



TRIKO Valley News

Volume 21, Issue 4 - March 2021

From Our President...



Although spring has not officially arrived, I hope you've enjoyed some of the milder temperatures. Our spring break was earlier than most, so our family was able to take advantage of some beautiful weather and enjoy some beautiful areas of Ohio. In three days, we traveled nearly 300 miles in parts of Butler, Hamilton, Warren, Greene, and Clermont Counties. We traveled a variety of state, county, and local roads and crossed numerous bridges over rivers, streams, and railroads. We walked up and down streets, sidewalks, and paths, and crossed many of the same, and we even rode the streetcar. I

could keep going with the many examples of engineering and infrastructure in our region. We did all of this safely and without incident. In both big and small ways, thank you to all of you who have a part in making such experiences possible for not just my family on their 3-day staycation, but for everyone who lives here or finds themselves just passing through.

Continuing with the theme of recognizing great transportation projects in our region, our January meeting included our annual Schramm presentations. Thank you to everyone who participated in these projects and to all the presenters. Providing an overview of the project in under 10 minutes was probably comparable to the challenges of the projects themselves, but everyone did a great job. It is not too early to consider the current and upcoming projects you are working on for next year. Take a lot of pictures since you might find yourself needing them!

Our March meeting will involve a joint meeting with the Ohio Contractors Association (OCA) as part of our annual CIP meeting. We are planning on as many as 10 public officials being represented from various state, county, and local agencies. Don't forget that our meeting on Thursday, March 18th will start at 12:30 PM with the ASHE Triko Valley business portion, followed by the CIP presenters commencing at 1 PM. Although still virtual, I look forward to "seeing" all of you.

I'm always open to your input on our ASHE TRIKO Valley section. Email me with thoughts, comments, and/or suggestions. Visit our website. I also challenge each of you to consider your friends, peers, and any academics/students that might consider joining the ASHE TRIKO Valley Section.

Have a great day and stay safe!

Aaron Muck
Terracon

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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.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 | ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

President Aaron Muck called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM, welcoming attendees and observing a few moments of silence/reflection/prayer for our country. He presented a safety message on leaving enough time to complete tasks such as commuting and announced that the next general membership meeting will be March 9th, 2021 which is typically the CIP meeting. Aaron also acknowledged our 2020 golf outing sponsors: LJB, Bayer Becker, Beck for County Engineer, and Viox & Viox. These sponsorships are important to fund our scholarships.

For the secretary's report, a motion was raised by Todd Gadbury to approve the November 17th, 2020 Ethics General Membership Meeting notes which are posted in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Eric Kistner and passed with no opposition.

Matthew Adkins (UC Construction Management student and Co-Chair of the CANstruction project) presented on the UC CANstruction project for 2021, thanking Triko Valley for their \$500 donation. This year's design is a UC bearcat wearing a mask. President Muck thanked Matthew for his presentation and for what the committee is doing.

Treasurer Kistner reported that as of November 17, 2020, the operating capital for the section was \$20,190.82. After income of \$465.00 and expenses of \$4,946.18, the current operating capital is \$15,709.64. We currently have 176 members, including 9 student members. Our newest member is Wyatt McDermitt from the SESCO Group. Bill Fair raised a motion to accept the Treasurer's report which was seconded by Caroline Duffy and carried unanimously.

Caroline Duffy presented the PIN report, noting what a year 2020 has been. Despite the slow progress on a transportation bill under the Trump administration, changes are on the horizon. At the end of September, a government funding bill extension was passed to keep the government running until December 11, 2020. In addition, the FAST act was extended for one year at the end of September; however, it was not funded. Since the second COVID stimulus package was being delayed by Congress, the government funding extension was pushed to December 28 and it was paired with the second COVID stimulus package. This legislation assigned \$10 billion from the general revenue fund to fund the FAST Act one-year extension at current levels of \$46.4 billion for core highway programs. No new PPP money for infrastructure was included in this funding package. Since the Senate runoff elections in Georgia both went to the Democratic candidates, both houses of Congress and the White House will have Democratic control for the next two years. With a new presidency, the new Secretary of Transportation will be former Mayor and Presidential Candidate Pete Buttigieg. First on the agenda is to address the Highway Trust Fund, which will be bankrupt in April of 2021. He will work to implement Biden's plan, Build Back Better, that would outlay \$2 trillion over the next four years to address infrastructure needs. These investments would be focused on roads, bridges, rail, and transit, along with funds for broadband access, energy, wastewater, housing, innovation, and healthcare. Included would be an immediate \$15 billion infusion to jump start our highways, roadways and bridges as was requested by AASHTO. While January at the US Capitol has saddened the ASHE PIN, there is hope that our country will survive. Caroline urged us to please pray that this divide that has gotten wider, deeper, and more painful, can be healed so that the country can move to matters forward desperately needed by the country, such as a transportation bill.

