

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)

NACE Safety Initiative Leads to Improvement of Traffic Signs

NACE is launching today an education and companion grant program with NACE corporate member 3M which will aid member counties in replacing traffic signs to meet new federal retroreflectivity standards recently released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Counties will be able to apply for one-time grants to significantly reduce the cost in their effort to improve reflective brightness of traffic signs and meet this important safety standard. The NACE safety grant program, in partnership with 3M, the leading maker of reflective safety products, is designed to assist counties by:

- Building awareness of the new federal minimum reflectivity ruling;
- Providing financial incentive to replace non-compliant signs;
- Educating NACE members on compliance requirements;
- Providing training on sign assessment/management methods;
- Sharing best practices among NACE member counties.

“We are excited to offer our membership the opportunity to be on the leading edge of this change to make our nation’s roadways safer,” said George Webb, NACE President and the County Engineer for Palm Beach County, Florida. “Counties manage the majority of highway miles in this country and a brighter, more reflective sign is a positive step toward improving our roadways for an aging population, especially on rural county roads where the majority fatal and life changing crashes occur.” “Additionally, we are pleased to include an educational website to provide information to our members on the requirements of the new regulatory requirements.”

Each NACE member county will be eligible for one grant to purchase 3M reflective signing material, either fabricated signs or roll sheeting, from participating independent sign fabricators.

NACE enjoys a long history of partnership with industry, government agencies and other associations and had previously partnered with 3M from 2003-2006 in the National Transportation Safety Initiative Program. NACE member counties can learn more about this new grant opportunity by visiting the NACE member exclusive website:

<http://www.minimumreflectivity.org/index.asp>

NACE members can apply for the grant program by visiting the NACE website “Members Only” page at

<http://www.naco.org/NACETemplate.cfm?Section=Members1&Template=/Security/NACELogin.cfm> If you need to obtain your ID and password contact the NACE office at nace@naco.org or call (202) 393-5041.

Reminder for NACE 2008 hotel reservation - Double Tree Lloyd Center, call 800-996-0510 - Deadline: March 25th

You are responsible for making your hotel guest room reservations. The NACE 2008 conference hotel is the Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel, rate of \$113 standard or \$118 premium per night per room, applicable taxes & fees additional. This block will be held until March 25, 2008; after this date room reservations will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis at the discretion of the hotel. For reservations call 800-996-0510 and ask for the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) rate.

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>

Attending CONEXPO 2008? Visit the NACE Booth in the Grand Lobby L-3543

NACE will be exhibiting at CONEXPO 2008 for the 5th time and participating as a Cooperating Association. A delegation of NACE members will visit other exhibitors during the show and staff our booth. If you are attending please drop by to say hello.

American City & County Magazine Announce Nominations for Public Works Director of the Year are due.

Annually American City and County Magazine hosts an award program for County Leader of the Year including a Public Works Director of the Year award. Visit their website for more information on this program.

<http://americancityandcounty.com/news/submit-nominations-/>

The **Public Works Director of the Year** is open to public works directors in any local government in the United States. If no public works director title exists, then the top ranking public works official is eligible. **Due May 5, 2008.** There are no restrictions on who can submit a nomination. Visit <http://americancityandcounty.com/forms/> for complete instructions.

U.S. Department of Transportation Releases Road Maintenance Planning Software Update

The US Department of Transportation (DOT) has released a new version of its software that helps road maintenance managers prepare for winter weather and treat roads affected by snow, sleet or rain. The 5.0 version of the Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS) prototype integrates road weather forecasts, recommended maintenance practices and maintenance resource data to provide managers with strategies for keeping roads open during adverse winter weather. This software is available at their website at <http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/Weather/index.asp>. Contact: Kim Riddle, (202) 366-5128.

