



National Association County Engineers

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NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Members
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April is National County Government Month

It's not too late to celebrate National County Government Month (NCGM) in April. This year's theme is "Healthy Counties." A NCGM booklet full of ideas to celebrate can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#). The NCGM media tool kit is available by clicking [HERE](#).

Oberstar Proposes placing \$130 Billion of Treasury Bonds in Highway Trust Fund

(AASHTO News)

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee James Oberstar, D-MN, is considering a plan that calls for loaning \$130 billion in U.S. Treasury Department bonds to the Highway Trust Fund to increase spending on highway and transit projects over the next few years. The money would be paid back to the Treasury from an increased gas tax or other transportation-specific revenue source beginning after four years.

Oberstar floated the proposal during a House T&I Committee oversight hearing on how well states and transit authorities are spending funds they received last year from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The chairman has been exploring ways to pay for a \$500 billion draft six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee approved last summer.

Under terms of the latest proposal, Oberstar said an increase in the federal gasoline and diesel taxes would not be needed for four years if the Highway Trust Fund were able to borrow \$130 billion from the Treasury. The bond proceeds would not all have to be deposited upfront, Oberstar noted, but rather added over the four-year period to reimburse states and transit agencies for federally subsidized construction projects and capital purchases.

While two national commissions chartered by Congress to examine revenue needs for the Highway Trust Fund have concluded increases in the fuel taxes are necessary immediately, President Barack Obama has said since taking office in January 2009 that he opposes increasing the taxes during a period of high unemployment.

There is a funding gap of roughly \$140 billion between the subcommittee's draft bill and the amount of revenues projected for the Highway Trust Fund under current law. Oberstar said the recent \$19.5 billion transfer of General Fund money to the Highway Trust Fund to reimburse it for lost interest since 1998 brings the gap close to \$120 billion -- and he's added \$10 billion as a

"cash cushion" to avoid a situation where the trust fund approaches insolvency due to lower-than-expected revenues (as has occurred the past two years).

The Congressional Budget Office has recently projected that the Highway Trust Fund can support \$336 billion in spending over the next six years -- far short of the level proposed by the House Highways and Transit Subcommittee and endorsed by numerous transportation interest groups. CBO estimates increasing the federal gasoline and diesel taxes would bring in roughly \$1.25 billion per year per cent. Those taxes are presently 18.4 cents per gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel fuel.

To support current spending levels over the next six years, an immediate increase of at least 6 cents per gallon is necessary, according to CBO's numbers. To pay for a \$500 billion bill (\$50 billion of which for high-speed rail would come from the General Fund), the fuel taxes would need to go up by 15 to 19 cents per gallon.

House Approves 3-Year Extension of Build America Bonds

(AASHTO News)

The House of Representatives has approved a bill to extend the duration of Build America Bonds for three years, providing additional federal subsidies for state and local governments who wish to use the bonds to finance infrastructure projects.

House members voted [246-178](#) to approve the measure, [HR 4849](#), the Small Business and Infrastructure Jobs Act. The \$19 billion bill includes several tax provisions including the Build America Bonds extension. This bond program was created last year by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and extended last week by a jobs measure signed by President Barack Obama.

The House bill would further extend Build America Bonds through April 1, 2013, at a cost of \$7.5 billion. The bonds allow states and municipalities to finance infrastructure projects with an interest subsidy from the federal government. State and local governments have sold more than 800 Build America Bonds during the program's first year. So far this year, the program accounts for 23 percent of the municipal bond market, according to the U.S. Treasury Department. The bonds are designed to appeal to a broader set of investors than tax-exempt bonds traditionally used by state and local governments.

Currently the interest subsidy paid by the federal government to the state or local government issuing the bonds is 35 percent of the bonds' interest costs. That figure would be reduced to 33 percent in 2011, 31 percent in 2012, and 30 percent in 2013 under the House bill approved.

NACE 2010 CONFERENCE LINKS

NACE 2010 conference information is now available on the NACE website:

www.countyengineers.org (under NACE Events).

