

# 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

November 28, 2006  
January 23, 2007

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American Society of Highway Engineers  
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September 2006

Volume 7, Number 1

## From our President . . .

**Greg Wilkens, P.E., P.S.,  
Butler County Engineer**



Triko Valley is an exceptional organization comprised of some of the industry's top leaders. I'm honored to serve as President for the upcoming year as we move forward with our efforts to give back to the industry that's afforded each of us so many opportunities for professional growth and success.

Providing the means for aspiring young people to enter the industry is one way of giving back and saying thanks. We, of course, accomplish this through our scholarship fund. Facilitating ways to bring today's brightest students into the industry keeps it healthy and vibrant. Moreover, it serves the ultimate goal of improving our roads and keeping them safe for the motoring public.

We've had good success with our membership drives as well as our golf outings, the money from which is used for the scholarship fund. As a Section, we need to continue building on this success. By bringing in guests and exposing them to the special camaraderie within this organization, I hope that we can make increasing membership easier and, as membership increases, so do participants in our golf outings. I encourage and challenge all members of the Triko Valley Section to help expand our membership so that we can raise scholarship amounts to the next level.

We also need to exercise more influence on the political system in an effort to increase highway funding. The pursuit of innovative financing for major roadway projects is becoming more critical as our aging infrastructure needs to be brought up to date and expanded to meet today's demands. I hope to see more Section members become involved with this important undertaking.

Finally, Triko Valley will be hosting the 2010 ASHE National Conference. The time will be here before you know it, so we need to begin preparations now. This will take a concerted effort by one and all as it provides a golden opportunity to put our best foot forward. We've assembled a couple of our committee members and chairpersons, but will need additional help as we develop committees to help organize for this event. We are going to hold a silent auction at OTEC (Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference) later this year and need to provide auction items for this event. Suggested items include sports memorabilia, gift certificates, tickets to sporting events and various community attractions such as the ballet, zoo, or amusement parks. The proceeds from the auction will provide seed money for any costs involved with hosting the National Conference.

# Notes from Your ASHE PIN (Political Information Network)

The nation's infrastructure is at a turning point. The legacy of the Eisenhower Administration is wearing out or is under capacity in several locations. SAFETEA-LU funding has provided a funding level at \$286.4 billion to be spent on transportation projects over the next six years, starting in August, 2005. Estimates of available spending were calculated from the 18.4 cents tax on every gallon of gasoline. However, higher gasoline prices have resulted in lower fuel consumption and a rise in construction prices an average of 30%. With the introduction of hybrid vehicles, and the rise in use of bio-fuels, the amount of money available in the Highway Trust Fund has decreased. If spending of the Highway Trust Fund is kept on its current path, the Highway Trust Fund is estimated to be bankrupt by 2009. Half of ODOT's Jobs and Progress budget comes from the Highway Trust Fund and the Jobs and Progress schedule extends to the year 2015. This leaves a wide gap between the available funding and the funding needed to complete these projects. So, what alternatives are available?

One option is to decrease the amount of appropriations from the Highway Trust fund to accommodate the reduction in income. However, this does not solve the capacity and replacement of worn out infrastructure.

A second option is to change the funding stream coming into the Highway Trust Fund. In recent years, a test project in Oregon utilized a different method to calculate the "fair share" of the road user tax. The gas tax was not calculated by the amount of fuel bought, but rather infrared technology at the gas pump calculates the gas tax based on actual mileage driven. This tax is then added to the price of the fuel. Basing the road user tax in this manner would alleviate the drop in funds in the Highway Trust Fund from hybrid cars and the use of alternative fuels.

A third option to fill the funding gap is the use of Toll Roads. Traditional Toll Roads have been publicly-owned. Various Toll Road Commissions run the facilities, collect tolls, and these tolls are used by the Toll Road Commission to pay for the facility. Once the tolls have paid for the facility, several States have removed the tolls, and the facility has gone under the public DOT jurisdiction. Other States kept the Tolls going, even after the facilities are paid for, to finance other facilities or generate maintenance funds. One option would be to convert new or existing public facilities into publicly-owned toll roads.

The fourth option is the newest option available in the United States. It is known as Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Toll Roads. Two recent high-profile projects are the \$1.83 billion, 99-year lease of the Chicago Skyway and the \$3.86 billion, 75-year lease of the Indiana Toll Road facilities, both a joint venture of Spain's Cintra SA (a retirement fund) and Australia's Macquarie Investment Holdings. The joint-venture views transportation infrastructure as a stable growth market. There are 18 other projects being actively discussed in other states. Many opposed to PPP have concerns about the price of future tolls to maintain the profit-ratio required by the investors and that these high tolls would segregate those who can afford to travel these necessary highways and those who cannot, thus impacting our economy.

Former FHWA Director, Mary Peters, has recently been nominated as Secretary of Transportation. As a big supporter of PPP, the leasing of Toll Roads may get more federal support in the future. Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell has stated that he is in favor of leasing the Ohio Turnpike in a PPP. He stated that the Tolls would be placed in a trust for highway purposes, thus filling the funding gap of the Job and Progress Plan. While Congressman Ted Stickland has not stated a formal opinion on the lease of the Ohio Turnpike, his office has stated that he is open to innovative ideas that would solve the funding problem.

