



Volume 13 , Issue 2 - March 2013

## From Our President...



**Steve Proffitt**  
*Thelen Associates, Inc.*

March is finally here and Spring is right around the corner. I'm starting to see more optimism each month regarding new design and construction related projects coming to our region. Hopefully this is a positive sign of things to come for our local highway and transportation industry.

Even with a great deal of uncertainty still surrounding national and global economies, the Ohio economy is expected to remain on a steady growth path and I think we'll continue to see more public private partnerships (P3s) and local TID's be an important source of funding for local highway, bridge and infrastructure projects in 2013 and beyond. However some concerning issues that we'll likely face this Summer and Fall include the increasing cost of such items as labor, oil, fuel and steel and less funding to local townships, villages and counties due to the estate tax.

I'm anxious to see how the financing and tolling issue moves forward on the Brent Spence bridge project. Still significant federal funding is not available for the project. I think we're all anxious to see how this critical project to our region unfolds over the next several months.

The ASHE National Convention will be held this year in Lake Placid, New York from June 5-8. Hopefully a few members from our Section can make the trip this year.

Our golf outing is scheduled for June 13th at Walden Ponds golf course in Hamilton, Ohio. Please mark your calendars and we are hoping to build on the success of last years outing. Your participation helps support our scholarship fund which helps local college students studying in the field of engineering. Please contact our Golf Committee Chairman - Brad Ackel with any questions.

Please consider sponsoring new members in 2013 for our Membership Drive and receive a great prize for your effort which can include a complimentary lunch at a general membership meeting and your name in a raffle to win Reds tickets or a individual round of golf at our golf outing. Please contact Carol Callan-Ramler with any questions.

Our next ASHE General Membership program is on Tuesday, March 19th at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse and will feature our Capital Improvements Program - CIP. This is a great opportunity to see what design and construction projects are planned for our region. The presenters this year will include Montgomery, Butler, Clermont, Warren and Hamilton Counties, ODOT District #8, City of Cincinnati Engineering Department and KYTC. Also at our March program, we'll be presenting the winners of the Donald C. Schramm Awards for the two project categories - projects over 3 million and projects under 3 million. Thanks again to all who submitted applications this year, we had some outstanding submittals and it was a very difficult decision by the Board to decide on the two winners.

I look forward to seeing everyone next week at our CIP program on March 19th.

## inside

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*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.*

# ASHE-TRIKO Valley General Membership Meeting Minutes

Vice President Matt Loeffler called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance at 11:40 a.m. and recognized four guests. He announced that the program today will consist of Donald C. Schramm Awards project presentations. Matt asked attendees to pay Eric Kistner for the lunch today.

Secretary Emerick reported that the 2012 ASHE Holiday Party was held on Tuesday, December 4th at Star Lanes at Newport on the Levee from 6:00 to 9:30 pm. There was a nice size crowd of approximately 45 members and spouses. The evening consisted of drinks and appetizers along with bowling on four (4) lanes and billiards in a private area that was great for socializing. Members were asked to provide feedback on the Holiday gathering to Steve Proffitt or Dave Emerick. The first Board of Director’s meeting for 2013 was held on January 15th at Thelen offices. The May meeting minutes are published on line and copies can also be picked up at the table in the hall.

Eric Kistner gave the Treasurer’s report. There was a starting balance of \$27,656.78 deposits of \$2,311.17, and expenses of \$5,873.63 resulting in \$24,094.32 in the operating fund. There are currently 156 members in our section.

John Davidson announced that the scholarship application can be found on line and is available for students who are seniors in the area or local students that attend colleges out of the area. Attendees are encouraged to let your co-ops know of this opportunity.

Caroline Duffy presented the PIN report noting that Bill Shuster is the new Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chairman in the House of Representatives. This committee is charged with developing a new surface transportation bill when the MAP-21 Act expires in 2014 and looking for a long term revenue source for the Highway Trust Fund. Schuster has listed options such as vehicle-miles taxes, raising the gasoline tax, tolling and public-private partnerships as options to close the funding gap. As the “highway cliff” approaches, many states have proposed increases in their state gasoline tax. Governor Kasich announced a plan to generate approximately \$3 billion for highway construction. ODOT is also embracing changing from design-bid-build to design-build to shorten construction time frames and is also looking at internal agency cost-cutting measures. Ohio is leaning toward Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to build mega-projects such as the Brent Spence Bridge. Kentucky legislators are being heavily lobbied to pass similar PPP legislation for three Northern Kentucky counties. The Governors of Ohio and Kentucky have already signed a joint agreement to utilize PPP’s for the Brent Spence Bridge project. The “Block the Bridge” campaign urges citizens to contact their local representatives to support the new Brent Spence Bridge. If legislation is passed, the project is slated to begin 2015. ASHE is looking to start a grass roots lobbying effort to fund the bridge. Caroline urged us to send letters to our Congressional Representatives and demand that they address funding for highways.

Stan Harris indicated that there was no regional report.

The golf committee will begin meeting at the end of January and plans to hold this year’s outing during the first part of June at Walden Pond.

Matt announced a new membership drive until May 10th that will include free lunches for new members. For three new members, you get membership renewal free and a chance at winning one of two prizes, Reds tickets or a golf outing sponsorship. He also asked members to please renew online.

Stan Harris announced that we will feature a member project in each newsletter.

Vanessa Fritsch noted that the program committee is looking at doing something more social this year. We will consider new venues.

Matt announced that we are still trying to start a student chapter with the hopes of retaining students after graduation.

