

NACE News



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Susan G. Miller, P.E., County Engineer, Freeborn County, MN

It has been a busy few weeks in the NACE world. The biggest news to share is the retirement from County service, and thus the resignation from NACE office of Richard Macchi, Bell County (TX) Engineer and NACE Secretary-Treasurer. Richard will be missed but we wish him well as he retires from one adventure to begin anew. I am pleased to announce that Phil Demery, Sonoma County (CA) Engineer has been unanimously appointed by the NACE Board of Directors to fulfill the duties of Secretary -Treasurer for the remainder of the 2008-2009 NACE year. As a reminder, nominations are still being sought for 2009-2010 the positions of President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Regional Vice Presidents for the Southeast, North Central and Western regions - please contact Past President, George Webb at gwebb@pbcgov.org or (561) 355-2006 by the extended deadline of Friday, January 16th. It takes time and talent of each of us to continuously improve the value of NACE to our membership. For example, did you know that through the NACE/3M partnership grant, local governments were able to save over \$350,000 and still counting on reflective sheeting material as we all begin our effort to comply with the new regulations. What a great initiative and on behalf of the taxpayers of Freeborn County I would like to



Kansas State Director, Rod Meredith, Riley County Assistant Director of Public Works, and outgoing KCHA President Darryl Lutz, Butler County Engineer/Director of Public Works.

say thank you to those who spent time developing this opportunity!

Retro reflectivity compliance was just one of the hot topics at the Kansas County Highway Association (KCHA) winter meeting I attended in November. Shortages of salt and asphaltic concrete were headline issues as well. I am curious how widespread these material shortages are to county government in maintaining our highways so if you have a story to tell, please email me at sue.miller@co.freeborn.mn.us. The impact on our roadways from wind energy development was also a big issue. I found it to be particu-

larly relevant as I had to attend a landowner meeting for the third wind farm under development in my county... this one including our farm. The issue sounds similar to the story told in North Dakota with the renewed interest in oil development and the benefit the local area, but not necessarily to the local roads. Impact from energy development or other economic development is of interest to me too so send a short note of your experiences. These testimonies may be just what we need to encourage our elected officials to keep local roads at the forefront of the much discussed economic stimulus packages and reinvestment in infrastructure. Unfortunately in Kansas, the stimulus package, when it comes, may not be enough as their conference was held on the heels of a press release announcing the deferment of millions of dollars of transportation projects.

I truly enjoyed my visit to Kansas and the hospitality and professionalism of KCHA was another great example of NACE's foundation upon strong, innovative state associations. A couple of years ago, in conjunction with their Department of Transportation, their association developed a pilot position tapping the time and talent of retired County Engineer, Norm Bowers. Norm taps all of his experience. See "President's Report" on page 5.



PHIL DEMERY SELECTED AS NEW NACE SECRETARY-TREASURER

With the recent retirement from County government and resignation of Richard Macchi, Bell County (TX) Engineer as Secretary-Treasurer the NACE Board has unanimously appointed Phil Demery, Sonoma County Public Works Director and current Western Region Vice President to complete the year as Secretary-Treasurer. NACE thanks Richard Macchi for his many years of service to NACE and wishes him all the best in his new job. We also congratulate Phil Demery for his selection and appointment as the new Secretary-Treasurer. President Sue Miller will be convening the Western Region State Directors to elect a new Western Region Vice President.



Wishing you a very happy and safe holiday season!
From the NACE staff, Tony, Bonnie and Angela

PROPOSED STIMULUS PACKAGE PROPOSAL RELEASED

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman, Jim Oberstar (D-MN), has released proposed legislation for an infrastructure component to economic recovery. Oberstar's \$45 billion plan is slightly larger than the version the House passed in October. Included in the proposal is \$18.25 billion for highways and bridges, \$6.5 billion for transit, \$2 billion for rail and \$9 billion for clean water infrastructure.