Delegate & Guests can register on-line:

http://www.naco.org/NACETemplate.cfm?Section=NACE_Events&Template=/cfiles/nace/delegateapp.cfm

Exhibitors can register on-line:

http://www.naco.org/NACETemplate.cfm?Section=NACE_Events&Template=/cfiles/nace/exhibitapp.cfm

In addition to on-line registration and PDF files of brochures, see information on conference overview, travel, hotel, golf outing and more!

American Society of Civil Engineers magazine *Civil Engineering* has a great feature article on the construction of the Super Span of the Dallas Cowboys new stadium. To view the article go to the following link. http://pubs.asce.org/magazines/CEMag/2010/Issue_01-10/article1.htm

Listen to NACE President Chris Bauserman Discuss Critical Issues in the New Authorization of the Surface Transportation Program! Visit Our Local Roads Matter website!

Chris E. Bauserman, NACE President & County Engineer, Delaware County OH discusses the important issues associated with the next transportation authorization in this important PODCAST. To view his presentation visit the NACE Local Roads Matter Campaign site <http://countyengineers...org/LRM/index.html> (click on Social Media Center).

Best Practices in Addressing NPDES and Other Water Quality Issues in Highway System Management: Results of a U.S. Domestic Scan Tour – Webinar available for viewing

Visit the [CTE Video Archive](#) to view these files. On this website you'll also find videos of past CTE webcasts. You also may visit the CTE Website to [view and download the March 25 program materials](#), including the agenda with panelist profiles and the presentation slides.

FHWA issues implementing the High Risk Rural Roads Program

This report explores common challenges, noteworthy practices, and lessons learned experienced through the implementation of the High Risk Rural Roads Program.

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Implementing_the_High_Risk_Rural_Roads_Program_163181.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+03-30-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=

FHWA Issues - The Maintenance of Signs and Sign Supports - A Guide for Local Highway and Street Maintenance Personnel

This Guidebook can now be downloaded

at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwasa09025/

Highway signs are the means by which the road agency communicates the rules, warnings, guidance and other highway information that drivers need to navigate their roads and streets. This guide, which is an update to the same titled guide published in 1990, is intended to help local agency maintenance workers ensure their agency's signs are maintained to meet the needs of the road user. The guide succinctly covers the following topics: a description of sign types, sign materials and sign supports; sign installation and the elements of a sign management system including inventory, inspection, preventive maintenance, repair and replacement, and recordkeeping. The FHWA has advised that they do not have a printed version of this guidebook.

A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR YOU
NHI INNOVATIONS

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Accelerating Innovation for the American Driving Experience.

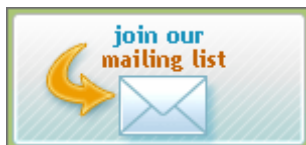


REGISTER NOW!

In response to customer feedback, HIGHWAYS for LIFE is partnering with NHI to bring you **NHI Innovations**, a monthly Web Conference series that is *free* to participants.

Click on the link to register as a GUEST for the Innovations Series Web Conference.

Want an entire group at your location to attend? Simply register for a single spot and have the group gather together in a conference room to participate.



Save the Date: April *NHI Innovations* Web conference

High Friction Surface Treatments to Reduce Crashes at Curves

Thursday, April 15, 2010

2:30 - 4:00 pm EST

The Safety and Pavements disciplines have come together to bring you a low-cost, easily implemented solution to the crash problem at curves, which accounts for 28% of the fatal crashes in the United States each year. High-Friction Surface Treatments are an excellent solution because they can be applied at the specific problem location. Unlike alternatives that require months of design and costly right-of-way negotiations, this solution gives the driver the friction they need to stay on the roadway when increasing speed on curves. See how States and local agencies alike are able to apply these treatments in a cost-effective manner and are achieving excellent results.

