



National Association County Engineers

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The Voice of County Road Officials

NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Members
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Federal Highway Administration Proposes Revision of Rules to Make Roadway Markings Brighter

To further improve roadway safety by making pavement markings brighter and easier to see, Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez today proposed to establish the first-ever standards for maintaining the reflectivity of centerlines, lane lines and edge lines on all roads used by the public. Full release and link to comments page:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pressroom/fhwa1008.htm>

All NACE members are encouraged to review and comment on these proposed regulations which are due on August 20, 2010. Since these regulations propose significant requirements for county roads with regards to pavement markings with no funding identified we remain concerned that they constitute an unfunded mandate on local government. A future NACE action alert will be sent.

Modifications Sought by Oberstar Added to Tax Extenders Bill

(AASHTO Journal)

The House of Representatives could vote as early as tomorrow on a package of tax extensions that will include language altering how nearly \$1 billion in federal highway funds is distributed among states.

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee James Oberstar, D-Minnesota, told the media last week that the tax package will contain two highway formula redistributions he has sought. These changes would redistribute \$932 million in federal highway funds among states based upon their share of overall federal highway spending rather than earmarks received under two programs as part of the 2005 federal surface transportation authorization law known as "SAFETEA-LU."

A bill summary released by the Senate Finance Committee notes the highway funding changes are included in the legislation. The bill, HR 4213, would make two changes to the surface transportation extension title of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act, according to the bill summary:

1. Distribute the Projects of National & Regional Significance and National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement program funding among all states based on each state's share of Fiscal Year 2009 highway apportioned funds rather than to only 29 states and the District of Columbia that had PNRS and National Corridor projects under SAFETEA-LU.
2. Distribute "additional" highway formula funds (which the bill makes available in lieu of additional congressionally designated projects) among all of the highway formula programs rather than among just six formula programs.

Build America Bonds Extension Included in Tax Bill

HR 4213 also includes an expansion of Build America Bonds for two years (through 2012). For direct-pay Build America Bonds issued in 2011, the amount of the direct payment would be reduced from 35% to 32% of the coupon interest, according to the Finance Committee's bill summary. For such bonds issued in 2012, the amount of the direct payment would be reduced to 30% of the coupon interest. The bill would also allow issuers to refinance Build America Bonds to save money should interest rates fall in the future. This bonds extension is estimated to cost the federal government \$4 billion in interest subsidies over 10 years.

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).

U. S. DOT Asks for Comments on Strategic Plan

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) is seeking public comments to help finalize its new Strategic Plan. The plan, Transportation for a New Generation, will help set the priorities for the USDOT. The Strategic Plan can be found at DOT website in the middle of the page and comments can be submitted electronically.

County officials are encouraged to share their comments as soon as possible but no later than June 15. The reason your thoughts are important is that the Strategic Plan really sets the transportation priorities for the Obama Administration at least through 2012 and gives an insight into what its' legislative proposals will be in many areas, including highways, transit, safety, aviation, and high-speed rail. If, for instance, you think counties need more funding and input into the federal highway program, this is a good opportunity to comment while the Obama Administration prepares its position on reauthorization. Since county and other local governments are very much involved in transportation and are often the recipients of federal transportation funds, it is important that county officials be heard on these issues. It is also essential to point out to the federal policy makers the key role of counties in transportation and areas, if any, where you think county views are overlooked.

[For the Strategic Plan, please click here:](#)

Toward Zero Deaths (TZD): A National Strategy on Highway Safety - Webinars Coming

As part of the *Toward Zero Deaths: a National Strategy on Highway Safety*, a series of webinars will be held in June to obtain input from a wide range of highway safety stakeholders. Please see the attached flyer for additional details on the TZD initiative and the webinars. Registration is required. To register:

https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=20430 There is no charge to participate.

