



National Association County Engineers

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NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Members
May 1, 2009- Volume 09 Number 12

(Note: Sources of information include the AASHTO Journal, NACo staff, Senate and House publications, the Federal Highway Administration, and other association news journals)

CHRIS E. BAUSERMAN, P. E. & P. S., COUNTY ENGINEER, DELAWARE COUNTY OHIO INSTALLED AS NACE PRESIDENT

The NACE 2009 Annual Management and Technical Conference, held in Peoria IL from April 19 – 23, 2009 saw the installation of Chris E. Bauserman, P. E. & P. S., County Engineer, Delaware County Ohio as its President. 526 delegates & speakers, 88 guests, and 237 exhibitor representatives attended the conference. Highlights of the Opening ceremonies included remarks from the National Association of Counties (NACo) 1st Vice President Teresa Altemus, County Supervisor Gloucester County, VA and remarks at the General Session from Richard Smith, Director Planning & Programming, Illinois Department of Transportation, Greg Cohen, President and CEO American Highway Users Alliance and Bob Fogel, Senior Legislative Director, NACo.

Chris Bauserman has been the Delaware County, Ohio, Engineer since 1996. Prior to that, he served as Delaware County's Chief Deputy Engineer for 7 years. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer and Professional Surveyor and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Ohio Northern University. He previously served as the NACE Northeast Region Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and President-elect. Additionally he serves as the NACE representative on the Foundation for Pavement Preservation Board of Directors and the NACo Transportation Steering Committee. Chris, his wife Sherri and their three children are active in their church and local community volunteer activities.

Other officers elected and/or installed included Phillip M. Demery, P. E., Transportation & Public Works Director, Sonoma County, CA as President-elect; Mark A. Craft, P. E., Engineer – Manager, Gratiot County Road Commission, MI as Secretary-Treasurer; Ramon D. Gavarrete, P. E., County Engineer, Highlands County, FL as Southeast Region Vice President; Keith D. Berndt, P. E., County Engineer, Cass County ND as North Central Region Vice President; Jon F. Rice, P. E., Managing Director, Kent County Road Commission, MI as Northeast Region Vice President; Dale D. Wegner, Jr., P. E., County Engineer, Coconino County, AZ as Western Region Vice President, and Tom Stoner, P. E., County Engineer, Harrison County, IA as South Central Region Vice President. Additionally, Steven L. Brandau, P. E., County Engineer, Henry County IL was selected as Rural County Engineer of the Year and Jeff Blue, P.E., County Engineer, Champaign County IL was selected as Urban County Engineer of the Year. Jodi

Teich, P. E., Assistant County Engineer, Stearns County MN was selected the Project/Program Manager of the Year.

NACE Alert! – Call or Contact Your Senators Now re: Reintroduction of the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA)

On April 2, 2009, Senator Feingold (D-WI) reintroduced the Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA), S. 787. A House companion bill, sponsored last Congress by House Transportation Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN), has not been reintroduced as of yet.

The CWRA proposes to eliminate the word “navigable” from the definition of “waters of the U.S.” within the Clean Water Act (CWA), essentially placing all bodies of water or “perceived” bodies of water under federal jurisdiction — even those waters traditionally under state authority.

The bill goes on to include “activities affecting these waters.” While the intent may be to limit direct and non-direct pollution sources going into major waterways, it could be interpreted quite differently to allow the federal regulation of any and all activities that “affect” waters. It is possible that a non-direct source 10’s to 100’s of miles away could be regulated, even though there is no direct hydrological connection. This definition does not exist anywhere in current law or regulation.

This seemingly small change could have a huge impact on counties who deal with construction and maintenance projects. Under CWRA, roadside ditches, pipes, streets, gutters, manmade ponds, drainage features, desert washes and other features could be federally regulated. Additionally, activities such as mosquito and fire abatement prohibitions to regulating rain gutters beside homes could also be regulated.

It is rumored that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee may act on S. 787 the week of May 7th. **Please call your Senators and ask them to oppose the Clean Water Restoration Act, S. 787.**

June 1, 2009 Deadline for 2009 National Roadway Safety Award Applications is Approaching – Don’t Delay

The deadline to submit nominations for the *2009 National Roadway Safety Awards Program* is **June 1, 2009 5pm EST**. Don't miss the opportunity to receive one of the nation's most coveted safety awards!

Visit www.roadwaysafetyawards.org for details and an application!

Please pass this reminder along to your co-workers and safety counterparts. We look forward to your submissions! Contact: Janet Ewing 202-366-8029 or FHWA Office of Safety 202-366-2288

Draft Footprint Design Manual for Local Roads – Please Review and Provide Comments

Mobile County (AL) Engineer and Public Works Director, Joe Ruffer, has been working on this manual as a member of the ASCE Local Roads and Streets Committee of the Design,

Construction and Maintenance Council and desires additional County Engineer input and comments. In response to limited design guidance available for Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) projects, functionally classified as “Local Roads” of the National Highway System, this committee has specifically undertaken the task to develop systematic methods that relate to Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) projects. The committee’s critical reviews and findings, from publications like Transportation Research Board, ” *Special Report 214*”, 1987 (1); AASHTO, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, “*Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT ≤ 400)*”, 2001 (2); AASHTO, Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials “*Geometric Design for Resurfacing, Restoration, and Rehabilitation (RRR) of Streets*”, 1977 (3), and many other local agency internal publications were used to make judgments about the relationship between safety and key highway features.

It is available in "DRAFT" at <http://documents.siteonestudio.com/uploads/mobilepw/781.pdf> .

