



# TRIKO Valley News

Volume 21, Issue 1 - September 2020

## From Our President...



With TRIKO Valley's season of programs about to kick off, we find ourselves in very different and trying times. Due to Covid-19, we had to cancel the March meeting and had our first ever virtual meeting last May. As we move into the fall season, we see the same types of cancellations and virtual meetings. Most conferences have been canceled or postponed, and we will be holding our next ASHE meeting virtually.

Our next meeting will be held virtually this Wednesday, September 29th. The topic of this meeting will be RDV Systems, Inc. Rapid Design Visualization. RDV software products are used by many consultants and agencies to visualize, analyze, and communicate their designs. This will be an interesting meeting that you will not want to miss.

As many of you are aware, our 2020 Golf Outing was canceled. Unfortunately, this cancellation greatly impacts our main source of funds for our scholarship program. Please consider donations or website and ASHE Newsletter sponsorships to help fund next year's scholarships. ASHE TRIKO Valley Section currently has approximately 182 members. I encourage all to renew their membership if they have not already done so. As always, please ask your friends and coworkers to consider joining the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section.

Tom Nicholson  
Pretek Group

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# General Membership Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020 | Zoom Video Conference**

President Tom Nicholson called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

He announced that the Golf Outing will be held on September 21, 2020 and that the next general membership meeting will be September 22, 2020 (date to be confirmed, members to look for future email notification).

New board member nomination(s) typically occur during today's meeting; however, this business will carry to the September meeting. Any interested persons are to contact a current board member.

Contrary to recent fraudulent email communications, President Nicholson stated that there are no and will be no COVID-19 donation requests from ASHE.

Membership renewals are due June 1, 2020.

President Nicholson presented the Treasurer's report, noting an operating capital of \$20,952.46 (as of May 15, 2020). The section currently has 181 members including 8 student members. Four new members were recognized: John Crane (Flexible Pavement of Ohio), Michael Pittenger (Hamilton County Engineer's Office), Robert Sheets (ATC/ATLAS), and Mike Yeager (Integrated Engineering). Steve Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Stan Harris seconded. The motion was approved.

The ASHE National Conference has been cancelled. Raleigh will host in 2024. A special edition of the Scanner newsletter will be issued in June and will include some conference information.

Caroline Duffy gave the PIN report: The ASHE PIN wishes all of you to stay safe in this uncertain time. With many of us working from home and social distancing, the traffic volumes have dropped as much as 60% on the nation's roadways. This drop in traffic has reduced air pollution and spurred wildlife to take to the streets. It has also reduced the motor fuel users fee that is collected by our federal and state governments. While Congress has passed the CARES act to provide stimulus to businesses to help them in this time of quarantine, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials has asked Congress for a \$50B appropriation to state governments to use on highway programs. However, the \$3 trillion HEROES Act passed by the House last week only included a \$15B appropriation that would allow the money to be used not only for broad highway and bridge capital projects but also for administrative and operations expenses, including salaries of employees (including those employees who have been placed on administrative leave) or contractors, information technology needs, and availability payments. Nearly all the \$15B would be distributed to the states via the standard federal-aid highway funding distribution formula, which means Ohio would get \$500,600 from this aid. While the House has passed this legislation, Senator Mitch McConnell has said that infrastructure will not be part of Congress's next coronavirus relief package, even as President Trump has pushed for it to be included. He said he was interested in passing an infrastructure bill, it was "unrelated" to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Without his support, Coronavirus stimulus funding for infrastructure is unlikely. Many states are reacting similarly to Ohio, which needs to balance their budget. They are pushing construction and design projects alike out a few months to the next fiscal year. However, the true nature of the impact of the drop in motor fuel tax won't be felt until the third quarter of 2020 unless highway stimulus is passed by Congress. Several organizations are conducting write in campaigns for this to happen. What can ASHE do about this? Email your Congressional Representatives and let them know that the transportation industry needs stimulus monies to prevent an industry slump.

Steve Mary noted that there was no regional report. Our March programs (general membership meeting and FCC tour) were cancelled. There will be more to come about a possible reschedule.

Stan Harris announced that our Section will provide an article for the next Scanner newsletter, which will be prepared by member Steve Shadix (July 15, 2020).

There was no report from the student chapter committee.

Brian Rhoades welcomed the new members previously identified. He also provided a renewal reminder.

The Schramm Award winners were announced by Todd Gadbury. The winner of the over \$5 million category was the I-71/Western Row Interchange Improvements project with the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Warren County Transportation Improvement District, and the City of Mason as project sponsors/owners. It was constructed by JR Jurgenson and engineered by Stantec. The under \$5 million category winner was the Van Blaricum Road project sponsored by the Hamilton County Engineer's Office, designed by the Kleingers Group, and built by Smith Construction.

President Nicholson stated that the scholarship application period is open. The deadline has been extended to June 19, 2020.

President Nicholson also stated that the highway cleanup event was cancelled (April) and that the program itself has been put on hold until further notice. Members are to look for future announcements.

There was no social committee report.

Katie Dillenburg provided a golf committee report reiterating the new golf outing date of Monday, September 21, 2020. The schedule and location, Aston Oaks Golf Club, are unchanged. Katie will check to see that the website registrations are open. She will be reaching out to members for participation/donations.

There was no website news.

President Nicholson turned to Steve Mary, program director who introduced speakers Jim Jung and Justin Sutton who presented today's program on the Hydrogen Superhighway Elevated Rail System.

