

TRIKO VALLEY NEWS



The mission of the American Society of Highway Engineers is to provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry that supports education, innovation, and fellowship; promoting a safe and efficient highway system for mobility now and in the future.

American Society of Highway Engineers

www.ashe-trikovalley.com

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From our President . . .

Joe Vogel, P.E.



Welcome to the New Year! We are now on the home stretch in preparations for the National Conference next June, and your fellow ASHE members have been working tirelessly to make it happen. It is very satisfying to see an excellent plan come together as this one is, and to be a part of it. Of course, much remains to be completed and many more interim deadlines must be met, but I know that we will successfully meet every challenge. I am extremely thankful for the outstanding work of the Conference Co-Chairs and the Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs for their dedication, perseverance, and tireless effort on behalf of our Section and Region 1. I believe this will be the best ASHE National Conference that many have ever seen.

Our January General Meeting will once again feature presentations for the Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award. This is a great opportunity to showcase excellent examples of the fine work we routinely perform in the Transportation Industry for the benefit of the public. I have competed for the Schramm several times and have won some and lost some, but I always found it very rewarding to present my best work to my peers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who are presenting their projects for our consideration for the Schramm this year. You truly are a credit to our profession.

One issue we will be following closely in the coming months is the possibility of an additional federal stimulus package for transportation projects. This would be a great shot in the arm for our industry, which continues to suffer from the economic downturn. We will pass along good info as we learn about it. And here's hoping that 2010 is a better year than 2009.

Happy New Year!

Future Luncheon Meetings

January 26, 2010

March 23, 2010

May 25, 2010

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Contact Stan Harris:
stan.harris@stantec.com

ASHE PIN (Political Information Network) REPORT Jan. 2010

The National ASHE Political Information Network Chair, Calvin Leggett, has asked all of the ASHE sections to prioritize the top 5 legislative issues that the National Board should concentrate on in 2010. The TRIKO Valley Board of Directors have prioritized the TRIKO Valley legislative list. Stay tuned to the ASHE PIN for information on these top 5 issue:

1) Adopting a long-term transportation funding bill

The current legislation that establishes funding levels and policy priorities for highways and transit expired on September 30, 2009. Since then, there have been four extensions - the most current being a short-term surface transportation authorization that will allow state departments of transportation to continue to use federal funds for highway, transit, and other projects until Feb. 28. Stop-gap extensions create difficulties for state departments of transportation since they cannot make long-term plans and commitments for more ambitious projects. In addition, without action by the Congress by March 1, state DOTs will lose \$12 billion in 2010 for their highway programs. State DOTs need program continuity and stability through an extension of at least a year to adequately plan, execute and manage transportation capital programs.

2) Ensuring Safer Roads

In Spring 2010, AASHTO will publish the Highway Safety Manual. This manual will assist highway agencies as they consider improvements to existing roadways or as they are planning, designing, or constructing new roadways. AASHTO is working with the Federal Highway Administration and the Transportation Research Board to develop training, information sessions and other implementation tools that will be made available to states and others in the highway industry. AASHTO's goal: cut today's 38,000 highway fatalities 50 percent in 20 years.

3) Responding to Increased Congestion Due to Capacity Issues

In 2008, high gas prices drove thousands of commuters from their cars and onto buses, subways and other transit options. As gas prices moderated, however, many of these riders went back to their vehicles. In fact, despite the economic downturn, 64 of the 100 most populated cities saw increased congestion in the first six months of 2009. This congestion will only continue to worsen as more people move to metropolitan areas and little is done to increase the capacity of the overall transportation system. In early 2010, AASHTO will issue a new report that outlines a four-point plan to address the urban mobility challenge. Other reports on the transportation needs of rural and underserved areas as well as freight will follow.

4) Enhancing Safety through Roadway Improvements

On two-lane rural roads and major highways, rumble strips are now being installed to warn drivers when their vehicles start to leave the travel lane. On divided highways, cable median barriers are being installed to prevent fatal crashes in which vehicles run off the road into the median and cross over into oncoming traffic. With more than half of the highway fatalities occurring on rural roads, highway agencies are focusing on installing these types of lower-cost treatments to reduce these crashes. As additional studies are performed to demonstrate the effectiveness of these treatments, they will be installed on more roads across the country.