Your input is needed to ensure consideration of a wide range of Safety perspectives! A series of webinars will be held in June 2010. Each webinar will have a separate topic discussion as follows:

1. OVERVIEW OF THE TZD INITIATIVE AND SAFETY CULTURE How can we develop a program for changing highway safety culture in the United States?

Tuesday, June 1

12:30pm – 2:00pm (EST)

Times and dates of the next three webinars will be announced soon.

2. SAFER INFRASTRUCTURE

How can we ensure safer infrastructure on all public roads in the United States?

3. SAFER VEHICLES

How can we develop and implement new vehicle safety initiatives in the United States?

4. ROAD USER SAFETY

How can we promote new road user safety efforts in the United States?

Topics such as data, technology, commercial vehicles, emergency medical services and others, will be addressed in multiple webinars based on the varied nature of safety issues involved.

Highway Safety Manual Webinar – June 14, 2010

Highway Safety Manual Webinar - The New Highway Safety Manual (HSM) will be published by AASHTO in 2010. The first webinar on the HSM will be: June 14, 1:30-3:30 pm ET HSM Introduction & Overview - HSM introduction, purpose, summary of content, and marketing & deployment initiatives.

Click Here to Register:

http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/web_conf_learner_reg.aspx?webconfid=20194

Webinars will be offered at a rate of about rate of 2 per week. Refer to the attached flyer for a list of additional upcoming Highway Safety Manual webinars. More info on the Manual itself is available at: <http://www.highwaysafetymanual.org/Pages/default.aspx>.

Local and Rural Road Safety Peer to Peer Safety Program (LRR P2P) Launched

Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety has launched the **Local and Rural Road Safety Peer to Peer Safety Program (LRR P2P)**. This new Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Program has been established as a form of technical assistance for local and rural highway agencies to resolve safety problems on the roads they own and maintain. In order to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our Nation's road network, local and rural highway practitioners have to routinely integrate safety in their projects and programs. The majority of the nation's roadway are owned, operated and maintained by numerous small agencies and it is the aim of this program to provide access to road safety information, knowledge and resources needed to address safety issues these practitioners face. The LRR P2P is a free volunteer-oriented program that will provide peer assistance through several venues. Assistance can be in the form of phone calls, email exchanges, general instruction or site visits depending on the agency's needs. Experts with knowledge in various local and rural road safety issues have volunteered their time to provide assistance to their peers requesting help.

Guidance can be provided on determining locations that need immediate attention; on low cost safety improvements that can be installed quickly to address specific safety needs; and on various funding options available for safety improvements on local and rural roads to name a few. More information on this P2P program is available on the FHWA Safety website http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/local_rural/training/fhwasa10014/ where a brochure can also be downloaded. A limited number of hard copies are also available for distribution.

The first step in initiating this free resource is contacting the P2P coordinator. This can be done by phone, fax or e-mail. The coordinator will analyze specific needs and determine the best peer based on those needs. For general information on the Local and Rural Road Safety P2P program Rosemarie Anderson, Office of Safety Programs, Federal Highway Administration; 202-366-5007 (v); 202-366-3222 (f) or email: rosemarie.anderson@dot.gov

Useful Safety Links

Simulator Evaluation of Low-Cost Safety Improvements on Rural Two-Lane Undivided Roads: Nighttime Delineation for Curves and Traffic Calming for Small Towns, FHWA 2010
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Simulator_Evaluation_of_LowCost_Safety_Improvement_163398.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+05-04-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=

Road Safety Audits (RSA) Toolkit CD, FHWA 2010
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Road_Safety_Audits_RSA_Toolkit_CD_163409.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+05-04-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=

Local and Rural Roads Safety Peer-to-Peer Program Brochure, FHWA 2010
http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Local_and_Rural_Roads_Safety_PeerToPeer_Program_Br_1634

[10.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+05-04-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=](http://www.trb.org/Newsroom/10.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+05-04-2010&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=)

