



Volume 16, Issue 3 - January 2016

## From Our President...

After moving in fits and starts all year, the U.S. Congress in the last weeks of 2015 accomplished something it hadn't managed in nearly a decade: the passage of a long-term, multibillion-dollar highway bill. Congress enacted the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2015, also known as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the FAST Act) on Dec. 4, 2015. The bill once again leaves the gas tax untouched. Please continue to voice your opinion to our elected officials who represent us.

We had a great turnout for our annual holiday party at Yard House in downtown Cincinnati. All in attendance had a great time with lots of food and drinks. It appears that we have hit on a good time/venue option that allowed more people to attend.

Members of ASHE have the opportunity to tour the ARK Encounter construction site on February 2 in Williamstown Ky. We will meet at 9:30 am on the Ark site. The Ark is being built to Biblical proportions making it the largest timber structure in America, possibly the world! The group will be limited to 20 people. This tour is weather dependent, as the site is on top of a hill where 1.3 Million cubic yards of earth and rock was moved. Please watch the email blasts for more information. Please join us at our general membership meeting on Tuesday January 26 at the Original Montgomery Inn in Montgomery. We will have presentations given by the nominees for the Donald C. Schramm Transportation Improvement Award. This award has been presented by ASHE TRIKO Valley since 2000 and numerous projects, both small and large, have been honored in the past. Come and see some of the outstanding projects that have been recently completed in the TRIKO area.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the General Membership meeting!

Eric Beck

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ASHE - TRIKO Valley Section  
P.O. Box 257  
Mason, OH 45040  
[www.trikovalley.ashe.pro](http://www.trikovalley.ashe.pro)

*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 PIN Report - January 2016

Santa Claus did deliver this Christmas! The FAST Act, or the 'Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act' was passed after 33 extensions (Seems Congress does have a sense of humor!). The legislation provides for a \$305 billion to fund the highway bill, increasing funding by 11% over the next five years. This long term funding provides the stability that many DOT's need to facilitate large capacity building projects into their program. However, the source of this long-term funding are one-time gains, such as cutting dividend payments from the Federal Reserve to banks with more than \$10B in assets, reallocating unspent earmark monies, and continued infusions of \$70B from the general revenue fund. The sustainable funding source that is needed for our country's transportation system is still elusive.

While the 93% apportionments of the Highway Trust Fund back to the states and the basic program structure has remained the same, some features of the FAST act that have changed include the following:

*The amount of funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, is a loan program that encourages innovative financing, has been reduced. However, the minimum project size has been lowered, opening opportunities for projects that would have otherwise not been eligible for TIFIA funding. The minimum threshold is now \$10M for all projects with significant local government involvement and for transit-oriented-developments. TIFIA funds may be used to capitalize State Infrastructure Banks to make financing more accessible for rural projects.*

*Streamlining project delivery through an improved review and permitting process. The application processes for Departmental credit programs will be improved by streamlined review and transparent approval processes. Coordination of the progress of environmental review and permitting process are being revised to be consistent with the Department's goals to improve project timelines by giving FHWA a year to develop a process to implement this streamlining.*

*Multimodal programs will experience proportionate funding increases for both highway and transit programs. The National Significant Projects refocus resources to invest in highway freight infrastructure, including projects of national and regional significance. It improves passenger rail infrastructure and safety programs, reduces costs, leverages private sector resources, creates greater accountability and transparency for Amtrak, and accelerates rail project delivery. Trail, pedestrian, and Safe Routes to School funding will continue under this bill.*

Many agencies have reviewed the bill and commented that their programs are still in the status quo for the coming years. Many see this funding as helping make up shortfalls and not necessarily an increase in funding. Cost savings may be realized as streamlining is mandated with a deadline, which will save time and money. Now that the FAST Act is here, appropriations of the funding is critical. Please continue to contact your Congressional leadership to encourage them to pass the appropriations of the funding in a timely manner.

# **ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING**

## **General Membership Meeting - Schramm Awards**

**Location: Original Montgomery Inn (Montgomery, OH)**

**Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.**

**After the general membership meeting, presentations will be given for the annual Schramm Awards. Voting by ASHE Members only will take place after the presentations are given, and awards will be presented at the next general membership meeting in March.**

**Please register even if you plan to pay at the door. Thank you.**

**Cost: \$25 online or at the door**

**RSVP by phone to Eric Kistner at 513-842-8213  
or RSVP online at [www.trikovalley.ashe.pro](http://www.trikovalley.ashe.pro)  
and click on Meeting Link to register and pay online**

## **2014 - 2015 Board of Directors**

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# Member Spotlight

We want our members to get to know each other! Each month, we'll feature a different ASHE member in our Member Spotlight! This month, we're featuring Dave Emerick!