5) Adopting a New Jobs Creation bill

The Senate is expected to begin debate on a jobs creation bill in mid-January. The House bill, Jobs for Main Street Act, contains several important transportation provisions including an extension of surface transportation authorization through Sept. 30, 2010. Funding would include \$27.5 billion for highways and \$8.4 billion for mass transit; Amtrak would receive \$800 million while airports would get \$500 million and shipyards \$100 million. States have identified more than 9,500 ready-to-go projects that can fund projects quickly and put people to work. A jobs bill will enable states to build on last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects and keep the momentum going.



TRIKO Valley News

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens**

President Vogel called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Thane Maynard gave an informative presentation about the zoo and showcased a number of animals.

Bill Lawall gave the treasurer's report and indicated that there are currently 171 members. The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 2010. The next board of directors meeting will be on Tuesday, January 5th at City Hall.

Caroline Duffy presented the Political Action Network (PIN) report, indicating that SAFETEA-LU is in its second extension from the September 30, 2009 deadline. A third extension is likely that will expire in March, 2010. In a November 6, 2009 speech, President Obama said "my economic team is looking at ideas to jump start the economy such as additional investments in our aging roads and bridges". Subsequently, Infrastructure Chairman Oberstar and House Appropriation Chair Obey proposed the transfer of \$100 billion from the general fund to the Highway Trust Fund for highway and transit spending over the next two years as part of the second stimulus

bill legislation. This stimulus legislation is key to get the six year transportation bill passed and would buy congress time to debate the revenue changes needed to pay for a six-year bill. ASHE urges you to contact your congressional representative to support this measure.

Caroline also presented the 2010 National Conference Committee report, noting that the silent auction at OTEC this year raised \$5,044 for a total of \$23,000 over four years at OTEC. Jim Jurgensen, Sr. was chosen as the TRIKO Valley section nominee for the Pearson Award to be presented at the conference. Those who submitted abstracts to Joe Vogel and Steve Mary for the technical program were thanked. The Guest Program, chaired by Carol Ramler and Vanessa Fritsch, has assembled some great guest tours including a winery/clay shooting event, shopping in Mt. Adams, casino trips and a Reds Game. On the entertainment committee, Cindy Wallace and Greg Wilkens have set up a BB riverboat cruise for Friday evening and the Motown Group, The Contours, for the gala event. The current sponsors were named and additional participation was solicited. Many committees are still in need of volunteers also. As a reminder, the conference will be held from June 9th through 13th at the Omni Netherland Hilton Hotel. We look forward to seeing you there!

Under new business, Bill Lawall raised a motion to make a donation to the Zoo, which was seconded by Carol Ramler and carried. Caroline Duffy raised a motion to make our annual donation to the Clermont County Children's fund that was seconded by Paul Gruner and also passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
David M. Emerick
Secretary



ASHE National Conference Message

Your National Conference Committee has been hard at work preparing for the event in Cincinnati on June 9th to 13th, 2010.

- The Icebreaker on Wednesday evening will kick off what we are sure will be a memorable conference.
- On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we will be offering a Technical Program with over 25 sessions and tours to choose from, so you can rack up those CEU's. Several Technical Tours will visit some of the most interesting historic structures in Cincinnati.
- Our guest program offers six choices to entertain your family including bike trails, an aquarium visit, unique shopping, historic walking tours, a chance to try your luck at a casino, shoot sporting clays, and a visit to a winery, and much more.
- Your social evenings can include a Riverboat Cruise, Cincinnati Reds Ballgame and a Gala, completed with a showband that is sure to please.

