



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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**Senate Cloture Vote Stalls Action on Tax Measure Containing Highway Increase**

(AASHTO Journal)

Congressional efforts to make technical changes in the highway program, including two formula corrections, and to extend government subsidies for Build America Bonds failed again in late June as the tax-extenders bill containing the transportation provisions remains mired in Senate gridlock.

Senators voted **57-41** Thursday to end debate on the legislation, three shy of the 60 yeas required. It was the third time this month a motion to advance the legislation failed.

The House approved the measure, **HR 4213**, the American Jobs & Closing Tax Loopholes Act, with amendments May 28 before Congress broke for a weeklong Memorial Day recess. It has been on the Senate floor for weeks now, but Democrats have been unable to attract any Republican votes to proceed to a final vote on the legislation. Republicans, as well as one Democrat and one Independent, have voted against ending debate over concerns that the bill increases the federal deficit.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, filed a cloture petition Wednesday on a new substitute for the bill that would trim the overall cost by about \$22 billion. Included in the bill's new price tag of \$100 billion is \$33 billion to extend unemployment benefits -- an amount not offset by tax hikes or spending reductions. The latest version failed to attract any Republican votes Thursday.

As approved by the House, the bill would provide \$521 million in additional highway funding, increasing two formula allocations for 37 states. HR 4213 also includes an expansion of Build America Bonds for two years (through 2012) at a cost to the federal government estimated to be \$4 billion in interest subsidies over 10 years.

**House Approves Emergency Funding Including FEMA's Disaster Relief Account and other Provisions** (NACo Legislative Report)

On July 1, the House of Representatives approved an amended version of H.R.4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. The legislation includes \$58.8 billion for ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, natural disaster relief and relief efforts following the earthquake in Haiti. Additionally, the legislation includes \$15 billion in educational aid that would be partially offset by \$800 million in cuts to new education programs. Significantly, the legislation would provide FEMA with \$5.1 billion to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF).

Since May, efforts to enact the emergency supplemental legislation have stalled. While the House initially

approved the legislation in March - and the Senate in May, House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-Ore.) insisted on adding additional funding for education. Furthermore, other lawmakers in the House had concerns about providing any funding for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Haiti, and sought to further amend the bill. This week, House leadership was finally able to reconcile these concerns and the bill was able to clear the House floor. The legislation will now head back to the Senate, who must approve the amended version of the bill. However, the White House has already threatened to veto the House version because of the \$800 million rescission of education aid. The Senate is not in session until July 12, so it remains unclear how it will view the additions the House has made.

Contact: [Dalen A. Harris/202-942-4236](mailto:Dalen.A.Harris@202-942-4236)

### **Transportation Appropriations Bill Approved by House Subcommittee** (NACo Leg. Report)

The House Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing approved its FY2011 bill on July 1. The biggest change was a 10 percent increase in highway funding increasing the program to \$45.218 billion, which is \$4.1 billion above the current year level. The transit formula program is funded at \$8.961 billion and the capital program at \$2 billion. Amtrak gets \$1.767 billion and high-speed rail an additional \$400 million. The Airport Improvement Program is funded at \$3.515 billion and Essential Air Service at \$196 million. \$400 million is provided for another round of the TIGER discretionary grants. The full Appropriations Committee must act next and then the bill needs to be passed by the House. The same process must be repeated by the Senate.

Contact: [Bob Fogel 202/942-4217](mailto:Bob.Fogel@202-942-4217)

### **Spending on Local Projects Plummet**

USA Today published this article on June 25<sup>th</sup>. States and local governments are slashing spending on schools, roads, offices and other construction projects so fast that even [federal stimulus money](#) hasn't filled in the gap. See full article at following link.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-06-25-construction\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-06-25-construction_N.htm)

### **TIGER II Grants Available & Deadline Extended**

The US Department of Transportation has extended the pre-application deadline for the \$600 million National Infrastructure Investments grants program, also known as TIGER II discretionary grants, from July 16 to July 26, 2010.

Information about the TIGER II grants is posted at:

<http://www.dot.gov/recovery/ost/tigerii/index.html>.

More information about the pre-application deadline extension is published in today's Federal Register under Transportation Department, Funding Availability:

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a100630c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a100630c.html).

