

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.

**Future
Luncheon Meetings**
March 23, 2010
May 25, 2010

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American Society of Highway Engineers

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March 2010

Volume 10, Number 4

From our President . . .

Joe Vogel, P.E.



Greetings from Cincinnati City Hall. Much has transpired since our last General Membership Meeting in January, and many of us are currently consumed by preparations for the National Conference in beautiful downtown Cincinnati. By the way, if you haven't heard yet, it will occur from June 9th to June 13th, 2010. On line registration is now available and if you register before May 2nd you can score a steep discount on the registration. There is literally something for everyone at this Conference, including great opportunities to accrue PDH hours at meaningful technical sessions; attend exciting tours; mingle at fun social events; and make new friends and reconnect with old ones. All the beautiful people will be there! Don't miss it!

For our industry, the poor economy still dominates our thinking and we look forward to a strong recovery that will provide ample opportunity for our members. There is lingering hope that an additional stimulus package may be passed by Congress this Spring. Our PIN is following this action closely and will update us at the General Meeting, while exhorting us to contact our Reps and encourage them to support this effort. My hope is that many of our members will benefit from this potential capital infusion.

Our featured presentation at our next General Meeting will be our traditional Capital Program Presentation. This is all about what we do best, and we should be very proud of it. Most of our government agencies will be there to present their programs for 2010 and to answer any questions you might have.

Finally, we will be presenting the Schramm Awards to the projects most worthy of recognition, based upon your votes at the last General Membership Meeting. I would like to again thank all those who submitted projects for our consideration; and to Paul Pfennig for his efforts on behalf the Board to honor these projects. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse.

-Joe

P.S.- Spring is in the air. Enjoy it!

ASHE PIN (Political Information Network) REPORT March 2010

What a rollercoaster ride it has been since the last writing of the ASHE PIN. The Highway Trust Fund went bankrupt as it fell between the cracks during the ongoing battle in Congress between the parties. Our own Senator Bunning cast the loan vote that prevented yet another short-term extension for the Highway Trust Fund. Only after the Federal Department of Transportation furloughed all 1,922 of their workers for two days, did Congress realize what had happened. They hastily voted to extend the Highway Trust Fund until March 28. Now a more concentrated effort is underway to address the transportation needs of the country.

Step 1 is the HIRE Act (H.R. 2847). The House and the Senate have been bouncing back and forth between them this bill, a version of the "Jobs For Main Street" bill. The HIRE Act includes an extension of the Highway Trust Fund to December 31, 2010 as well as transfers \$19.5 B from the General Revenue Fund to the Highway Trust Fund and transfers \$12 B to a majority of the states that has been rescinded in recent years. However, missing from the HIRE Act is any provisions for a second stimulus program. The final vote in the Senate is set for just before midnight on Tuesday, March 16. Once it passes the Senate, it will go to President Obama's desk for signature.

Step 2 is the six year Transportation Bill. Again the major stumbling block is how the Transportation Bill will be funded. Secretary Ray LaHood announced at the AASHTO Conference on March 3rd that the Obama administration will unveil its principles for a new multi-year transportation bill within the next 90 days. He would not say if the principles will contain recommendations for a revenue source to pay for a multi-year program, although it would seem that it would be the critical ingredient. Both a gasoline tax increase and a mileage tax have risen to the top of the debate as revenue options and both are not supported by the Obama administration.

The Senate, meanwhile, is not waiting for the Obama administration principles announcement, as it is starting to hold a series of hearings about the six year transportation reauthorization bill, using as a starting point Rep. James Oberstar's House bill that was approved last year by the House.

Even though the drama of Congress has us all wondering where the transportation issues fits in the overall priorities of Congress, let's hope that Congress wisely utilizes the next nine months to successfully birth the next six year transportation bill.



TRI-KO Valley News

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

President Vogel called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and recognition of four guests. It was announced that Indianapolis has started the Circle City Section. Kevin Savage from the Triko Valley Section will welcome them to ASHE.

President Vogel recommended the nomination of Caroline Duffy to fill the vacant Region One National Board position. John Davidson raised a motion for her nomination which was carried.

Rich Miller at CDS has information regarding an ACEC Seminar to be held on February 3rd. Cincinnati will also host the World of Asphalt conference February 15th to 18th. Bill Fair at Flexible Pavements is the contact person.

Joe Vogel indicated that the meeting minutes for the December meeting were approved by the Board and are available on the table in the hallway.

John Davidson announced that the scholarship form is available on line on the website.

Caroline Duffy presented the Political Information Network report, noting that President

Obama listed infrastructure projects among his priorities but will not make any commitment on infrastructure and transportation spending. A second stimulus bill is in the works. The last highway bill extension will expire February 28th. Caroline urged members to contact their representatives as it is critical to pass a long term highway bill.

Bill Lawall gave the treasurer's report announced a beginning balance of \$6,282.68, deposits of \$1,335.00 and expenditures of \$4,062.58 for an ending balance of \$3,555.10 plus \$6,000.00 in the scholarship fund. \$200 was donated to the Clermont County Children's Fund. There are currently 168 members in our section. The next general membership meeting will be on March 23, 2010 at the Boathouse and the next Board of Directors meeting will be Tuesday, February 23rd at Cincinnati City Hall.

