

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 Meetings

September 28, 2010

December 7, 2010

January 25, 2011

March 22, 2011

May 24, 2011

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American Society of Highway Engineers

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September 2010

Volume 11, Number 1

From our President . . .

Jim Jurgensen II

I would like to thank Joe Vogel for his tremendous work over the past two years. Joe has been instrumental in elevating our local section numbers and the quality of our overall program. Under Joe's guidance and the countless hours volunteered by Cindy Minter, Caroline Duffy and all the committee volunteers, the TRIKO Valley Section of ASHE has set the benchmark for future sections to follow. Congratulations to everyone on a successful national conference!



As I begin my term as president, I would like to follow the high standard of continuous improvement that has been followed by all past presidents. This year I hope to guide improvements in our communication tools such as a more interactive web based membership counter and dues/payment system as well as an Evite system for all events. This proposed change will hopefully improve our attendance counts as well as our ability to service our membership. I am hopeful that an improved system will allow membership fees and application processes to be done more efficiently. I will also be looking for current membership's support in an effort to increase new membership and participation.

I am excited for the opportunity to serve as this year's president and continue to promote the highway industry. I look forward to seeing everyone at our first general meeting on September 28.

ASHE PIN (Political Information Network) REPORT Sept. 2010

While the temperature is cooling down from the hot and muggy summer across the US, politics in America is heating up as the elections in November draw close. One item that is heating up as well is the future of transportation in America. In March of this year, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that the Obama Administration was working on a plan for the future of transportation. Over the Labor Day weekend, President Obama revealed this plan. The plan contains the following components:

1. A one-time \$50 billion infusion of monies into the Highway Trust Fund;
2. The development of a National Infrastructure Bank; and
3. A proposal to invest in rebuilding 150,000 miles of roads, maintaining 4,000 miles of rail line and rehabilitating 150 miles of airport runway.

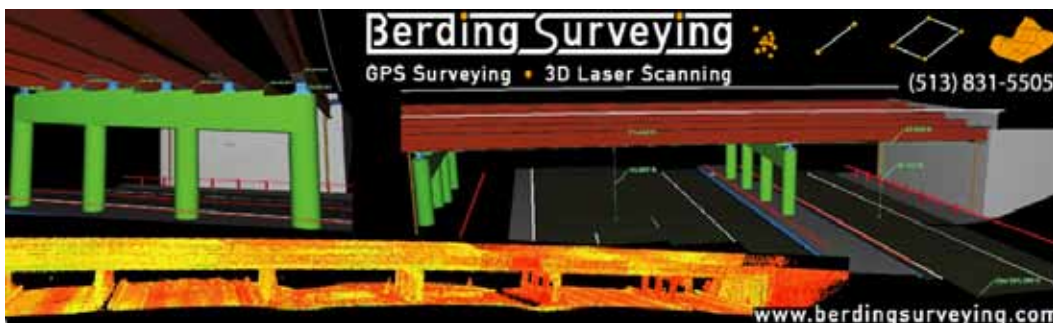
The White House proposed that the one-time \$50 billion infusion of monies, akin to the first stimulus package would be tied to the passage of the long term 6-year transportation bill, which would give states the ability to structure their construction plans with confidence that the monies will be there.

The infrastructure bank would be able to make investments outside regular state formulas. Many estimate that roughly \$60 billion of government investment can generate a total of almost \$450 billion into our public works. In addition, instead of selecting projects based upon federal earmarks and formulas, the Infrastructure Bank will choose ones based upon merit criteria. However, the infrastructure bank is not the sole financing answer and other solutions, like the 'gas tax', which is really a user's fee, has not been openly discussed.

While the proposal to rehabilitate the nation's infrastructure is great, the new transportation bill goes beyond the traditional roadways; however, and introduces the concept of adding passenger rail and aviation programs to the 6 year transportation bill and gives all three "equal footing".

While it is exciting that the Administration has FINALLY addressed the transportation plan, many sources have indicated that the window for passage is between November 3 and December 31, 2010. If the bill does not pass in that time frame, many believe that the transportation bill will not get passed until after the next Presidential election. Many view the one-time \$50 billion infusion of monies as a second stimulus, and because of the stimulus backlash, they'll oppose any proposed second stimulus. The addition of any perceived tax, such as the gas user's fee, will also cause many in Congress to not support the bill.

While it is great that some movement is seen in Washington concerning transportation issues, at this time, many of the details of the Obama plan and the six year transportation bill are yet unknown. Stay tuned to the ASHE PIN for these details and for what looks to be a very hot next three months.





TRIKO Valley News

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

President Vogel called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 11:50 am.

Cindy Minter presented the national conference report, announcing that the 2010 ASHE National Conference is just fifteen days away. She thanked everyone for their hard work preparing for the event and provided a schedule overview. The golf outing and poster session will be held on Friday. If there are not 140 golfers signed up in advance then the second course will be released. Reds tickets were sold for Friday that will include food. The Saturday evening gala will include a Motown band concert. The hospitality room will be open every night. More help will be needed every day in the registration booth and 30 more easels are also needed. A volunteer sheet was sent around.