Other organizations have made more expensive proposals over the past few weeks. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) presented a plan to spend \$63 billion in transportation improvements. The AASHTO report can be viewed at: http://news.transportation.org/press_release.aspx?Action=ViewNews&NewsID=202

The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that there are about 11,391 ready-to-go projects in 427 US cities which would equal a total infrastructure investment of nearly \$74 billion. <http://www.usmayors.org/mainstreeteconomicrecovery/documents/mser-report-200812.pdf>. The National Governor's Association recommends the recovery invest about \$136 billion in infrastructure (<http://www.nga.org>)

We want to hear from you!
Send us your comments about a NACE News article, time/money saving tip or news to share.
Email us at: nace@naco.org

DESPITE RECESSION, CONGRESS NOT EXPECTED TO MOVE STIMULUS BUT JANUARY LOOKS BRIGHT

Congress returned to Washington last week to focus on bailing out the automobile industry. Enacting an economic stimulus bill with tens of billions of dollars in new funding for transportation and infrastructure projects is expected to be postponed to January due to continued opposition from outgoing President George W. Bush and Senate Republicans.

Congressional leaders have spoken during the last weeks about the urgency of moving a stimulus bill that could exceed \$500 billion and hope to have legislation ready for President-elect Barack Obama to sign into law within days of his Jan. 20 inauguration. Obama has urged rapid approval of a stimulus bill that includes spending to accelerate construction of transportation improvements. Obama recently met with 48 of the nation's governors in Philadelphia, a gathering organized by the National Governors Association. The president-elect stressed the importance of identifying projects that could put people to work quickly, participants told *The Washington Post*. Governors told Obama they have \$136 billion in transportation and other infrastructure projects such as schools and water and sewer facilities on the drawing board for the next two years, many of which could get underway within six months of his signature on a federal stimulus bill appropriating the money.

CLEAN WATER ACT JURISDICTION FOLLOWING THE U.S. SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN RAPANOS V. UNITED STATES & CARABELL V. UNITED STATES

The memorandum issued on December 2, 2008 provides guidance to EPA regions and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ["Corps"] districts implementing the Supreme Court's decision in the consolidated cases Rapanos v. United States and Carabell v. United States which address the jurisdiction over waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act. See: http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/pdf/CWA_Jurisdiction_Following_Rapanos120208.pdf

BURLEIGH COUNTY APPOINTS NEW ENGINEER

First, NACE sends best wishes to Jon Mill, who was Burleigh County engineer for 27 years on his retirement. And congratulates Marcus J. Hall who was appointed the new County Engineer effective Nov. 1. Mill will be assisting Hall in the transition until he retires in late December. Hall has worked with St. Louis County, Minn., for the past 16 years in various management positions. For the past five years, Hall has served as that county's public works director/highway engineer. Hall earned a master's of science degree in structural engineering from Iowa State University and his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University. *Edited from Bismarck Tribune, Leanne Eckroth.*

LTAP SAFETY WEBSITE

The NH LTAP Center is maintaining this safety website for all LTAP centers at <http://www.t2.unh.edu/nltapa/>. Please take some time to review. By the way it is also link on the LTAP Clearinghouse site at <http://www.ltapt2.org/resources/>. It is very comprehensive.

Upgrade your signs with help from NACE and 3M

Grant period extended to June 30, 2009!

Details about a grant opportunity are available by logging into the "Members Only" area of the NACE web site.

For more information about the FHWA Minimum Levels of Retroreflectivity Ruling, check out www.minimumreflectivity.org.

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FINAL RULEMAKING ISSUED BY US FOREST SERVICE ON OHV

On December 9, 2008, the Forest Service published final agency policies for implementation of the November 9, 2005 Travel Management Rule in the Federal Register. The policies become effective January 8, 2009.

The travel management rule and final policies provide a national framework for local decisions.

- The rule and final directives require each national forest and grassland to designate those roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use.
- Each national forest or ranger district will decide which roads, trails, and areas to designate for motor vehicle use.
- Until designation is complete, current rules and processes will remain in effect.
- Travel management decisions will be informed by appropriate environmental analysis and documentation.
- Travel management decisions are required to be made with public involvement and in consultation with State and local governments.

The final policies are available at the following link: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-29041.pdf> The correction to the final rule is available at the following link: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-29040.pdf>. For more information contact John W. Bell, PE, National Road System Operations & Mtce Engr, USDA-FS; Phone at 703-605-461; E-Mail - jbello1@fs.fed.us

NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK BEGINS APRIL 6, 2009

By John R. McCarthy, Columbus Consolidated Government, Columbus, GA

The tenth annual National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) will be held from April 6 to April 10, 2009. A national media event is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, at a location to be announced in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area.

Local agencies and LTAP Centers are encouraged to participate in the event. Typical activities include informing the media about the latest advances in temporary traffic control for work zones, adopting resolutions of support, airing public service announcements, displaying the national publicity items and conducting training sessions on work zone safety.

