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**Gary Rowe**

**From:** Anthony R. Giancola [agiancol@naco.org] **Sent:** Mon 8/16/2010 6:00 AM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Meet with Your Elected Officials This Summer  
**Attachments:**  [NACElegpriorities2009.doc\(1MB\)](#)  [NACELegLanguageFedAid2010Final.doc\(28KB\)](#)

**MEET WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS THIS SUMMER**

Members of Congress will be departing Washington, D.C. during the August District Work Period and most will be spending a good portion of that time close to their home states and districts. Take advantage of these opportunities to visit with your lawmakers without making a trip to Washington, D.C. The August district work period is: August 2 - September 13.

Tips to get you started:

Check local media and/or your elected officials' websites for Town Hall Meetings, local appearances and office hours – these are great opportunities to meet lawmakers in a casual setting and pose a few questions to start a dialog.

Gather a small group of State Affiliate members to request a meeting with your Congressional member/staff. Visits help raise the profile of County Engineers among lawmakers and provide members with the opportunity to develop relationships with their elected officials. Through these visits, you have the opportunity to:

- Educate your lawmakers on county transportation issues;
- Establish yourself as an expert on these issues;
- Offer your expertise to lawmakers and staff.

These visits have advantages over meetings with legislators in Washington, D.C. because they typically are 30 to 40 minutes in length, as opposed to meetings in Washington that generally don't exceed 10 minutes and have minimal interruptions.

In preparing for the meeting NACE recommends you prepare one or two specific issues to discuss any more than this and you risk losing focus and your message won't be as strong. The NACE legislative priorities and Federal aid legislative language proposals, which I have attached, are a starting point on issues to raise. They include the Transportation authorization and its funding, safety programs to push for the new authorization, and the continuing concern over the need to improve federal aid program execution through streamlining and the use of best practices from other states.

After the meeting, it is a good idea to send a follow-up message thanking the Representative and/or staff members for their time, restating your positions on the issues discussed and if appropriate press for a commitment from the Congressional member on an issue.