

National Association of County Engineers

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NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members & Committee Chairs

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(Note: Sources of information include the AASHTO Journal, NACo staff, Senate and House publications, the Federal Highway Administration, and other association news journals)

Sign Up for the Vancouver (WA) Corridor Safety Showcase Workshop on April 24th at NACE 2008

This is just a reminder of the additional opportunity at the end of NACE 2008 in Portland OR. of this important safety workshop. Visit the Utah LTAP Center website below for more information on the corridor safety workshop.

<http://www.utahltap.org/Services/Workshops/productdemoshowcase/registration/hg1x2.php>

President's Budget Sees Cuts in Transportation

Most transportation programs of importance to counties were cut in the President's FY09 budget. One winner was the Mass Transit program which received an increase, in part, due to recognition of the role transit plays in addressing congestion. The Federal Highway program was cut 4 percent and is below the funding level authorized in the SAFETEA-LU. The cut is in part because the president's budget does not include the extra \$1 million for bridges that was added to the current budget. However, Congress has historically overridden these cuts. As in the past, AMTRAK was reduced from over \$1.3 billion to \$900 million, a cut that takes the federal government out of most passenger rail service. Generally, Congress has rejected major budget cuts to AMTRAK in the past.

REMINDER: CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2008 being held from March 11-15, 2008, in Las Vegas, USA: Visit the NACE Booth located at L-3543 in the Central Lobby www.conexpoconagg.com

CONEXPO-CON/AGG, the largest international trade show in 2008 for the construction industries. CONEXPO-CON/AGG and the co-located IFPE 2008 will be held March 11-15, 2008 at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, USA. The shows will be the international gathering place in 2008 for the construction and motion control industries. One registration allows access to the exhibits of both shows, and advance registration saves money off the on-site fee.

Register online at www.conexpoconagg.com or www.ifpe.com , or via fax or mail. Advance registration closes February 8, 2008. Full information on the show is available online, and attendees can also request a registration brochure with details and registration forms. Downloadable registration forms on the show websites will be available in several languages besides English. For fax and mail registrations, fax numbers are +1-847-940-2386 or toll free North America (800) 521-6017, and mailing address is CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2008 & IFPE 2008 Registration Headquarters c/o Experient, 108 Wilmot Road - Suite 400, Deerfield, Illinois USA 60015-5124.

U. S. Communities Special Announcement: New Contract: Synthetic Turf, Athletic Surfaces, and Related Products and Services

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (“U.S. Communities”) is pleased to announce that Fairfax County Public Schools has awarded General Sports Venue/AstroTurf USA (“GSV/AstroTurf USA”) a contract for Synthetic Turf, Athletic Surfaces and Related Products. The contract became available for use through U.S. Communities on February 1, 2008.

General Sports Venue is an American owned, Minority Business Enterprise that specializes in providing comprehensive and custom solutions to successfully plan, design, build, and finance synthetic sports fields and athletic venues including AstroTurf branded sports turf products and services. The new contract provides broad access to GSV/AstroTurf’s complete line of synthetic turf athletic field products, as well as state-of-the-art track surfaces and Sports Antimicrobial System (SAS) treatments for athletic facilities and locker rooms. Click [here](#) to get more information on the General Sports Venue Synthetic Turf, Athletic Surfaces and Related Products and Services Contract.

GSV/AstroTurf USA CEO, Jon Pritchett and Chairman and President, Michael Dennis were recently featured on Fox Network Business Channel. [To view the interview click here.](#)

Electrical Products Contract Awarded to Graybar Electric

Los Angeles County, California as the Lead Public Agency for U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance has awarded the Electrical Products Contract to Graybar Electric. Graybar electric products have been offered through the U.S. Communities program since January 1998.

Click [here](#) to get more information on the Graybar Electrical Products Contract.

Park and Playground Promotion

Save 14% more on already great product pricing on play system with U.S. Communities’ Park and Playground Contract. Gametime is pleased to present a limited time sales promotion available only through U.S. Communities on PowerScape Plus, PrimeTime and Xscape play systems. This promotion ends on March 14, 2008. For more detailed information download the brochure [here](#).

For a list of all of the U.S. Communities contract offerings please go to www.uscommunities.org.

The AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence announces the release of a new Publication

The Center is pleased to announce the publication of the *Above and Beyond: The Environmental and Social Contributions of America’s Highway Programs*. This report demonstrates the numerous ways transportation agencies are increasingly going “above and beyond” to connect and enhance both communities and the environment to make things better than before – not because it is required, but because it is the right thing to do. The successful practices described in this report describe a few of the many ways transportation agencies are advancing toward sustainable transportation. These initiatives are helping transportation agencies bridge the gap and contribute to the environmental, social, and economic well-being of their communities.