NWZAW was created on December 15, 1999 with a partnership of American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The dates of NWZAW are set as the second week of April each year. Part of this educational effort is informing the public of the hazards and dangers that can be encountered and avoided when driving through a roadway construction zone. Emphasis is placed on the roles of both the worker and the motorist.

Since the first ceremonial week was held in the year 2000, other organizations have joined and encouraged local community activities to help educate the nation on work zone related injuries and fatalities. In 2001, a theme was chosen for the second celebration. The theme was "Enhancing Safety and Mo-

bility in Work Zones", a topic that became more important each year. More information on NWZAW and its history are available at the ATSSA website at: http://www.atssa.com/cs/root/news_pr/nwzaw.

Also available on the ATSSA website is a list of their current Top Ten Downloads. Number one in the list is the "High Visibility De-commissioning Brochure" which was developed by ATSSA and FHWA. The brochure is downloaded three times as often as the next item on the Top Ten list. The brochure can be downloaded as a full color pdf file of 2.05 MB at: http://www.atssa.com/cs/root/atssas_most_popular_downloads.

The FHWA has information on work zones available on their website. Their webpage with news and information about the current Federal Rule on Work Zones Safety and Mobility is at: <http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/index.asp> The FHWA website also includes a recent report of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program of the Transportation Research Board on the selection and application of warning lights on roadway operations equipment.

2009 ROADWAY WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS AWARDS

The Roadway Work Zone Safety Awareness Awards Ceremony will be held at the National Traffic Management & Work Zone Safety Conference in Orlando Fla. March 10-12, 2009. These awards honor outstanding efforts to promote roadway work zone construction safety and reduce accidents, injuries and fatalities. DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 5. More information and application: <http://www.artba.org/foundation/sa/rw/index.htm>



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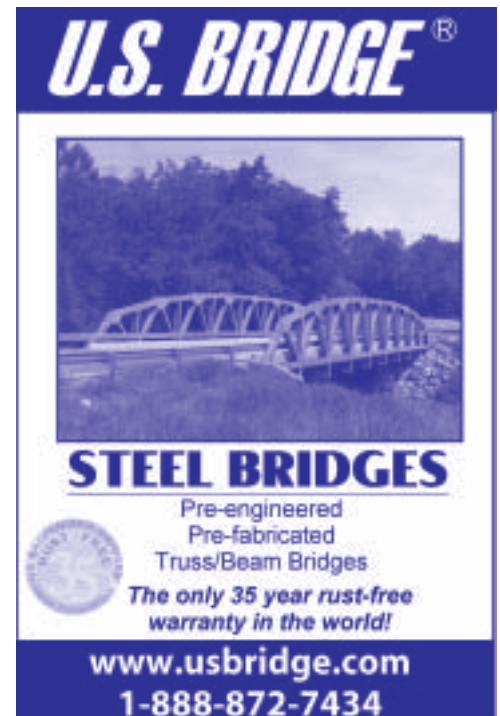


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By Duane Ratermann, County Engineer, Knox County, IL and NACE 2009 Co-Chair

The Illinois Association of County Engineers invites you to the NACE 2009 Conference in Peoria, IL on April 19-23, 2009. This will be the first time that Illinois has hosted the NACE conference. We have been working very hard to put together a great conference and it promises to be just that.

The theme for the conference is "Think Anew, Act Anew." We're all experiencing reduced revenues and increased demands by the public that we serve. We must find new, more economical products and techniques to accomplish the many tasks that we are faced with. Our country will have a new President and we can only guess how his administration and policies will affect our professional and personal lives. Did I mention President-Elect Obama is from Illinois?

The conference unofficially kicks off on Saturday, April 18, with a golf outing at Weaver Ridge Golf Course. This course is arguably the finest championship 18 hole golf course in Central Illinois. It's just a short twenty minute drive from the conference hotel. See below for link to more info/registration form.

On Sunday, April 19 the conference officially begins. There will be meetings that many of you will have to attend while the rest will be able to explore the greater Peoria area and possibly take a walk along the Illinois River. If you have a little extra money burning a hole in your pocket the Par-A-Dice casino is a ten minute drive from the conference hotel. The exhibit hall will open at 4 p.m. with a Grand Opening Ceremony. Mr. Giancola is very tight

lipped on this one so make sure you're there. In recent years, I've found that Tony likes to sing any chance he gets. The exhibit show should be one of the best ever with 130 booths and 10 large equipment spaces available. The Illinois delegation is diligently working to sign-up many familiar vendors as well as new, first time exhibitors.