After the presentation, Steve Mary raised a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Eric Beck and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie Dillenburg for David Emerick  
TRIKO Valley Section Secretary





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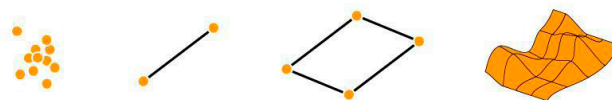
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## ASHE PIN Report - September 2020

The transportation industry is approaching a perfect storm. The pandemic has yielded state and local DOT's seeing a drop in revenue from the gas tax due to the decrease in traffic from the stay at home/work from home orders. From March 1 to May 31, ODOT District 8 saw an average 33% decline in traffic volumes. ODOT receives 91% of its revenue from the state motor fuel tax and has seen a \$157M decline in revenue from March, 2020 to August, 2020 from COVID related actions.

This decrease in the DOT budgets has led to layoffs in the transportation design industry as projects have been postponed or delayed. The Ohio Department of Transportation's TRAC funding program has been cancelled for 2020 and several large construction project have been delayed. Public agencies have instituted hiring freezes. Several states, such as Texas and Michigan, are diverting up to 25% of their gas tax revenue to other programs, such as education.

While President Trump and the House Democrats support a stimulus package that included infrastructure, the Senate Republicans have refused to include the AASHTO-backed \$37B stimulus package for the transportation industry. It is unknown if traffic volume will rebound to pre-COVID levels to restore gas tax receipts to the DOT's in the next four years. To make matters worse, The Fast Act is set to expire on September 30, 2020. While the House and the Senate both produced transportation bills, neither one made it past their committees. Many believe because of the election year, that a one-year extension of the Fast Act at current funding levels will be passed by September 30, 2020. However, the Highway Trust Fund receipts have decreased 79% from May 2019 to May 2020 due to COVID, and has accelerated the deadline for the Highway Trust Fund insolvency to April of 2021. So, even if an extension is passed, funding from the Highway Trust Fund will not be able to cover the needs. Many DOT's, such as Ohio, are not expecting any federal funding, and have adjusted their program accordingly.

What can ASHE do about this? Contact your Congressional Leaders with a message that the transportation industry needs to be included in any future stimulus package.

Senate link: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/index.htm>

House link: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

## 2020 ASHE TRIKO Valley Section Lloyd Wallace Memorial Golf Outing - **CANCELLED**

After much consideration, the 2020 ASHE Triko Valley Section Lloyd Wallace Memorial Golf Outing has been cancelled.

Please look for future information and opportunities to raise funds for this year's scholarship program. While we hope to hold a special event in the future, please consider sending in donations or virtual sponsorships via the ASHE Triko Valley Section website, under the golf section.

Thank you members, for your continued support. As always, please contact Katie Dillenburger or a board member with any questions, comments, or suggestions for our future outings/fundraising events.

# **ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING**

## **General Membership Meeting**

***September 29, 2020 | 11:30am - 1:30pm***

**This general membership meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcu2sqzke9IM5\\_UqDGJPjnl1mvzl4HG](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcu2sqzke9IM5_UqDGJPjnl1mvzl4HG)**

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Our Zoom account limits us to 100 attendees so please register in advance to secure a place.**

**There will be a general membership meeting (including an election for the new Board member and swearing in of the new President and Board). The 2020-2021 Board positions up for approval will consist of the following:**

**President – Aaron Muck  
1st Vice President – Brian Rhodes  
2nd Vice President – Joe Schmeltzer  
4th Year Director – Katie Dillenburg  
3rd Year Director – Terry Dull  
2nd Year Director – Todd Gadbury  
1st Year Director – TBA (see “New Board Member” below)  
Past President & Regional Representative – Steve Mary  
Secretary – David Emerick  
Treasurer – Eric Kistner**

**This will be followed by a presentation by Nadav Marcus, Marketing Manager for RDV Systems, Inc. about innovative visualization and BIM software for infrastructure professionals. Highlighted will be the Road Safety Audit 3D platform, which uses a systemic approach to road safety based on precise virtual models of roadway geometry for both design and existing roads.**

**New Board Member – We have received one nomination for the open 1st Year Director position. Other nominations are welcome. Please email Tom Nicholson at [tnicholson@pretekgroup.com](mailto:tnicholson@pretekgroup.com) with additional nominations. Because the outgoing board member (Steve Mary) is a consultant, a consultant is preferred to replace him to retain a balance of vendor, government, contractor, and consultant representation on the Board.**

## 2019 - 2020 Board of Directors

Title	Member	Company	Phone	Email
President	Tom Nicholson	PRETEK Group	937-641-8267	tnicholson@pretekgroup.com
1st Vice President	Aaron Muck	Terracon	513-612-9051	ajmuck@terracon.com
2nd Vice President	Brian Rhodes	City of Cincinnati	513-699-8573	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov
Treasurer	Eric Kistner	Stantec	513-842-8200	eric.kistner@stantec.com
Secretary	David Emerick	Duke Energy	513-287-1001	david.emerick@duke-energy.com
4th Year Director	Joe Schmeltzer	American Structurepoint	513-407-8317	jschmeltzer@structurepoint.com
3rd Year Director	Katie Dillenburger	Bayer Becker	513-492-9837	katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com
2nd Year Director	Terry Dull	KZF	513-621-6211	terry.dull@kzf.com
1st Year Director	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
Past President & Regional Representative	Steve Mary	Terracon	513-472-7029	steve.mary@terracon.com

## 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	Joe Schmeltzer	jschmeltzer@structurepoint.com
Program	Steve Mary	steve.mary@terracon.com
Social	Terry Dull	terry.dull@kzf.com
Membership	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Katie Dillenburger	katiedillenburger@bayerbecker.com
Newsletter	Stan Harris	stan.harris@stantec.com
Website	Paul Durham	paul.durham@stantec.com
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	143Engineers@gmail.com
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