**Place of Work:** Duke Energy

**Job Title:** Manager – Gas Operations Engineering

**Degrees and Certifications:** BSCE from Penn State University, Ohio PE License

**Where were you born?** Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania but was raised in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Family:** Married to wife Tina for 27 years, our daughter Rebecca (24) is a teacher in the Oak Hills Local School District and our son Michael (21) attends DAAP at U.C.

**What are your technical/professional interests?** I started my career in the Engineering Corps at CSX Transportation and then spent 20 years in consulting managing highway projects, where I really enjoyed project challenges and long term client relationships. At Duke Energy, I have had the opportunity to work with many groups within Gas Operations, including planning, integrity management, pipeline design, station design, mapping, SCADA and pressure modeling. I look forward to continued opportunities in the gas industry.



**What are your hobbies?** Spending time with my family, traveling, listening to music and playing racquetball.

## **Favorites**

**TV Show:** M\*A\*S\*H

**Musical Artist:** Elton John

## **This or That:**

1. Coke or Pepsi? Ginger Ale
2. Dogs or Cats? Dogs
3. Loud or Quiet? Quiet
4. Phone or Email? Personal phone call
5. Pie or Cake? Homemade apple pie
6. Beach or Mountains? Beach - spent summers at the Jersey Shore growing up



## Committee Chair Person Contact Information

The ASHE TRIKO Valley Board of Directors has several committees to help promote our organization in a variety of ways. Listed below, you can find the contact information of the chair person for each committee. If you would like to share an idea or would like to volunteer to serve on a committee, please contact the appropriate chair person. The Board thanks you for your continued support and dedication to the transportation industry.

Committee	Chair Person	Contact Information
Schramm Award	Eric Beck	Eric.Beck@hamilton-co.org
Scholarship	Nathan Moore	Nathan.moore@kleingers.com
Program	Steve Mary	Steve.Mary@dot.state.oh.us
Social	Vanessa Nghiem	Vanessa.Nghiem@urs.com
Membership	Steve Proffitt	sproffitt@thelenassoc.com
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Brad Ackel	Brad.ackel@kzf.com
Newsletter	Stan Harris	stan.harris@stantec.com
Website	Matt Loeffler	loefflerm@bceo.org
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	cduffy@Barreng.com
Online Payments/PayPal	Eric Kistner	eric.kistner@stantec.com



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**For more information:**  
Cindy Taylor  
P: (503) 771-2112  
E: cindy.taylor@cardno.com  
[www.cardno.com](http://www.cardno.com)



# New ASHE Sections

Greetings ASHE members,

The beginning of each year has traditionally been a time many of us devote to getting smaller based on New Year's Resolutions. We at the ASHE National level are interested in getting bigger! We have focused attention on more remote areas such as Portland, Oregon and Denver, Colorado amongst others. Our newest initiative includes seeing if there are opportunities closer to "home". "Home" meaning seeking potential new section champions which may be travelling to areas with current sections, or have a branch office in an untapped region of the country which may have an person interested in sharing the ASHE mission with others and getting a section started.

Anyone interested in discussing opportunities to start a new section are encouraged to contact either Tim Matthews or Perry Schweiss, Co-Chairs of the ASHE New Sections Committee (contact information provided below), or any one of the ASHE National Board members (contact information provided on the website - ASHE.pro). There are many resources available to assist in this endeavor including Powerpoint presentations, detailed guidance and procedures, etc.; all of which can be found on the website. The most important resource available however is also ASHE's strongest attribute...it's members!

We are 6,000+ strong with 41 active sections and, with your spark, we will continue to grow in membership and, as this initiative supports, geographically! We look forward to hearing from those with the pioneering spirit and enthusiasm to spread the ASHE mission!!

With sincere gusto!

Tim W. Matthews, PE  
(Southeast Region)/Atlanta Section)  
TIA Regional Coordinator|Office of TIA  
Georgia Department of Transportation