Tom Nicholson presented the region report, noting that the Great Lakes region is looking for volunteers to fill committees including a chair for the membership committee.

Stan Harris noted nothing to report on the Scanner as we will not have an article due until July. Stan thanked our sponsors for the local newsletter. We have plenty of room for additional sponsorships. Contact him for info on how to sponsor the newsletter.

Aaron Muck noted that locally there is very little movement for the student section. We appreciate the student

members that we have. From a national level, there is a survey to collect feedback from all the sections to understand student section activity. Responses are due at the end of January.

Steve Mary reported that the May meeting will be a presentation on the Brent Spence bridge repairs led by the KYTC. We are also looking for an opportunity for a small group tour of the FC Cincinnati stadium soon.

Scholarship season is open and will again offer two scholarships. TRIKO Valley intends to offer a \$5,000 scholarship with the assistance of JRJ and a second \$1,500 scholarship with your support of this program. Scholarship applications will be out shortly and will be due April 9th. Members were encouraged to reach out to their coops about applying.

President Muck noted that Dan Ficker will take over as the new chairman of the community service committee. Tom Nicholson announced that with COVID 19, ODOT still has a hold on their Adopt-a-Highway program but we are hoping to hold an event in the spring.

Aaron Muck noted that Terry Dull is continuing to look for some safe options for social events including clay shooting.

Katie Dillenburger was not able to attend today but President Muck noted that she is looking at how we can safely hold a golf outing this year.

Paul Durham had nothing to report regarding the website. President Muck invited members to visit the new website.

No new business was presented.

Aaron Muck turned the meeting over to Todd Gadbury who introduced the project presentations as follows:

\$5M and Under

Project Name	Consultant	Owner	Presenter
Glendale-Milford Road and Lake Forest Road Roundabout	American Structurepoint	City of Blue Ash	Tony Lenhart
Bellevue Drive Emergency Culvert Replacement	LJB Inc.	City of Bellbrook	Dan Hoying Melissa Dodd
Keller Road Bridge Replacement	Barge Design Solutions Inc	Hamilton County Engineer's Office	Amy Shell Jeffrey Wallace

Over \$5M

Project Name	Consultant	Owner	Presenter
Sycamore Road Improvements	TEC Engineering	Sycamore Township	Edward Williams
Union Center Blvd. @ I-75 Diverging Diamond Interchange	Jacobs Engineering	Butler County Engineer's Office	Matt Loeffler Bob Lichter

After the presentations, Todd announced that there will be a survey coming out to vote. Eric Kistner noted that he posted a link on the chat box to take you to the voting page. Todd Gadbury thanked all the presenters. Aaron Muck also thanked the presenters and noted that members have until tomorrow to vote. Eric reminded us that you must be an ASHE member to vote and that we may need to log onto the ASHE website to vote.

Steve Mary raised a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Tom Nicholson and carried. The meeting was adjourned by President Muck at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David Emerick, TRIKO Valley Section Secretary

ASHE PIN Report - March 2021

The outlook is improving on many transportation fronts. At the end of 2020, Congress passed the COVID Stimulus package that included monies for state DOT's to offset the loss in gas receipts revenue, which ODOT expects to be down \$354 m by June 30, 2021. The December Federal Stimulus bill provided \$335M to ODOT of which ODOT will assign \$130M to the local government, leaving \$205M for ODOT. The ODOT State budget is currently being decided, with passage required by April 1, 2021. ODOT is proposing an additional \$100M in this budget to make ODOT 'whole' again. With this news, ODOT is accelerating their TRAC program to compensate for the program being delayed last fall. The ASHE PIN urges each of you to contact your Ohio legislators to approve this request from ODOT.