As the economic health of our Country rests squarely on the shoulders of our transportation system, the solution to this looming funding problem may be mix of any or all of these alternatives.



# TRIKO Valley News

The General Membership meeting for the TRIKO Valley Section of ASHE was held on Tuesday, May 23, 2006.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a welcome and recognition of 12 guests from President Mike Thompson.

Bill Lawall gave the Treasurer's report of previous balance of \$1,156.16, deposits of \$1,736.82, expenditures of \$1,048.90, leaving a current balance of \$1,844.08 remaining in the general fund and \$5,000 in the Scholarship Fund.

Secretary David Emerick gave the Secretary's report from the March 28, 2006 meeting.

Caroline Duffy presented the Political Information Network (PIN) report, discussing the federal gas proposal, which could result in bankruptcy for the Federal Trust Fund. ASHE PIN is urging members to send opposition letters to their Senators. On the local

front, there is bipartisan opposition to the Tax Limitation Amendment and ODOT is restructuring their program due inflation effects on materials.

Three applications for the ASHE scholarships were received. A \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Dusty Israel and a \$500 scholarship awarded to Jacob Fae.

Jim Collins reported that a Regional Meeting was held in Columbus on April 18th. Seed money was sent in by all sections and bylaw revisions were completed in June. Upcoming National Conventions are:

- 2006 Williamsburg
- 2007 Atlantic City
- 2008 Harrisburg
- 2009 Atlanta
- 2010 Cincinnati
- 2011 Orlando

Also, two new sections have formed in Louisville, KY and Wharton, WV. National is considering raising dues and increasing visibility.

A Cincinnati 2010 National Conference fundraising event must be planned to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000 in advance funds. A silent auction will be held at OTEC and a request for donated items, such as sports memorabilia, was made.

The slate of nominated officers was accepted and all nominations were accepted by the membership. Current officers were thanked for their service.

John Greenhalge from the Ohio Board of Registration closed the meeting with a presentation on the topics of State regulation of engineers, continuing professional development hours requirements and enforcement issues.

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## General Membership

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Tim Augustine  
Richard Bailey\*  
Phil Banton  
Doug Batt  
Eric Beck  
Gerald Berding  
Steve Bergman  
Gabriel Bitar  
Charles Bode  
Douglas Brand  
Bruce  
Brandstetter\*  
Tom Brayshaw  
Bill Brayshaw  
John Brazina  
Wayne  
Breitenstein  
David Brewer  
Jonathon Brunot  
Dennis Brunton  
Charles Bucklew  
Dave Butts  
Carol Callan-  
Ramlar  
Kathleen Carsey  
Jim Collins\*  
Judi Craig  
William Crawford  
John Davidson  
Jeff Darrah

Caroline Duffy  
Michael Eddy  
Kristin Eggeman  
John Eichstadt  
Kim Elam  
Mary Beth Elfers\*  
David Emerick  
Joseph Espelage  
William Fair  
Henry Fedders\*  
Patrick Finn  
Leo Flischel  
Carl Fritsch  
Bronson Funke  
James Griebel  
Paul Gruner  
Michael Hafner  
David Hammer  
Stan Harris  
Steven Hartke  
Lori Hayes  
John Heilman  
Mark Henderson  
George Hoffman\*  
Ted Hubbard\*  
Warren Iulig  
Dennis Jennings  
James Jurgensen\*  
James Kapsho  
Joseph Kearnes\*  
John Kerr

Craig Ketron  
Gary Ketron  
Michael Kinne  
Eric Kistner  
Scott Knebel  
Jeffrey Koehn  
Daniel Koeninger  
Steven Korte  
George Kral  
Wess Kroll  
John Lachmann  
Jeffrey Lamb  
Bill Lansing  
Bill Lawall  
Aaron Littman  
Matt Loeffler  
Daniel Louis  
Patrick Manger  
Benjamin Mann  
Steve Mary  
Dan McAdams  
John McChord  
Ray McDaniel  
Joe Mellman  
Catherine Miller  
Cindy Minter  
Nathan Moore  
Warner Moore  
Paul Motylinski  
Bryan Mount  
Robert Mount

Michael Murray  
David Newhouse  
Paul Pfennig\*  
Tim Peters  
Duane Phelps  
Robert Plate  
Dale Proffitt  
Steven Proffitt  
Michael Prus  
Joseph Prus  
Amy Pursley  
Phil Rasor  
Mark Richardson  
Doug Riddiough  
Ronald Roberts  
Jock Roeder  
Donald Rosenbarger  
Kevin Rust  
Ali Saleh  
Michael Samoviski  
Ray Schork  
Julie Schroeder  
Paul Schoelwer  
Gary Simmons  
David Spisak  
Leonard Stahl  
Robert Steier  
Craig Stephenson  
Jake Stremmel  
Dwight Stutz  
Tim Taney