Issues covered in the report include:

- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Historic Preservation
- Recycling
- Clean Air
- Integrating Transportation and Land Use
- Walking and Biking Trails
- Wetlands and Water Quality
- Wildlife Preservation
- Sound Barriers
- Scenic Byways
- Wildflowers and Native Vegetation

The report can be viewed or downloaded from the center website by visiting:

http://environment.transportation.org/center/products_programs/above_beyond.aspx

Beneficial Uses of Industrial Materials Summit Being Held March 31 – April 3, 2008 in Denver.

This conference pertains to the recycling and beneficial use of industrial materials (coal combustion products, construction and demolition debris, slags, scrap tires, etc). Below is a link for the 2008 Beneficial Use of Industrial Materials Summit.

www.beneficialusesummit.com

National Work Zone Awareness Week to be Celebrated April 7 – 11, 2008

The ninth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week will be held April 7-11, 2008. The national kickoff for this event will be held in Sacramento, California. This marks the first time that the kickoff will be held outside the Washington, DC area. If you are planning your own event (and we hope you are) The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse and ARTBA through the Transportation Development Foundation has free and low cost resources. Proceeds from all sales go to the ARTBA Foundation to support scholarships for children of roadway construction workers killed on the job.

http://www.workzonesafety.org/news_events/awareness_week/2008/brochure - link to resources or see below for details.

Work Zone Awareness Safety Ribbons - \$15.00. 1 X 3 in. ribbons made from retroreflective orange tape. Each ribbon is \$1, these are available at 15 ribbons per sheet.

Work Zone Awareness Safety Wristbands - \$2 per unit, and available with a minimum order of 20 units. \$40.00. Wear these orange wristbands to raise awareness of work zone safety and to visibly support our Scholarship fund.

Safety Training Materials - FREE, ARTBA is pleased to offer free safety training programs and products. Through a series of contracts and alliances ARTBA has secured, we have developed these sought after materials and are pleased to provide them to you at no cost (available while supplies last). The materials are:

- [Roadway Safety+ CD](#) (A Road Construction Industry Consortium Training Program) - This includes an instructor manual, trainee booklets in English and Spanish and pamphlets in English and Spanish
- **Safety tool box talk/checklist laminated cards** (various safety and health construction related topics)

- **Distances of Nighttime Visibility card**
- **[Know the Signs Poster](#)** - This poster was created to illustrate the various work zone safety signs that drivers will encounter, it is designed to look like a WZ sign and is 14.5 x 14.5 in.
- **[Brochure for the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse](#)**
- **ARTBA Safety Program Brochure**

To order any of these products visit the ARTBA online store at www.artba.org or contact Christy Woodall at 202-289-4437.

Additional Resource: The National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse, www.workzonesafety.org - new features include a video and audio library to provide you with easy access to archived webinar and conference sessions, a blog focused on work zone safety issues, and you can now sign up to receive free, tailored notices of additions individual sections including, news and events, training and standards and practices. Best of all this information is free and easily accessible. View a video about the Clearinghouse.

National Transportation Week Approaching – May 11 – 17, 2008

As we move into 2008, we want to take this time to thank you everyone for their continued support for the celebration of National Transportation Week (NTW). NTW is a wonderful opportunity for the entire transportation community to come together to promote greater public awareness of transportation and also to encourage youth interest in transportation-related careers

This year, the National Poster Contest for 5th Grade Students will be administered by the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD). Under the leadership of Darlene Trudell, the EDS is one of the largest and oldest multi-disciplinary engineering societies in the country, and represents a multitude of industries and professions within the transportation field. The organization also has a great track record at coordinating educational events targeted toward youth. For more information about the Society, visit <http://www.esd.org>

For the past 10 years, we have seen the poster contest grow from a small contest with a few participating schools to more than 300 schools submitting entries in 2007, the largest contest to date. This contest has been a key component in stimulating the minds of 5th Grade students around the country and raising their awareness of the importance of transportation. Please contact your local school districts to inform them about the poster contest and encourage them to visit the website above and consider forwarding candidate posters. Visit our NTW website at <http://www.ntweek.org/posters/default.htm> for more information about the poster contest and NTW week activities.

Steel Bridge Construction: Myths and Realities – New Publication Available from AISI

NACE corporate member AISI provided the following press release on this subject.

"Steel Bridge Construction: Myths and Realities", an updated fact-based publication that addresses a wide range of topics about steel bridges is now available through a joint effort between the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) and the National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA). For example, did you know that modular prefabricated short-span steel bridges can be permanent

structures? Or that bridge joints are not a prerequisite for steel bridges? Or that advanced high-performance, EPA-approved steel bridge coatings can last more than 25 years? These topics and others are highlighted in the free publication.

"Steel Bridge Construction: Myths and Realities" is a 25-page document that compiles and corrects top myths and misperceptions about the viability of steel in bridge design and construction for a wide range of bridge types.