Bill Lawall gave the treasurer's report. There was a starting balance of \$2,695.39, deposits of \$5,298.90, and expenses of \$2,363.61 resulting in \$5,630.68 in the operating fund plus \$6,000.00 in the scholarship fund. The next general membership meeting will be held on September 28th and the next Board of Directors meeting will be on August 24th at Valley Asphalt. There are currently 175 members in our section. Per John Davidson, the section scholarship was awarded to Luke Stuttler of Ohio College.

Caroline Duffy presented the PIN report. With the extension of the current Transportation bill until December 31, 2010, reauthorization has once again been put on the back burner. While waiting for the Obama administration to unveil its proposal for funding a new multi-year transportation bill, Secretary LaHood issued a statement at the May 6th hearing of the Senate Transportation and Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, indicating \$34.5 billion in bailout transfers from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Highway Trust Fund. This changed the special user-financed nature of the Trust Fund that was in place from 1956 to 2008 and could lead to raiding the Highway Trust Fund in the future for non-transportation purposes. Instead of creating a finance plan to make the Highway Trust Fund liquid again by utilizing the many different options available such as an increase in the gasoline tax, a national infrastructure bank and/or public-private partnerships now there is a threat that monies will be reallocated to non-highway purposes regularly. Senator Voinovich is touting an increase in the gas tax to fund the Brent Spence Bridge. There was also discussion of the climate bill.

Stan Harris gave the regional report, noting that the Region One transportation awards will be presented at the ASHE 2010 conference and that the ASHE store will be on line soon. The TRIKO Valley section applied for and received an exposure grant to promote ASHE. This grant was used to sponsor a table at the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments Annual Luncheon Meeting.

President Vogel announced the following slate of officers for the 2010-2011 year:

- President – Jim Jurgensen, Jr.
- First Vice President – Paul Schoelwer
- Second Vice President – Steve Proffitt
- First Year Director – Chris Nyberg
- Second Year Director – Carol Callan-Ramler
- Second Year Director – Matt Loeffler
- First Year Director – Jennifer Kunz
- Regional Representative – Stan Harris
- Treasurer – Kevin Savage
- Secretary – Dave Emerick

Caroline Duffy raised a motion that we accept the slate of candidates as read. John Davidson seconded the motion which was carried.

Paul Schoelwer introduced John T. Lyons, P.E., Director of Operations at Strand Associates who presented a program on Green Infrastructure.

After the presentation, President Vogel concluded the meeting by stating what a privilege it had been to serve as president and thanking Cindy Minter and Caroline Duffy in particular for their efforts to organize the ASHE 2010 National Conference.

Respectfully Submitted:
David M. Emerick, Secretary



Conference photos available
www.ashe2010.org

The ASHE 2010 National Conference had over 533 Conference participants. It was a successful event which was kicked off by the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County with full regalia to set the stage for Transforming Ideas into Mobility.

Participants were able to attend 27 technical sessions and tours. Approximately 100 golfers spent a great day on a beautiful day on the challenging Fox Run golf course. Students, consultants and agencies highlighted their projects through a self-guided Poster Session for the remaining participants. All the while our guests were able

to enjoy the local highlights of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

The conference was concluded in the Historic Hall of Mirrors with an elegant dinner and closing ceremony. The ASHE 2010 conference underscored that transportation professionals make dedicated, awesome teams. It was a conference where professional acquaintances matured into friendships. **Bravo to the many conference volunteers!**



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 Kathleen Carsey
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 Judi Craig
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 Lori Dearnell
 Scott Dearnell
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 Terry Dull
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 John Eichstadt
 Mary Beth Elfers*
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 Jeremy Evans

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Hank Fedders*
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Vanessa Fritsch
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 James Griebel
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Eric Kistner
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 Daniel Koeninger
Steven Korte
 Wess Kroll
 Jennifer Kunz
 John Lachmann
 Jeffrey Lamb
Bill Lawall

Michael Lenett
 Craig Litmer
 Aaron Littman
Matt Loeffler
 Marcia Majidzadeh
 Patrick Manger
 Benjamin Mann
Steve Mary
Shawn Mason
 Dan McAdams
 Ray McDaniel
 Joe Mellman
Stephen Miles
 Richard Miller
Cindy Minter
 Joseph Moeller
 Dory Montazemi
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* Past Presidents
 At last meeting



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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.

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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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

**Tuesday, September 28, 2010 11:30 a.m.
The Montgomery Inn Boathouse**

**Chris Eilerman, City of Cincinnati
Cincinnati Streetcar Project**

**Lunch Cost: \$20.00
RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245
by 4:00 September 27, 2010**

ASHE
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