On Monday, April 20 we'll have the opening ceremonies and the technical sessions begin. Our Program Committee, with assistance from the Illinois Technology Transfer Center, has developed many interesting and informative sessions. It's going to be very hard to be in two places at one time, but you're going to wish that was possible. A few of the topics that will be covered are GPS Initiatives, Employment Practices, Innovative Pavements, Green Engineering, Renewable Energy Issues and Emergency Management. There will be a presentation on Winter Operations by well known speaker, Mark DeVries from Illinois' McHenry County who has traveled internationally speaking on snow and ice control.

You need to plan on getting a good night of rest on Monday night because Tuesday promises to be a day full of fun and entertainment. As many of you may know, Caterpillar, Inc. has its headquarters in Peoria, IL. Tuesday afternoon you will have the opportunity to tour one of three Caterpillar facilities in the Peoria area (see below). Following the tours, we will be transported to the Edwards Demonstration Facility. At Edwards, you will enjoy a dinner and then heavy construction equipment show that is second to none. The equipment show will be choreographed to

music and fireworks. I've never experienced an indoor fireworks display so I'm really looking forward to it. Caterpillar will take good care of us thru the evening. For you Parrot Heads, a local Jimmy Buffet tribute band called "The Boat Drunks" will be on hand for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Illinois is known as the "Land of Lincoln." The highlight of the guest program will be a day trip to Springfield, IL to enjoy the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum as well as Lincoln's home. A local Peoria attraction the guests will be treated to is the Wildlife Prairie State Park, a 2,000 acre zoological park. While there, they will be able to view native Illinois wildlife in its natural surroundings. The guests will have the opportunity to accompany the delegates on the Caterpillar factory tours and Edwards event. There will be time to enjoy shopping or a leisurely stroll in downtown Peoria.

As I write this article, we are less than five months from gathering for the NACE Conference in Peoria. The Illinois County Engineers have been carefully planning a memorable conference. Make your plans now to come enjoy some great Midwest hospitality.

CATERPILLAR PLANT TOURS (OPTIONAL)

The following optional Caterpillar facility tours are available after the Delegate & Guest luncheon on Tuesday (4/21) afternoon. The tours have limited capacity so will be handled on first-come, first-served basis by sign-up sheet on-site at the NACE 2009 registration desk starting on Sunday (4/19) morning.

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NACE 2009 Golf Outing Information and Registration Form (PDF file):
http://www.naco.org/NACETemplate.cfm?Section=NACE_Events&template=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=29448

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REMINDER - NEW NACE 2009 HOTEL PHONE #

Please note: The hotel reservation phone # we have printed on the NACE 2009 brochures has been disconnected (866-376-8886). To make your reservations at the Hotel Pere Marquette, please use **800-447-1676**. Sorry for the confusion!

REMINDER - NACE 2009 - TRAVEL INFORMATION

The Hotel Pere Marquette is located in downtown Peoria just 1/2 block from the Peoria Civic Center and 10 miles from the Peoria Area Airport. See: <http://www.hotelperemarquette.com>

DRIVING: The Hotel offers complimentary Self Parking, Parking Deck. The main interstate into the Peoria area is I-74, which connects with I-474, I-55, I-155 and I-39. Note that I-74 is under construction, for more information, see: www.peoria.org/goto/maps.

AIRPORT: The Hotel offers complimentary Airport Shuttle Transportation. Greater Peoria Regional Airport - Airport code: PIA. See: www.flypia.com/

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FOR CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Although we had notice in the November NACE News that we are now accepting credit cards for on-line conference registration, we had to temporarily suspend the credit card payment option due to trouble with the processing system. If you would like to pay by credit card, please wait until after the New Year when we hope to have it back up and running again... Please contact the NACE office if you have any questions. Sorry for any inconvenience.

"President's Report" continued from page 1.

ences and relationships built throughout a life-long career to now serve all the Kansas counties. He provides second opinions on your counties latest challenge and assembles the statewide practices on erosion control to the latest geomorphic hydraulic culvert design. He is the "great communicator" whose goal is to avoid more and more regulations by making sure both sides understand current practice and regulations and what can be done to meet common goals without reactive policy making. This program has been such a success that the majority of counties valuing this service are now financing the position without any DOT help. Now this is what I call value engineer!

Here's wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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All Videos	\$285 _____				

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