### **U.S. DOT & HUD Announce \$75 Million in Funding for Sustainable Communities**

(AASHTO Journal)

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and U.S. Housing & Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced Monday a collaborative effort designed to help foster planning for more livable, sustainable communities -- funded with \$75 million in grant money between the two departments. Full article

<http://www.aashtojournal.org/Pages/062510livability.aspx>

### **ROADWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO SAVING LIVES**

An all new, independent assessment prepared for the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) by Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) asserts increases in roadway safety funding since 2006 have significantly contributed to the decrease in the number of roadway fatalities.

The SAIC-prepared assessment, *"Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Obligations and Fatalities on U.S. Highways: Final Report,"* indicates a correlation between a 2006 increase in federal-aid funding for roadway safety improvement projects and the steady annual decline in roadway fatalities every year since then.

A review of several different factors in the assessment including levels of unemployment, seat belt usage ratios, air bag availability, and a decline in annual vehicle miles travelled during the recent recession revealed that none of those factors "satisfactorily explained the sudden decrease in traffic fatalities."

The assessment does conclude that after more than 10 years with little change in the number of annual roadway fatalities, the number of fatalities dropped year after year after the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) was established. The total number of fatalities in 2006 (42,708) dropped to 41,259 in 2007, fell again to 37,261 in 2008 and dropped another 8.9% in 2009 to 33,963.

"The American public can now see statistically - through this assessment - that safer roads are a major factor in saving lives," said ATSSA President and CEO Roger Wentz. "Median barriers that prevent crossover crashes, rumble strips that keep people from running off the road, and brighter signs and roadway markings all contribute to safer roads."

ATSSA Chairman Joe Jeffrey said, "In my home state of California, we've implemented many federal recommendations for improving signage, roadway striping and geometrics to accommodate the needs of older drivers. Older driver fatalities are down 15% from 2004 levels. In work zones, we've had worker training statewide, and work zone fatalities are down 35% from 2004. Not only is the HSIP saving lives, for every \$1 million dollars invested, the annual savings in societal costs in the United States is an astounding \$42.7 million annually."

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) established the HSIP "to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on public roads."

[Click here to view the complete assessment can be viewed at the "Government Relations" tab of ATSSA.com](#)

### **Public Meeting with interested stakeholders on the development of the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule**

On July 1, 2010, EPA announced a public meeting for interested stakeholders for the development of the proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule in the Federal Register (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-07-01/html/2010-15885.htm>). More details about this effort as well as the meeting are contained below.

Join by Webinar on July 13

Space is limited.

Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/632030225>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar.

System Requirements

PC-based attendees

Required: Windows® 7, Vista, XP, 2003 Server or 2000  
Macintosh®-based attendees  
Required: Mac OS® X 10.4.11 (Tiger®) or newer

### **NACE Member Volunteer Needed for NCUTCD!**

NACE is a sponsor for the National Committee Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). We have 3 primary and 3 alternate representatives. Lee Billingsley, former Broward County (FL) Engineer, is the chair of the overall NCUTCD and Jeff Blue, Champaign County (IL) heads our delegation. All NACE representations are involved and participate in one of the several subcommittees. We have a vacancy for an alternate representative.

Background: The NCUTCD meets twice a year. NACE does provide a \$500 stipend for travel per delegate each year. The purpose of the NCUTCD is:

“The National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) or the "National Committee" is an organization whose purpose is to assist in the development of standards, guides and warrants for traffic control devices and practices used to regulate, warn and guide traffic on streets and highways. The NCUTCD recommends to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to other appropriate agencies proposed revisions and interpretations to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and other accepted national standards. NCUTCD develops public and professional awareness of the principles of safe traffic control devices and practices and provides a forum for qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints to exchange professional information.” Further information on the NCUTCD is available on their website [www.ncutcd.org](http://www.ncutcd.org)

Please share the above information with your members and let me know if there are any interested volunteers who want to serve. They should be a NACE member and we prefer someone with extensive traffic engineering experience who will have the time to make two meetings each year, one of which is in Washington DC in early January. If you have a candidate please have that person send me an email, [nace@naco.org](mailto:nace@naco.org) expressing their interest and including a short bio outlining their specific experience and current position. Thanks.

### **Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Field Guide Draft Completed – Peer Review Volunteers Needed**

The US Forest Service (San Dimas Technology and Development Center), the Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads (Pennsylvania State University), and the US EPA have partnered to develop a user-friendly road maintenance field guide. This is a follow on product of the publication “*Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt and Gravel Roads*” published in 2006. The field guide is intended for road maintenance professionals, state and federal road engineers, and resource professionals involved in the maintenance and reconstruction of native and aggregate surfaced roads.