Updates Made to FHWA Work Zone Mobility & Safety Website

Recent updates have been made to the FHWA Work Zone Mobility and Safety Web Site. The site, available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/workzones, is a comprehensive source of

These updates include resources related to:

- **Regulation and Policy** (<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/policy.htm>) – Information about the recently published Temporary Traffic Control Devices Final Rule.
- **Accelerated Construction** (<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/construction/accelerated/index.htm>) - New examples and articles about the use of self-propelled modular transporters (SPMTs).
- **Full Road Closure and Lane Closure** (http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/construction/full_rd_closures.htm) – Information added about the use of full closure for road construction on Highway 40 (Interstate 64) in St. Louis and on the M-10 (Lodge Freeway) in Detroit, and information about the use of partial facility closures for a major reconstruction project on the I-279 Fort Pitt Bridge and Tunnel in Pittsburgh. This page also includes a new “highlight box” that will highlight on a rotating basis projects that have successfully used these approaches.
- **Work Zone and Traffic Analysis** (http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/traffic_analysis/wzta.htm) – New section of examples of work zone and traffic analysis, including a report on a study to develop analytical models and procedures for estimating the capacity of a freeway work zone.
- **Work Zone Traffic Management** (http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/traffic_analysis/wztm.htm) – New links to State DOT-developed traffic control guides.

Many new examples have been added to the Work Zone Safety and Mobility Rule section of the web site:

New pages have been added for examples related to:

- **Using Work Zone Data:** Examples from Ohio, Kansas, and Montana
- **Conducting Process Reviews:** Examples from Montana, Colorado, and Kansas

In addition, new examples from several State DOTs were added on:

- **Policy**
- **Training**
- **Significant Projects**
- **Public Information and Outreach**

All Work Zone Rule examples are available at
http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule/examples.htm.

If you have an example to share - about how you developed a transportation management plan (TMP), are defining significant projects, are analyzing work zone data and/or work zone impacts, or are undertaking other work zone management approaches advocated by the Rule - we would like to hear from you. Sharing good practices among agencies is a way to make work zones work better. If your State has an example to share, please send a short write-up, as well as links to relevant web pages or documents, to WorkZoneFeedback@dot.gov.

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.

Access Management Conference to be held July 13 -16, 2008 in Baltimore, MD

The 8th National Conference on Access Management will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, July 13-16, 2008. This biennial conference is designed for planners, engineers, non-profit organizations, and public officials interested in a sustainable approach to improving roadway safety and efficiency. This year's focus will be on "Sustainable Solutions for Transportation." The web site for the conference is: <http://www.accessmanagement.info/conference.html>. For more information contact **Jim McDonnell, P.E.**, Deputy Program Director, Engineering, Phone: (202) 624-5448 E-mail: jimm@ashto.org

2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference – August 26 – 29, 2008

In recognition of today's complex and dynamic work environment, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cold Regions Research Laboratory (CRREL), is pleased to announce the 2008 National Hydraulic Engineering Conference (NHEC). The conference's theme is "*Partnering for Progress in a Changing Environment*," which emphasizes the vital roles of multi-faceted project teams and collaborations in successful project development and implementation. The intent of the conference is to equip participants with additional knowledge and tools to meet current and future challenges in hydraulics engineering through presentations and exhibits focusing on the use of these partnerships in conjunction with current research studies, state-of-the-art technologies, and design approaches.

The 2008 NHEC will be held at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine, from August 26 - 29, 2008. The conference Web site, which includes agenda and registration information, can be accessed from the following Web page:

<http://www.maine.gov/mdot/workshops-conferences-events/workshops-events.php>. In addition to the presentation sessions, the conference will feature a tour of the CRREL Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire. To learn more about this facility, please visit the following Web site: <http://www.crrel.usace.army.mil/>.

If you have any questions, please contact: Cynthia Nurmi, FHWA Hydraulics Engineer, Resource Center-Atlanta at (404) 562-3908, or cynthia.nurmi@fhwa.dot.gov or Eric Brown, FHWA Hydraulics Engineer, Resource Center-Baltimore at (410) 962-3743, or eric.brown@fhwa.dot.gov

Safer, “Greener” Alternatives to Hazardous Sign Corrosion Materials

The follow press release by NACE partner ATSSA is provided for your information. It is written by Hal Perkins, American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) Sign Committee Member

There are more than ten million traffic signs on our nation’s roadways, and the majority of these signs are manufactured using aluminum as the primary backing substrate. Aluminum sign blanks must go through a chemical reaction process called “*conversion coating*” to allow the reflective sign sheeting to properly adhere to the surface, and to protect the sign against corrosion.

