sales Manager. Leah, Don's wife had already retired and was coaxing him to move to Maryland's Eastern Shore. After contemplating it for many months Don decided to join the ranks of the retired and spend more time with his family. Bob Speakman is serving as Acting Sales Manager. He can be contacted at 410-644-0300 or bspeakman@natcap.com.

VTCA Office Closed

The VTCA office will be closed October 11 in observance of Columbus Day.

Luck Stone has entered into an agreement to purchase the **Jack L. Massie** Aggregate Distribution Center in Williamsburg. The Massie family is retaining the construction business. Massie will also continue to operate its Mineral Resource Facility and furnish customers with topsoil, screened soil and fill material.

"This acquisition adds significant capacity to our market presence on the peninsula and is a great compliment to our two other distribution yards in the South Hampton Roads region," said John Pullen, Chief Growth Officer for Luck Stone Corporation and President of the construction aggregates division.

Massie wants to concentrate on their core business of construction while providing their aggregate customers with additional resources. "We recognize the value that Luck Stone can add to our aggregate customer base and are responding to our stone customers needs in the market," said Gary Massie, President. He added, "With more than 85 years in the aggregate business, Luck Stone has the ability to provide a greater variety of products, expertise, and quality management."

McLean Contracting Company is pleased to announce the election of Cynthia S. Wray, Treasurer, as an officer of the firm.