The field guide provides cost-effective road maintenance practices which minimize sediment transport to streams and reduce road maintenance costs. The guide is organized for the user to identify visual signs of road problems and link this to the cause of the problem so they can correctly identify potential solutions. The guide provides information and photographs on how to implement potential solutions including the following: criteria for use, construction sequence, and materials and equipment required. Heavy emphasis is placed on correctly identifying the cause of the problem and each chapter provides several possible solutions to common road problems. Topic areas addressed include: subsurface water, road-surface shape, roadside ditches, ditch outlets, road stream interactions, cutslopes and fillslopes.

The final draft of the field guide will be completed in June/July timeframe and available for peer review at that time. San Dimas Technology and Development Center will start final design layout and editing in

August. The guide should be ready to go to print by December, 2010. Volunteers should contact NACE at [nace@naco.org](mailto:nace@naco.org) if interested in participating in a peer review of the guide.

### **Volunteer Needed for Micro PAVER Sponsor/User Working Group**

NACE had a representative on the PAVER pavement management software users group for many years. This position is now open. This involves participation and travel to annual meetings which NACE would support financially. Please let us know if there are any NACE members interested in participating on this user working group?

### **Please participate in this Timber Abutment Repair/Rehab project & Survey**

A new research project –Timber Abutment Piling and Back Wall Rehab and Repair– has been funded by the Iowa Highway Research Board and the Iowa Department of Transportation. The primary objective of this research is to identify several techniques/materials that are effective in rehabilitation/strengthening various timber substructure elements. You are invited to participate in this survey being conducted by the Iowa Research Bureau. Deadline for responses is August 15, 2010. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GYW2CC2>

### **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 has 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.

### **Listen to NACE Past 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 Past 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).

### **Position Opening – Washington County, MN**

**Position:** Transportation Engineer - Construction  
**Location:** Public Works Department – Transportation Division  
**Anticipated Hiring Range:** \$72,176 - \$85,467/annum **Salary Range:** \$72,176 - \$98,758/annually  
**Hours/Days:** 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Monday-Friday. Work schedules (hours and days) and location are subject to change based on department needs.

**Responsibilities:** Responsible for managing multiple highway construction projects, including supervising and coordinating inspection and survey staff. Ensures contract and project compliance with Federal, State, and Local requirements and permits. Lead the maintenance and development of the County's pavement management system and the annual pavement rehabilitation program.

**Closing Date:** July 16, 2010

**Website:** <http://www.co.washington.mn.us>

**Position Opening - Superintendent of Public Works – Washington County, NY**

Administrative position involving outstanding executive and engineering ability. Supervision is exercised over the activities of planning, inspection, design, engineering, surveying, construction, and maintenance of county highways. The position currently requires licensure as a Professional Engineer, but the Board of Supervisors will also consider candidates that do not possess such a license. Washington Co. residency required. Possession of a NYS Drivers License necessary at time of appointment. Annual Salary range is \$69,000-\$82,000. Resumes should be submitted to Washington County Personnel Dept., 383 Broadway, Ft. Edward, NY 12828 by 7/26/10. EOE/AA No phone calls please.

**International Road Federation (IRF) Workshop on Performance Based Contracts & Evaluating Asset Condition**

To be held on September 8-10, 2010 - Austin, Texas. The workshop will feature a group of distinguished speakers such as:

- David Casteel - Assistant Executive Director for Field and District Operations, Texas Department of Transportation
- Daniel Castrigano - Chief Engineer and Deputy Executive Director, Ohio Turnpike Commission
- Kirk T. Steudle - Director, Michigan Department of Transportation
- Doug Wiperman - Contract Innovations Specialist, Ministry of Transportation Ontario, CA
- And many more

You can also view the program at: <http://www.irfnews.org/news-events/event-detail/irf-workshop-on-performance-based-contracts-evaluating-asset-codition/>

**TRB Webinar: Asphalt Emulsions Part 2: Surface Treatments and Recycling (Cold In-place Recycling and Full Depth Reclamation)**

TRB will be conducting a web briefing or "webinar" on Tuesday, August 10, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EDT that will explore main applications of asphalt emulsions and grades that can be used for each application. [Participants must register](#) at least 24 hours prior to the start of the webinar, space is limited, and there is a fee for non-TRB Sponsor employees. [\[More\]](#)

**USDOT: Technical Advisory: Pavement Friction Management**

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/t504038.cfm>