Perry Schweiss, PE  
(Northeast Region)/(Southwest Penn Section)  
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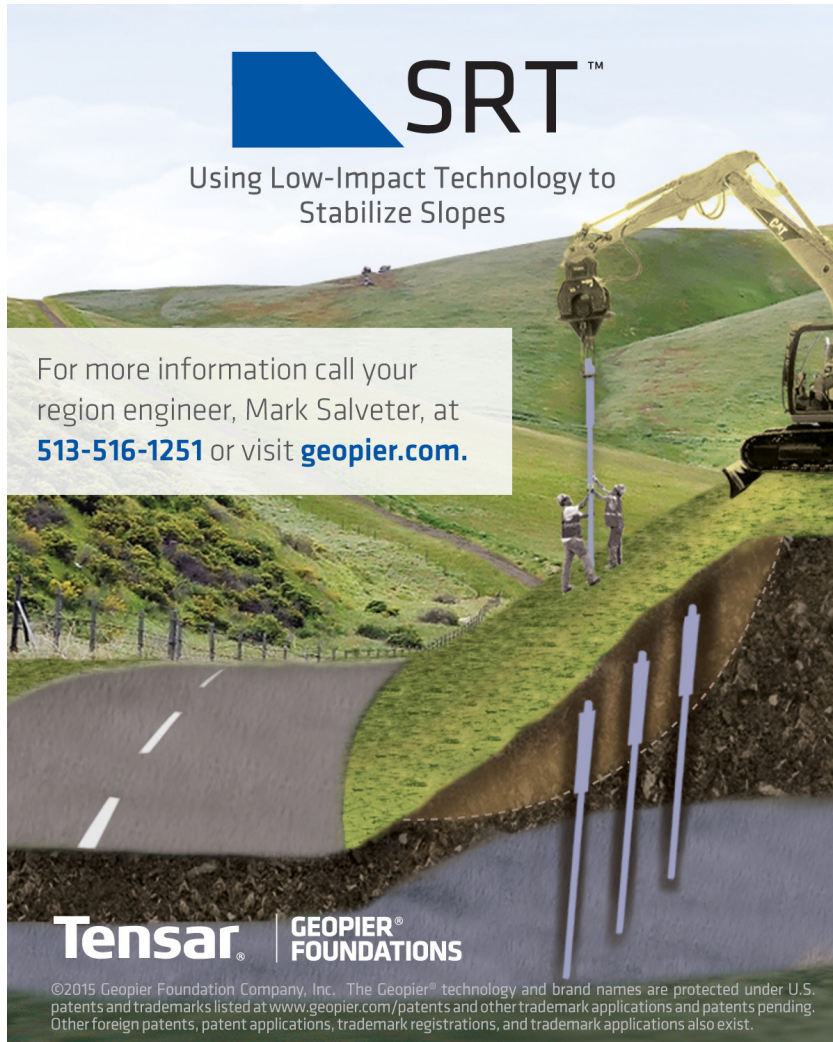
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## Advertising Opportunities!

\$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](mailto:stan.harris@stantec.com).

Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at [loefflerm@bceo.org](mailto:loefflerm@bceo.org).





*Why join?*

**ASHE<sup>®</sup>**

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nationwide

41 Sections

6,250+ members

**Just \$70\*/yr or less to join**  
(see inside for more details)

\*varies by Section

[www.ashe.pro](http://www.ashe.pro)



A graphic of a highway sign. At the top is a small green rectangular sign with the white text '1A'. Below it is a larger green rectangular sign with a white border. On the left side of this sign is the ASHE logo, which is a shield divided into red, white, and blue sections with the text 'AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS' around a central emblem. To the right of the logo, the word 'ASHE' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below the green sign is an orange rectangular sign with the black text 'ENTER' on the left, a black upward-pointing arrow in the center, and the black text 'HERE' on the right. The background of the entire graphic is a light blue sky with white clouds. To the right of the highway sign, the word 'Values' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. Below it, the words 'Diversity', 'Innovation', 'Integrity', 'Fellowship', and 'Quality' are stacked vertically in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

*Values*  
Diversity  
Innovation  
Integrity  
Fellowship  
Quality

### Why Join ASHE?

- To help promote the highway industry on a Local, Regional, and National level
- To become a member of a group that provides extraordinary value, with National dues of only \$20/year and Section dues ranging from just \$5 to \$50/year
- To expand your knowledge of all things related to highways
- To participate in a highly diverse community, ranging from government employees and contractors to consultants, suppliers, and utility owners
- To stay up to date on technical, political, and project issues with the quarterly *scanner* newsletter, weekly emails, educational events and more!
- To be part of an organization that recognizes the future of the highway industry, fostering Student Chapters and offering educational scholarships (*over \$1.4 million in scholarships awarded!*)
- To enjoy networking opportunities with clients and partners, discussing projects, exchanging insights, and fostering positive working relationships
- To enjoy fellowship with people throughout the highway industry

**Become a part of the highway industry's  
premier networking organization.**

**It's easy to join, just complete the brief  
membership form below and give it to a local  
ASHE representative or apply online at  
<http://www.ashe.pro/newmember.html>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: (Mandatory) \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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How did you hear about us? \_\_tradeshow \_\_scanner