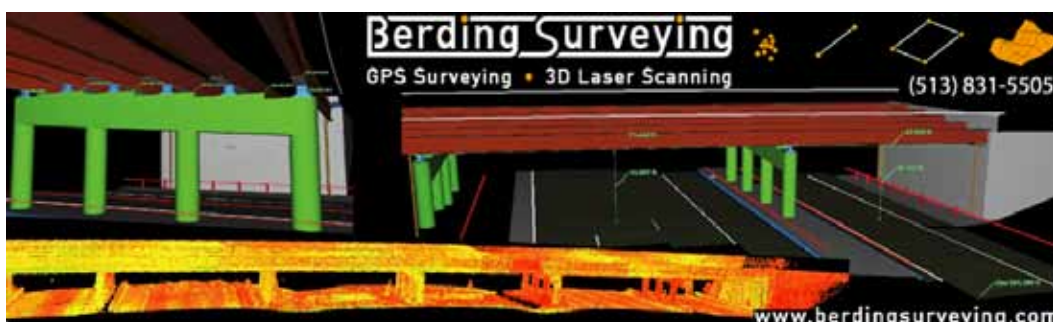
We guarantee this is a conference you will not want to miss. We have maintained the advanced registration fee for ASHE members to only \$150 for a full conference to make it affordable for all. To make all this happen, we have to ask our friends for their support. Please be responsive to the request for sponsors and advertisements. There are opportunities for the budgets of every firm and agency. Go to our website ASHE2010.org for information updates.



RETIRED!!!

Dr. Mike Basehart

Many of you had Dr. Mike Basehart as a professor at the University of Cincinnati. After 40 years and 1 day of service to the University, Dr. Basehart has officially retired! Catch up with Dr. Basehart when he provides a guided tour of the Ingalls Building for the 2010 ASHE National Conference.





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RSVP!!

Please be sure to RSVP for meetings! Space is limited and an accurate head count helps the Montgomery Inn and the ASHE officers to better plan for meetings.

Split the Pot!

A Split the Pot contest will be held at future general membership meetings to raise start-up funds for the 2010 conference. 1 ticket for \$1, 3 for \$5, or 7 for \$10.

Business Card Ads!

\$50/yr for small ads, \$150/yr for large ad and corporate link on TRIKO website. If interested, contact Stan Harris at stan.harris@stantec.com. Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at loefflerm@bceo.org.

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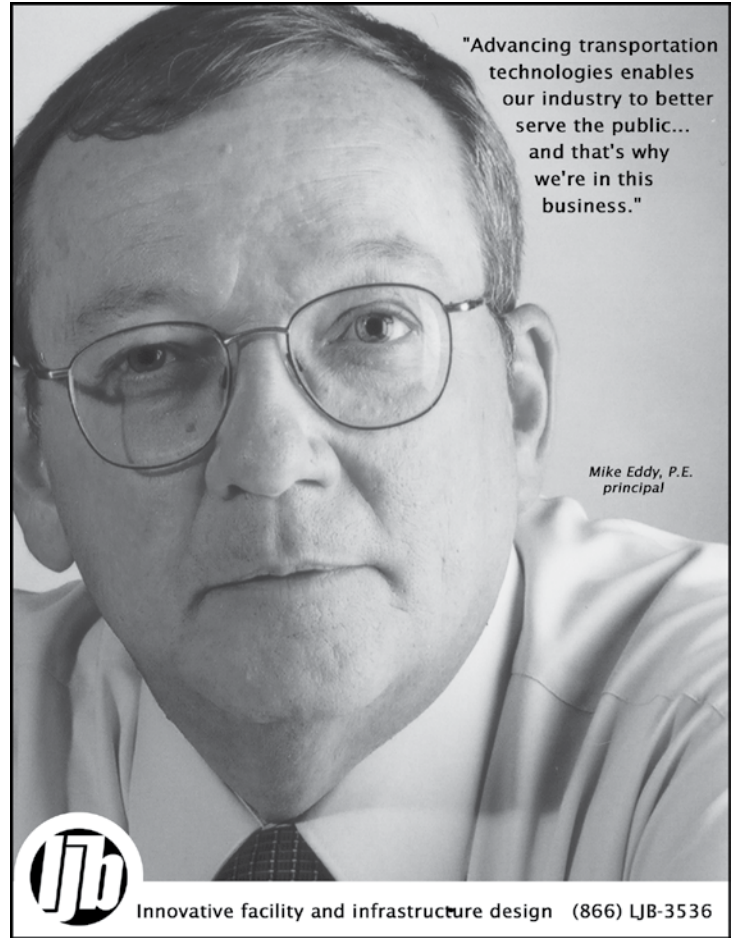
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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010 11:30 a.m.
The Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

Schramm Award Finalists Presentations

**Lunch Cost: \$20.00
RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245
by 4:00 January 25, 2010**

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