Additional Resources

1. Get instructions on how to join a Web conference as a Guest: [Click Here](#)
 2. Check your system NOW for the Flash player: [Click Here](#)
 3. Watch an overview of Web conferencing at FHWA: [Click Here](#)
 4. Want copies of the slides? To download speaker presentation materials prior to the Webinar, [Click Here](#) and enter as a guest. Please note that materials are posted 72 hours before each Webinar.
 5. To access recordings and presentation materials from previous Webinars, [Click Here](#).
- We are committed to providing equal access to this online event for all participants. If you need alternative formats or other reasonable accommodations, please contact NHInnovations@dot.gov no later than 72 hours prior to the start of this event.

Sustainable Development: Putting Earth Day (April 22nd) into Practice on our Nation's Roads Highways

What: A Webinar regarding In-Place Recycling Demonstration of sustainability, cost and performance by State & Local Highway Agencies

When Earth Day—April 22, 2010 from 1:00 — 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Pre-Registration for this no-cost webinar is required Register today at:
<http://tinyurl.com/nhi-earthday>

American Concrete Pavement Association Announces Webinars

The American Concrete Pavement Association offers essential how-to information, troubleshooting tips, and techniques in its popular webinars, which are designed for contractors, consultants, agency personnel, military engineers. Web links below will lead to registration information, as well a flyer for this and other ACPA webinars. For more information or questions about the webinar series, please visit us on the [web](#) or contact ACPA's [Mike Ayers](#) at 217.621.3438 or [Debbie Becker](#) at 847.966.2272.

Rapid Repair of Concrete Pavements Using Precast Concrete Panels

Peter Smith, P.E., The Fort Miller Company

Webinar #6 | Thursday, April 15 | 1:00 p.m. (Central)

Problem: Solve the seemingly impossible situation of repairing or replacing concrete pavements under heavy traffic, in difficult terrain, or in other challenging situations. In these conditions, placement can be challenging and other conditions can add to the complexity. For example, if there may not be sufficient time to allow proper cure time for high performance concrete. There is a solution, however. Fully cured precast concrete pavement slabs have been used successfully in many applications. To date, this emerging technology has been used for a total of 14 lane miles on more than 40 projects in overnight work windows as short as five hours. This webinar will provide an inside look at the development of current precast pavement systems, as well as the design, fabrication, and installation techniques used to date. The presentation will focus on jointed pavement systems for intermittent, continuous, area, and bridge, approach slab applications. The webinar also will include testing results and some comparative cost data that will show how this technology is being used to meet some significant challenges in pavement rehabilitation. **(90 minutes) [REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)**

Tips for Hot Weather Concrete Paving

(Instructor to be determined)

[Webinar #7 | Thursday, May 13 | 1:00 p.m. \(Central\)](#)

Hot weather concrete placement presents a number of challenges during paving. For example, the problems can range from subtle changes in material properties, or in extreme cases, the concrete may simply fail to meet specifications. Get the inside track on what you should know about materials issues and construction techniques in hot weather. The discussion about materials will describe the effects of temperature on the efficiency of admixtures, rate of stiffening (slump loss), potential short- and long-term effects on strength and durability and other important considerations. The construction portion of the presentation will discuss materials handling, placement issues, curing and saw-cutting, and other "need to know" tips. **(90 minutes) [REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)**

What You Absolutely, Positively Must Know About Permeable Subbases

Robert Rodden, EIT, American Concrete Pavement Association

[Webinar #8 | Thursday, May 27 | 1:00 p.m. \(Central\)](#)

Although pavement subbases are widely considered to be one of the most critical design factors in constructing durable concrete pavements, there still are misperceptions about the type of subbase materials that best balance drainability with long-term durability. This webinar will examine a number of important considerations in subbase design and construction, as well as subbase materials selection, especially as these details pertain to permeable subbases. **(90 minutes) [REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)**

2010 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety has released its annual highway safety report that rates each state and the District of Columbia on their adoption of 15 laws designed to improve roadway safety. [\[More\]](#)

Remember that Work Zone Safety Awareness Week is April 19-23.