In Kentucky, HB 561 is being discussed. This bill would do the following:

- Increase the gas tax from 26 to 36 cents per gallon and adjusted annually based on the National Highway Construction Cost 2.0 Index. 10 cent increase will generate over \$300 million/ year in NEW state transportation funding. Adjustments can only increase by a maximum of 10% or decrease by a maximum of 10% in a given fiscal year.
- Higher tax assessments on tractor-trailers and other heavy vehicles
- New fees for electric car: \$150 fee each year (also indexed to NHCC 2.0)
- Establishes the highway preservation fees, which use the average fuel economy to determine the fee paid by the owner each year. Vehicles with a fuel economy of 30-39 mpg will pay a \$35/yr. fee and vehicles getting over 40 mpg will pay a \$40/year fee. This fee is intended to ensure that high mileage fuel or hybrid vehicles are paying to use the roadways.
- Increases the cost to register cars and pickup trucks each year to \$22. Raises fees for licenses, license reinstatements, permits.
- Annual motorcycle renewals would increase from \$9 to \$15.
- \$740.8 million in taxes were generated during the last fiscal year. That is a decrease of over \$30 million from 2019. This is consistent with the revenue generated in 2009.
- Creates the multi-modal fund to maintain and improve the systems for the other modes (aviation, public transit, railroad crossings, riverports). Funding for this fund is required to come from the general fund. Lays out and establishes the current and new revenue-sharing model as agreed upon by the counties and the cities.
- Caps the trade-in allowance at \$25,000 for motor vehicles usage tax purposes
- The law dictates that if a KYTC project receives a single bid, it can only be awarded if the bid is below the engineer's estimate, or else the Secretary of KYTC has to certify that the project is urgent or emergent. It requires that KYTC transmit a report of all single bid projects awarded over the engineer estimate to the general assembly on a quarterly basis.

The ASHE PIN is encouraging you to contact your legislators asking them to support HN 561 in the party caucus as well as on the chamber floor. Kentucky has not seen an increase in transportation funding in several years and an increase in transportation funding is critical to improve our infrastructure in Kentucky.

President Biden's COVID relief bill has passed the House and will be addressed in the Senate in the coming weeks. Once this bill is addressed, President Biden's agenda calls for a large economic recovery bill, which includes a historic transportation plan, including a \$2 T package that includes a long-term fix for the Highway Trust Fund. This bill is expected in to be on the Congressional floor in the May to July timeline.



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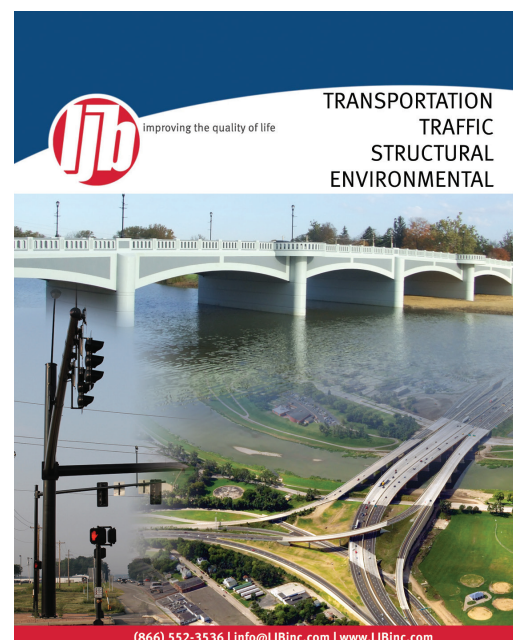
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ASHE TRIKO VALLEY MEETING

OCA / ASHE Triko Valley Annual CIP Program

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 | 12:30 - 2:00PM

ASHE Triko Valley will again be joining forces this year with the Ohio Contractors Association (OCA) for the annual Capital Improvements Program (CIP). ***Please note the change in date and time from our normal meeting time.*** The ASHE general membership meeting will run from 12:30-1:00 (including the Schramm Award presentations), followed by the CIP from 1:00-2:00.

Please register using the following link: **Webinar Registration - Zoom**

Regards,
ASHE Triko Valley Board of Directors



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 Paul Durham at paul.durham@stantec.com

2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

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President	Aaron Muck	Terracon	513-612-9051	ajmuck@terracon.com
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2nd Year Director	Todd Gadbury	Hamilton Co. Engineer's Office	513-946-8445	todd.gadbury@hamilton-co.org
1st Year Director	Dan Ficker	Palmer Engineering	513-469-1600	dficker@palmernet.com
Past President & Regional Representative	Tom Nicholson	PRETEK Group	937-641-8267	tnicholson@pretekgroup.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@neenahenterprises.com
Membership	Brian Rhodes	brian.rhodes@cincinnati-oh.gov
Student Chapter	Aaron Muck	ajmuck@terracon.com
Golf Outing	Katie Dillenburger	katedillenburger@bayerbecker.com
Newsletter	Stan Harris	stan.harris@stantec.com
Website	Paul Durham	paul.durham@stantec.com
Legislative Review (PIN)	Caroline Duffy	143Engineers@gmail.com
Online Payments/PayPal	Eric Kistner	eric.kistner@stantec.com
Community Service	Tom Nicholson	tnicholson@pretekgroup.com

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Kendall Bales
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