The report references expert articles and studies from organizations such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), as well as the Strategic Highway Research Program, professional associations, industry analysts and academia.

One such reference refutes the perception that the life expectancy of a steel bridge is shorter than alternative materials. In fact, a 1992 study by Lehigh University analyzed the deterioration rates of the 577,000 bridges listed in the FHWA National Bridge Inventory and concluded that superstructure material type - steel, concrete or other material - was not an indicator of the life expectancy of a bridge. Instead, life expectancy is strongly dependent on a bridge's age and average daily traffic.

The report also includes myth-busting analysis about topics such as the reality of maintenance-free bridges (regardless of material), cost competitiveness of simple-span bridges less than 140 feet in length, the viability of weathering steel, the value of jointless bridge decks, and the availability of simple, more economical bridge bearings.

To download a PDF version of the new AISI "Steel Bridge Construction: Myths and Realities of Steel Bridges" report, go to http://www.steel.org/bridges/Myths_and_Realities.pdf. To order printed copies of the report, visit <http://www.steel.org> and click on "Shop AISI", call 202.752.7100 and ask for item #D432-07 or send an email to mmccrady@steel.org.

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS: WORK ZONES, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, AND WEATHER

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=8632

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2015 includes 15 papers explore issues related to work zones such as speed-activated signs, a variable advisory speed limit system, the use of drone radar, sequential portable changeable message signs, alternative dates for advance notification on portable changeable message signs, worker safety, nighttime construction work zone devices, and crashes. This issue of the TRR also examines pavement markings, including their wet night visibility, retroreflectivity under continuous wetting conditions, temperature sensitivity within a mobile retroreflectometer unit, and finite element modeling of stresses inside a raised pavement marker. In addition, this issue highlights weather-related maintenance issues such as estimating friction coefficients of winter road surfaces, weather effects on crash number and severity, and enhancing road weather information through vehicle-infrastructure integration.

RESEARCH PAYS OFF: SUBSURFACE SITE INVESTIGATIONS WITH CONE PENETRATION TESTING: LOUISIANA DEVELOPS COST-EFFICIENT PROCEDURES FOR BRIDGE PROJECTS

http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs_detail.asp?id=8653

Site investigations identify the soil engineering properties that affect the design and construction of transportation infrastructure. A site investigation commonly costs 1 percent to 5 percent of a total project. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) spends millions of dollars annually on site investigations that require subsurface exploration. Conventional site investigation with soil borings and laboratory testing is expensive and time consuming, and sometimes the procedures require highly skilled and experienced technicians. In situ tests such as the cone penetration test (CPT) or piezocone penetration test (PCPT) are an alternative to laboratory testing. Performed under in situ stresses and boundary conditions, the tests can provide rapid, accurate, and reliable results in assessing the engineering properties of soil. Louisiana DOTD began to implement the CPT technology in the mid-1980s. At first, the technology was limited to identifying elevations of dense sand layers for pile foundations. Since then, the Louisiana Transportation Research Center (LTRC) has conducted several research projects to develop tools and methods for implementing the CPT and mini-CPT technology for other types of Louisiana soils. Based on this research, the Louisiana DOTD now uses CPT technology for soil classification and pile design on more than 80 percent of its recent bridge projects to reduce or supplement standard soil borings. Based on research, the expanded use of CPT technology saves Louisiana DOTD money. For example, the reduction in the number of standard borings saved Louisiana DOTD more than \$1 million on its 18-mile LA-1 elevated bridge construction project and another \$1 million on the reconstruction of the I-10 Twin Span Bridge over Lake Pontchartrain.

2007 INTERACTIVE HIGHWAY SAFETY DESIGN MODEL

<http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs/detail.asp?id=8669>

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released the 2007 version of its Interactive Highway Safety Design Model (IHSDM), which is a suite of software analysis tools for evaluating safety and operational effects of geometric design decisions on two-lane rural highways. IHSDM is a decision-support tool. It checks existing or proposed two-lane rural highway designs against relevant design policy values and provides estimates of a design's expected safety and operational performance.

INTERIM REPORT TO THE U.S. CONGRESS ON THE NONMOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION PILOT PROGRAM SAFETEA-LU SECTION 1807

<http://www.trb.org/news/blurbs/detail.asp?id=8670>

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a report that explores the progress and initial results of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) and the four pilot communities' participation in the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot Program (NTPP) from its inception through May 2007. Section 1807 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), P.L. 109-59, established the NTPP in August 2005. Over the span of 4 years, the legislation provides \$25 million in contract authority for each of the NTPP's four pilot communities (Columbia, Missouri; Marin County, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and Sheboygan County, Wisconsin) "to construct ... a network of nonmotorized transportation infrastructure facilities, including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and pedestrian and bicycle trails, that connect directly with transit stations, schools, residences, businesses, recreation areas, and other community activity centers."