If you have comments or input please contact Joe Ruffer at Phone: (251) 574-8595
Or email: jruffer@mobilecounty.net

Rural/Urban Comparison 2007 Traffic Safety Fact Sheets Available

The RURAL/URBAN COMPARISON 2007 Traffic Safety Fact Sheet was just posted today – it can be found on the NCSA Latest Releases Page (1st fact sheet in the list) or a direct link is: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/810996.PDF>

Specific 2007 Traffic Safety Fact Sheets

The currently available 2007 Traffic Safety Facts Sheets are listed below. These fact sheets contain the 2007 FARS ARF and 2006 Final FARS data.

- ▶ [Rural/Urban Comparison Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-996\) NEW RELEASE 4/23/09](#)
- ▶ [Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-985\)](#)
- ▶ [Overview Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-993\)](#)
- ▶ [Bicyclists and Other Cyclists \(DOT-HS-810-986\)](#)
- ▶ [Children Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-987\)](#)
- ▶ [Large Trucks Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-989\)](#)
- ▶ [Motorcycles Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-990\)](#)
- ▶ [Occupant Protection Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-991\)](#)
- ▶ [Older Population Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-992\)](#)
- ▶ [Pedestrians Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-994\)](#)
- ▶ [School Transportation-Related Crashes Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-810-997\)](#)
- ▶ [Speeding Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-811-998\) 1/9/2009](#)
- ▶ [State Alcohol-Impaired Driving Estimates \(DOT-HS-810-999\)](#)
- ▶ [State Traffic Data \(DOT-HS-811-000\) JUST RELEASED 03/25/09](#)
- ▶ [Young Drivers Traffic Safety Fact Sheet \(DOT-HS-811-001\)](#)

Safer Sign Supports – Are yours Breakaway Yet?

An informative brochure “Safer Sign Supports – Are Yours Breakaway Yet?” was previously distributed and is available in the PDF version is at http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/safersigns.pdf

Remember all non-breakaway sign supports within the clear zone of roads posted at 50 mph or greater shall be replaced by January 2013.

Improving Safety of Horizontal Curves

Instructor-led Training

This course provides participants with tools for evaluating the safety performance of horizontal curves along with suggestions for countermeasures that could improve safety performance. Topics covered in this course include the size and magnitude of the problem, tools for identifying and prioritizing horizontal curve safety, low cost maintenance countermeasures, and a discussion of engineering countermeasures.

OUTCOMES: Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to:

- Describe the magnitude of the safety issues and the trends in their State
- Describe two tools available for identifying problem locations with or without crash data
- Explain how maintenance activities can improve safety performance of horizontal curves
- Identify several engineering options available that can improve the safety performance of horizontal curves
- Identify operational and public policy issues that can improve the safety performance of horizontal curves

TARGET AUDIENCE: Federal, State, and local highway engineers, consulting highway design engineers, and maintenance workers. This training program is intended for individuals that have the responsibility for identifying, recommending, selecting, installing and/or maintaining appropriate countermeasures to help improve the safety of horizontal curves.

TRAINING LEVEL: Intermediate

LENGTH: 1 day **CEU:** 0.6 Units **FEE:** \$220 per participant

CLASS SIZE: Minimum: 20; Maximum: 30

REGISTRATION: To host an NHI session, go to the Web site at www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov and select the “Host a Course” link to complete the “Host an Instructor-led Training (ILT) Course” form. After the form is received, an Instructor will contact the Local Coordinator to schedule the session. Requested dates may be shown on the form; however, scheduling is subject to Instructor availability. All confirmed sessions are listed on the NHI Web site by date and course number.

NHI Training Information: NHI Scheduler • (703) 235-0534 • E-mail nhitraining@dot.gov

Subject Matter Contact: Frank Julian • (404) 562-3689 • E-mail frank.julian@dot.gov

Subject Matter Contact: John McFadden • (410) 962-2482 • E-mail john.mcfadden@dot.gov

NHI Training Program Manager: Thomas Elliott • (703) 235-0319 • E-mail

thomas.elliott@fhwa.dot.gov

Technical Briefing Available on Traffic Calming on Main Roads Through Rural Communities

This FHWA technical brief is available for viewing at the following link <http://www.tfrc.gov/safety/pubs/08067/index.htm>

9th National Conference on Access Management

Natchez, Mississippi: TRB is cosponsoring the 9th National Conference on Access Management on October 10-13, 2010, in Natchez, Mississippi. The conference will explore a variety of issues including program operation, access design, program administration, and corridor management. Interested individuals or groups are encouraged to submit abstracts to be considered for presentation at the meeting by June 30, 2009. [\[More\]](#)

SHRP 2 Product Chart

TRB's second Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) has released a chart that lists the anticipated products and other details for each project in the SHRP 2 research plan. Less than halfway into the expected 7-year lifespan of SHRP 2, nearly 80 percent of the research is under way and early products are emerging. [\[More\]](#)

Pedestrian Forum - Spring 2009

The latest edition of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Pedestrian Forum Newsletter is now available. The newsletter highlights efforts by the FHWA and its partners to improve the safety of walking and bicycling as a mode of transportation. [\[More\]](#)



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: May NHI *Innovations* Web Conference

Safety Edge

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

2:30 - 4:00 pm EST

The asphalt wedge "Safety Edge" provides a safer roadway edge and a stronger interface between the roadway and the graded shoulder. The additional cost of the asphalt wedge is minimal when included as part of resurfacing projects. Benefits include the avoided economic and social impacts of fatalities, injuries, and property damage.

This Web Conference will include discussions on why Safety Edge is needed, edge maintenance, and the State's perspective on the use of the Safety Edge.