Study of Rural Transportation Issues, USDA 2010

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/RuralTransportationStudy>

New from US DOT

Intelligent Technologies Promise Greater Road Safety

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/05/coming-intelligent-technologies-promise-greater-road-safety.html>

Revised Federal-Aid Highway Program Obligation Authority – Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/legregs/directives/notices/n4520205.htm>

Livability Works for Rural Communities

<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/05/livability-works-for-rural-communities.html>

New From TRB:

Utility Location and Highway Design

http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Utility_Location_and_Highway_Design_163481.aspx

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 405: Utility Location and Highway Design explores current practices in use by transportation agencies for consideration of utilities during the project development process, including where in the process the utility impacts are assessed and relocation decisions made; what policies, regulations, manuals, and guidelines are used; and how design decisions are influenced by utilities.

Appendices D and E for NCHRP Synthesis 405 are available online.

[Appendix D](#) – Collated United States Survey Results

[Appendix E](#) – Collated Canadian Survey Results

Liability Aspects of Bikeways

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Legal Research Digest 53: Liability Aspects of Bikeways explores the liability of public entities for bicycle accidents on bikeways as well as on streets and highways. The report also examines the federal laws that encourage the designation and use of bikeways; the elements of a claim in tort against a public entity for a bicycle accident, whether on a public street or some type of bikeway; defenses to bikeway accidents under tort claims acts and applicable to public entities; immunity for bicycle claims under some state recreational use statutes that in a majority of states are applicable to public entities; and public entities' laws and policies on the accommodation of bicycles on streets and highways and the designation of bikeways. [\[More\]](#)

Median Intersection Design for Rural High-Speed Divided Highways

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 650: Median Intersection Design for Rural High-Speed Divided Highways explores common safety issues at median intersections on rural divided highways, and examines innovative geometric and operational treatments for addressing those issues. The report includes ten case studies that illustrate how various treatments have been applied in the field. [\[More\]](#)

Alternate Strategies for Safety Improvement Investments

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Research Results Digest 345: Alternate Strategies for Safety Improvement Investments explores the "block spot" analysis and "systematic" methods currently being used by states to help make decisions on the allocation of safety resources. [\[More\]](#)

10th National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities: Tools of the Trade

TRB is sponsoring the 10th National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities: Tools of the Trade on September 22-24, 2010, in Williamsburg, Virginia. The conference will explore information on the factors relating to the planning, development, programming, and implementation of multi-modal transportation facilities for small and medium-sized communities. Future research and implementation needs will also be addressed. [\[More\]](#)

Free NHI Innovations Web-conference on Culvert Repair Techniques

The Web-conference will be held on Thursday, June 17th from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR YOU

NHI INNOVATIONS

Sponsored By



Save the Date: June *NHI Innovations* Web conference

Culvert Repair Techniques

Thursday, June 17, 2010

2:30 - 4:00 pm EST

[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.

Many of the culverts installed during the height of the infrastructure construction boom of the 1950s and 1960s are in need of repair in order to remain safe and operational. Increasing demands on the Nation's aging infrastructure has made it imperative

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.



for transportation infrastructure owners and maintainers to pursue cost-effective methods for repairing their inventories of deteriorating culverts, while simultaneously minimizing impacts to the traveling public.

Trenchless repair methodologies and technologies, which avoid open roadway cuts, can be key components to an effective culvert management strategy. Many repair methods exist, each with their own effective uses, limitations, and design and implementation considerations.

Possessing a working knowledge of culvert repair methods is important for all infrastructure owners and maintainers. For this reason, the Webinar will seek to provide an overview of the various culvert repair techniques and approaches, including identifying selection criteria for choosing a culvert repair approach; demonstrating proper implementation of a few repair techniques; and identifying culvert repair technical resources, through a series of presentations and question and answer sessions.

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.

If you cannot attend the Web conference and would like to cancel, please contact NHinnovations@dot.gov with your cancellation as soon as possible.