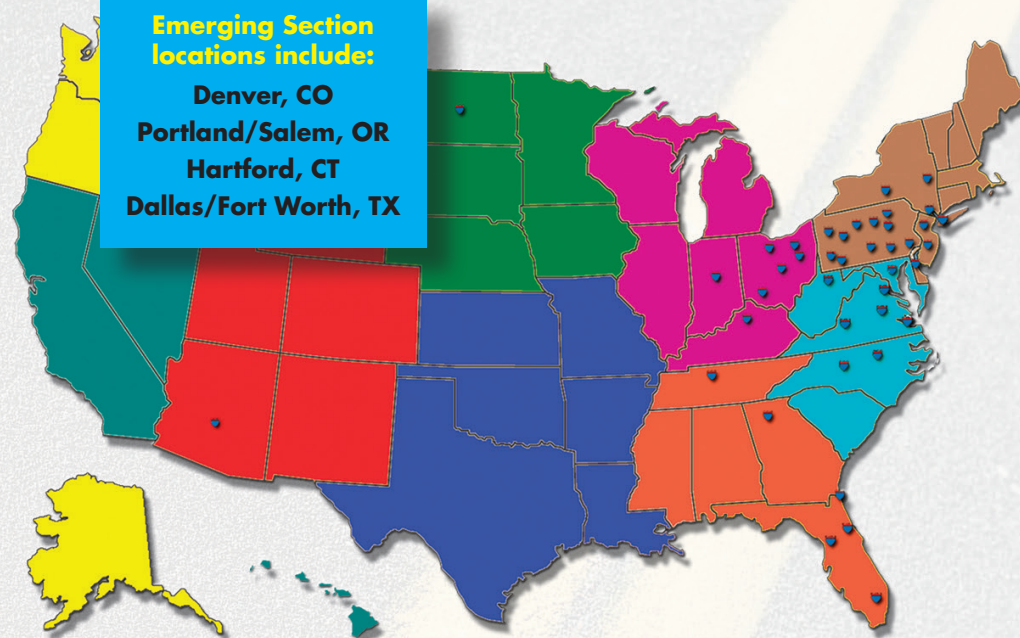
\_\_ASHE friend \_\_presentation \_\_other: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ **Please contact me about starting an  
ASHE Section in my Region.**





## ASHE National Membership by Regions/Sections



**Want to join and don't see a Section by you? Become an At-Large Member or visit our website to see how to start a new Section. [www.ashe.pro](http://www.ashe.pro)**

### Great Lakes Region

#### Illinois

#### Indiana

Circle City Section  
(Indianapolis area)

#### Kentucky

Derby City Section  
(Louisville area)

#### Ohio

Central Ohio Section  
(Columbus area)  
Cuyahoga Valley Section  
(Akron area)  
Lake Erie Section  
(Cleveland area)  
Northwest Ohio Section  
(Toledo area)  
Triko Valley Section  
(Cincinnati, North  
Kentucky, Southeast  
Indiana areas)

#### Michigan

#### Wisconsin

### Mid-Atlantic Region

#### Maryland

Chesapeake Section  
(Baltimore area)

#### North Carolina

Carolina Piedmont  
Section  
(Charlotte area)  
Carolina Triangle Section  
(Raleigh area)

### South Carolina

#### Virginia

Blue Ridge Section  
(Roanoke area)  
Greater Hampton Roads  
Section (Southeastern  
Virginia area)  
Old Dominion Section  
(Richmond area)  
Potomac Section  
(Northern Virginia,  
Washington, DC areas)

#### West Virginia

North Central West  
Virginia Section

### North Central Region

#### Iowa

#### Minnesota

#### Nebraska

#### North Dakota

Central Dacotah Section  
(Bismarck area)

#### South Dakota

### Northeast Region

#### Connecticut

#### Delaware

First State Section  
(Northern area)

#### Maine

#### Massachusetts

#### New Hampshire

### New Jersey

North Central New Jersey  
Section  
Southern New Jersey  
Section

### New York

Albany Section  
Central New York Section  
(Syracuse area)  
Long Island Section  
New York Metro Section  
(New York City area)

### Pennsylvania

Altoona Section  
(Altoona, Johnstown  
areas)  
Clearfield Section  
Delaware Valley Section  
(Philadelphia area)  
East Penn Section  
(Allentown area)  
Franklin Section  
Harrisburg Section  
Mid-Allegheny Section  
(Indiana area)  
North East Penn Section  
Pittsburgh Section  
Southwest Penn Section  
Williamsport Section

### Rhode Island

### Vermont

### Rocky Mountain Region

#### Arizona

Phoenix Sonoran Section

#### Colorado

#### New Mexico

#### Utah

#### Wyoming

### Southeast Region

#### Alabama

#### Florida

Central Florida Section  
(Orlando area)  
Gold Coast Section  
(Fort Lauderdale area)  
Northeast Florida Section  
(Jacksonville area)  
Tampa Bay Section

#### Georgia

Georgia Section  
(Atlanta area)

#### Mississippi

#### Tennessee

Middle Tennessee Section  
(Nashville area)



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Mark Dole  
Caroline Duffy\*  
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