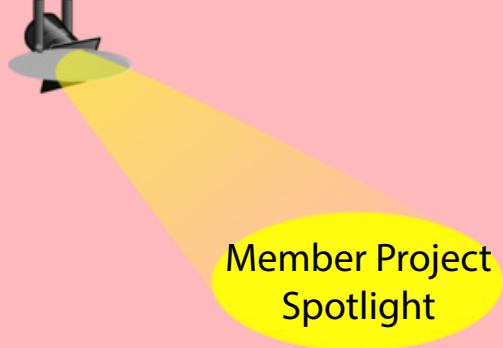
Matt had Eric Beck hand out ballots and proceeded with project presentations as follows:

- Over three million dollars category:
- Jason Mudd from the John R. Jurgensen Co. who presented on IR 75 in Warren County (ODOT).
  - Dan Hoying from LJB Inc. who presented on the State Route 4 Bypass Widening (Fairfield).
  - Nicole Clooney with LJB Inc. presented on the Adams Street Bridge Replacement (Miami County).
- Under three million dollars category:
- Steve Hartke and Matt Loeffler presented the Kyles Station and Lesourdsville West Chester Roundabout (Butler County).
  - Dan Ficker, Palmer Engineering and David Shields, Smolen Engineering presented on the Camden College Corner Road Covered Bridge (Prebble County Engineer’s Office).
  - Todd Gadbury from Clermont County and Dennis Brunton from Barrett Paving Materials presented on the James E. Sauls Senior Center Drive Improvements (Clermont County Engineer’s Office)

Under new business, Matt Loeffler noted that the next ASHE meeting will be CIP program on March 19th. Bill Lawall announced that PDH certificates can be picked up at the table in the hallway. Kar Singh raised a motion to adjourn which was seconded by David Quimby. Matt adjourned the meeting at 1:44 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:  
  
David Emerick  
Triko Valley Section Secretary





Member Project Spotlight

# Progress at The Banks Development

Pete Rose Way Pedestrian Bridge and Intermodal Staging Area

As the Banks development comes to life on the Ohio River shore in downtown Cincinnati, the final pieces of the project are getting off of the ground. One of the remaining projects to complete is replacement of the pedestrian stair and bridge at the north of US bank arena. This staircase, built in the late 1990’s during the Fort Washington Way reconstruction, was intended as a temporary facility. Also following the reconstruction of Fort Washington Way, a gravel surface lot west of Broadway between Pete Rose Way and Third Street was created that currently serves as a staging area for construction and events in the vicinity as well as occasional use as a surface parking lot. Use of the lot for staging during circus events earned it the nickname the “Dumbo” lot. Reconstructing this staging area as a permanent parking facility is included in the Pete Rose Way Pedestrian Bridge project.

In the spring of 2012, URS was given the challenge of designing a replacement parking facility and bridge/stair structure that compliments the diverse surrounding infrastructure while providing the connectivity required for access to the Cincinnati Reds Great American Ballpark and the US Bank Arena. The project involved coordination with multiple private partners including US Bank Arena and the Cincinnati Reds, as well as coordination with Hamilton County, the Ohio Department of Transportation and the City of Cincinnati. The coordination effort was led by Banks project executive John Deatricks. During the design process, URS made multiple presentations to Cincinnati’s Urban Design Review Board. The project schedule was compressed into less than 6 months between project award and delivery of final contract documents due to funding requirements.



Preliminary design considered multiple bridge and stair types. The process was initiated with a design workshop attended by the project stakeholders. Following a preliminary investigation that included renderings of multiple structures at the project site, and incorporation of comments from the Urban Design Review Board, a preferred alternate was selected. A few of the many factors influential in the selection was structure cost, maintenance considerations, and input from the adjacent facilities.

The proposed bridge spans between the US Bank Arena plaza and the proposed stairs that provide access to the city street network along Pete Rose Way. The bridge design is a 143’ simple span single steel box girder with cast in place concrete deck on skewed pier supports. The stairs are cast-in-place concrete and include a concrete portal over the top stair landing. The stair configuration was chosen to provide a compact design leaving more open area for an at grade plaza along Pete Rose Way. To minimize the impacts on the US Bank arena structure from pile driving activities, and to allow for construction in a low overhead clearance area, the project geotechnical firm Thelen Associates recommended utilizing an auger cast pile foundation.

Design of the parking lot and intermodal staging area included the use of permeable pavers as well as ticket machines for parking revenue collection and additional lighting. The parking lot design considered the requirements of multi-modal use as the lot serves as truck parking during US Bank Arena events. The existing walkway along Pete Rose Way, Broadway, and 3rd Street that bracket the lot was improved with pavers, scored concrete, planting areas, a concrete seat bench wall, as well as site furnishings. VLA associates provided design the proposed walking paths including a new plaza area at the corner of Broadway and Pete Rose Way.

Prus Construction was low bidder on the project. Demolition of the existing bridge is underway and the project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2013.

Advertising Opportunities

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

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# ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

*General Membership Meeting*

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013**

*The Montgomery Inn Boathouse, 11:30 am*

**Public Works Forecast**

*Cost per person: \$25.00*

*Visit website ([www.ashe-trikovalley.com](http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com))  
and click on Meeting Link to register and pay online*

## General Membership

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Steve Bergman  
Gabriel Bitar  
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Benjamin Brandstetter  
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William Brayshaw  
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Scott Dearnell  
Lori Dearnell  
Scott Dearnell  
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Kristin Eggeman  
Mary Elfers\*  
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Jeremy Evans  
William Fair

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