Cindy Taylor  
Mike Thompson\*  
Tim Thoroughman  
David Thurston  
LeeAnn Tito  
David Tomley  
Vickie Trimbach  
Robert Trenkamp  
Roy Turton  
Jennifer Vatter  
Joe Vogel  
Doug Walker  
Mark Walker  
Jeffrey Wallace  
George Webb  
Mark Weber  
Larry Weisman  
Gregory Wilkins  
Robert Yeager  
Mehmet Yildirim  
Heinrich  
Zehetmaier\*  
James Zentmeyer

\* Past Presidents





**Thank You!!**

**Fund raising for the 2010 National ASHE Conference has begun.**

**A special thanks goes out to the following firms for donating items to the OTEC Silent Auction**

**BBCM**  
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**Barrett Paving Materials**  
**Beaver Excavating Company**  
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**Moraine Materials**  
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***Donation Deadline for OTEC is Monday, October 9, 2006***

## RSVP!!

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

## ASHE TRIKO VALLEY SCHOLARSHIP

The ASHE Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the Golf Outing at Pebble Creek in June, 2006. We were able to give away two scholarships at this outing. One scholarship for \$1000 was awarded to University of Cincinnati Senior Dusty Israel. The second scholarship for \$500 was awarded to the Northern Kentucky University Senior Jacob Fay. With record attendance at the outing and with great participation of the hole sponsorships and sale of the "cheaters", the ASHE Board has recommended that the Scholarships be **increased to \$1500 and \$1000**. These scholarships will be awarded at the 2007 ASHE Golf Outing and applications will be due on April 27, 2007. Again, we thank all who participated in raising money for the people who will be the future of our profession.

Please see our website for application information: <http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com/>

### OTEC 2006

*The Interstate System's 50th Anniversary  
Mile Markers, Milestones, Miles to Go*

### Shop at the Silent Auction at the ASHE Booth at OTEC

Columbus October 24-25, 2006

In 2010, the **ASHE National Conference** will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. To fund this national conference, all of the Ohio ASHE sections will be holding a **silent auction** at the annual Ohio Transportation Engineering Conference (OTEC).

*It's not too late to get added publicity at OTEC by making a  
donation to the auction (see insert).*

*Need some tickets to the game, a dinner for 2, a family outing, a blimp ride or just  
some concrete - shop the silent auction and place your bid.*

Visit [www.ashe-trikovalley.com](http://www.ashe-trikovalley.com) for an advance list of donations

## 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, 6 for \$15, or 15 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 [sharris@fmsm.com](mailto:sharris@fmsm.com). Send website logos to Matt Loeffler at [loefflerm@bceo.org](mailto:loefflerm@bceo.org).

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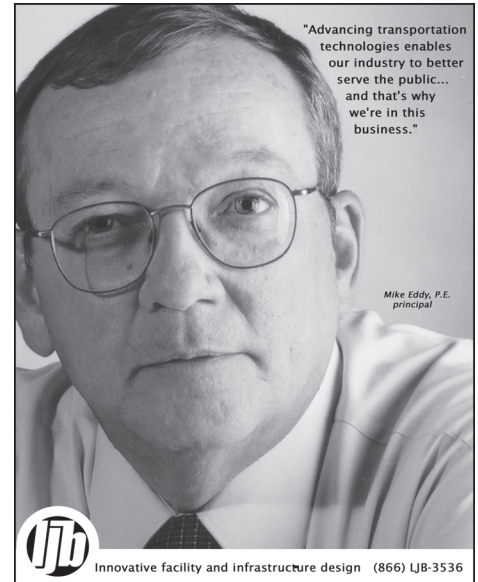
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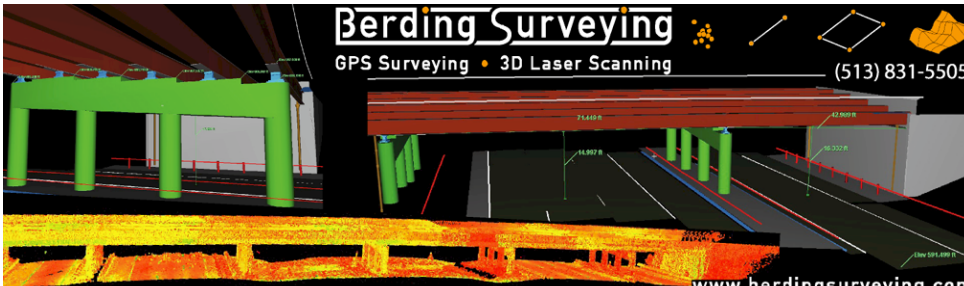
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# ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

Tuesday, September 26, 2006, 11:30 a.m. Montgomery Inn Boathouse

Presentation by Dave Tomley, KZF and  
Steve Mary, Hamilton County Engineer's Office  
on new AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications

Lunch Cost: \$20.00

RSVP to Bill Lawall at 513-807-2245  
by 4:00 September 25, 2006

## **ASHE**

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