Government regulations regarding the conversion coating process have been around for years, and OSHA placed even stricter limits on worker exposure to the process in 2006. The metal finishing industry responded to these regulations by creating new conversion coating technologies and members of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) believe that the specifications should be uniform – across-the-board – at all levels of government.

Conversion coating is the process of chemically changing the surface of the aluminum to give it more adhesion capability and corrosion resistance than it would have without it. The process is accomplished through various production methods and by using various chemicals. It has been a practice performed by the metal finishing industry since the 1920s, and there are a number of processes available.

By far, the most successful conversion coating system used today is based on hexavalent chromium – or chromate – and is generally the “yardstick” against which all other conversion coating methods are measured. Hexavalent chromium conversion coatings fall under the ASTM B-449 standard, which covers application and performance standards, which are regulated more now than they have ever been before. Additionally, hexavalent chromium is now listed as a known carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency, and the European Union has also issued directives such as end-of-life vehicles, restriction of hazardous substances, and waste electrical and electronic equipment, which all ban the production of or importation of components containing hexavalent chromium.

The new OSHA limitation on hexavalent chromium exposure is a mere 9.7 percent of the previous limit, which has the American metal finishing industry deeply concerned over

the future of hexavalent chromium conversion coats. Additionally, U.S. military specifications do not allow the use of any toxic or hazardous materials in products they use. A new ASTM standard currently exists for conversion coatings known as ASTM B-921. ASTM B-921 has the same adhesion and corrosion resistance testing methods as the traditional ASTM B-449 specification, the difference being that ASTM B-921 covers any conversion coating regardless of chemistry, as long as it is not hexavalent chromium. The three largest companies who make reflective sheeting for adhesion to aluminum have all publicly stated their support for ASTM B-921 as a viable alternative to ASTM B-449. It is ATSSA's policy to support and encourage all jurisdictions to adopt non-hexavalent chrome sign blank conversion coating standards as an alternate to existing hexavalent chrome standards. ATSSA policy states that the performance and testing methods are the same as B-449, and that non-hexavalent is more environmentally friendly and provides increased human safety during the manufacturing process.

Do your sign blank specifications mention ASTM B-449 compliance, hexavalent chrome, chromium, or some combination of these words? Do your specifications call out a brand name that is hexavalent chromium based, such as Alodine 1200? If after a review you find your specifications restrictive to hexavalent chromium only, ATSSA strongly encourages you to add the alternate – ASTM B-921 – to your specifications. You can do this by stating, “*aluminum sign blanks must be conversion coated to ASTM B-921 or ASTM B-449 standards*” or, “*aluminum sign blanks must be conversion coated to sheeting manufacturer's recommendations.*” Sign companies and government agencies should also eliminate brand names from their specifications – such as Alodine – and replace them with the process name itself – *conversion coating*.

NATIONAL ROUNABOUT CONFERENCE

http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=7349

TRB is sponsoring the National Roundabout Conference on May 18-21, 2008, in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference is designed to provide a forum for the exchange of technical and administrative information concerning aspects of roundabouts with the goal to inform a large audience about the science and application of roundabouts. Advance registration and the meeting room hotel block expire April 19, 2008. Organizations are invited to set up a table-top display during the conference. The exhibit fee includes one complimentary conference registration and a listing in the conference final program. Also available are meeting support and sponsorship opportunities. Supporters and sponsors receive recognition in the final program and on signage in the registration area, a limited number of complimentary registrations, and more. Exhibit space is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Hotel reservations are now being accepted.

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS IN CONTEXT-SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=8691

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 373: Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Context-Sensitive Solutions explores inclusion of multiple perspectives and disciplines in the decision-making process associated with developing transportation solutions that improve the quality of life for the communities being served by transportation agencies.