Paul Schoelwer will be contacting those individuals that signed up for the holiday meeting at the zoo and did not attend regarding payment.

The first meeting of the golf outing committee will be February 10th at 11:30 at Uno's at Union Centre Boulevard.

The Scanner will be out next week. Articles will now be screened by a Regional Representative.

Cindy Minter presented the 2010 National Conference Committee report, noting that 25 technical programs and tours and a Wednesday evening icebreaker have been set up. The Guest Program Committee has developed six choices for outings. The registration fee will be held to \$150.00. Additional sponsors are needed to keep the costs reasonable for attendees. Bill Lawall commented that it is cheaper to attend the conference if you join ASHE.

President Vogel announced presenters for each of the following 2009 Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award project applications:

Over \$2 Million Category:

- Eighth Street Viaduct Rehabilitation
- Liberty-Fairfield Road Bridge
- CLA-70 Widening

\$2 Million and Under Category:

- Wilmington Road Bridge Rehabilitation
- "AA" Highway Over Locust Creek
- Ashby Fork Road Bridge

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:
David M. Emerick
Secretary



ASHE

2010



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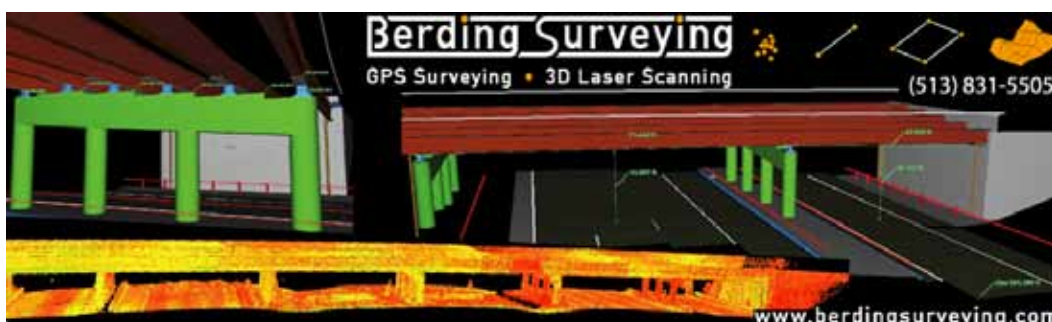
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RSVP!!

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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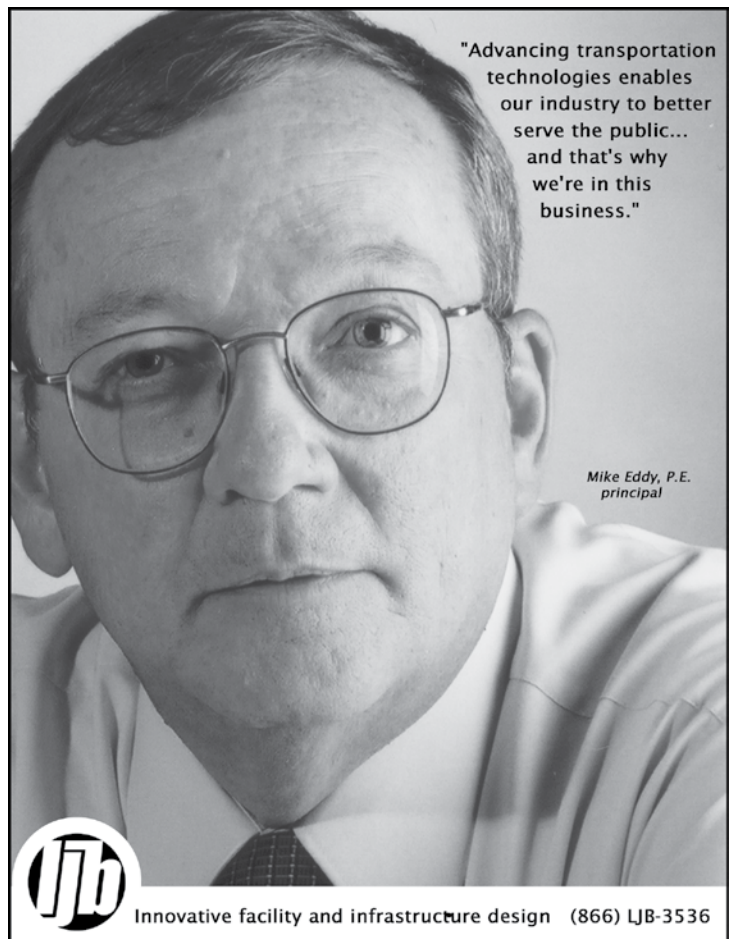
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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

**Tuesday, March 23, 2010 11:30 a.m.
The Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

**Annual Public Works Forecast
Schramm Award Winners**

**Lunch Cost: \$20.00
RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245
by 4:00 March 22, 2010**

ASHE
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