



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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Obituary

It is with great sadness that we report the death of NACE Past President William D. "Bill" McIntosh. Bill was a dedicated professional and devoted to both NACE and the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) in which he served as President. A memorial service will be held at 3 pm Friday, August 27, 2010 at St. Bonaventure's Catholic Church, 5562 Clayton Road, Concord, CA. Services are in care of Ouimet Bros. 925-682-4242 (in Concord).

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 and issues in your state;
- 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 are a starting point on issues to raise. The Transportation authorization and its funding, safety programs to push in 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.

President Signs Bill Cutting \$2.2 Billion in Highway Contract Authority

The House of Representatives passed an overall stimulus bill last week that rescinded \$2.2 billion in highway contract authority apportionments from balances held by state transportation departments. President Barack Obama signed the bill into law the same day.

The Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act, HR 1586, was passed by the Senate last week, forcing the House to be recalled from its summer recess, which began in late July, to quickly pass the bill. Representatives voted 247–161 to pass the Senate version of the bill, which contains \$16 billion to extend increased Medicaid funding for states by six months and \$10 billion to help states cover teacher salaries for the upcoming school year. The bill is fully paid for with several provisions to increase taxes and cut spending, including the \$2.2 billion reduction in highway contract authority.

Toward Zero Deaths Webinar Conference August 25-26

A webinar of a stakeholder workshop to develop a national strategic highway safety plan is scheduled for August 25-26, 2010 at the Transportation Research Board headquarters in Washington, D.C. Webinar participants can take part in all of the discussions and submit questions and comments via chat pods. Your input is needed to ensure consideration of a wide range of perspectives. You are welcome to share this information to your colleagues who may be interested in participating. To download and view the TZD Summary, [click here](#). To download and view a copy of the agenda for this webinar conference, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

Again the webinar registration can be found at

<https://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/webconference/viewconference.aspx?webconfid=20895>. Webinar participants can listen to all of the discussions as well as submit questions and comments via chat pods.

Senators Introduce Bill Allowing States to Increase Weight Limits for Trucks

A bill introduced in the Senate would allow states to authorize the operation of trucks of up to 97,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating on their interstate highways. The Safe and Efficient Transportation Act, S 3705, is sponsored by Senators Mike Crapo, R-Idaho; Susan Collins, R-Maine; and Herb Kohl, D-Wisconsin. The current federal limit on the Interstate Highway System is 80,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating, with greater weight allowed in some states as a result of grandfather provisions and exceptions authorized by Congress.

The bill is identical to legislation introduced in the House last year, HR 1799. The bills would require six axles for the heavier trucks, rather than the five used for trucks up to 80,000 pounds in order to hold the axle weights roughly equal. "The extra axle adds additional braking capacity, preventing an increase in stopping distances, and prevents pavements from sustaining more damage," according to information from the American Trucking Associations.

The bills also would increase the heavy vehicle use tax to create a fund for bridge improvements that might be needed due to the heavier weights.

"Operation of these more efficient vehicles will allow trucking companies to deliver the nation's freight while making fewer trips," states an ATA release expressing support for the bill. "The result will be a reduction in the number of truck-involved crashes, less fuel use -- and thus reduced emissions and carbon -- and less congestion on highways. Fewer miles traveled also means less pavement damage, lowering highway maintenance costs."

S 3705 is also supported by other trucking organizations and coalitions of carriers and shippers, such as the Coalition for Transportation Productivity and the Alliance for Safe and Efficient Transportation. The Owner Operator Independent Drivers Association opposes increases in the federal weight limit.

Congress is not likely to act on these bills this year, but will instead take up the issue of truck size and weight in the surface transportation reauthorization.

Road Safety 365: A Safety Web-Workshop for Local Governments.

FHWA invites NACE members on Tuesday September 14, 2010 at 11:00AM – 12:30 PM EST for a web-conference presenting the *Road Safety 365: A Safety Workshop for Local Governments*. The workshop was developed with input from local, state and federal partners with a focus on local and rural roadway safety. Details to join the web-conference are provided below.

LINK TO JOIN THE WEB CONFERENCE

<http://fhwa.na3.acrobat.com/safety365a/>

TELECONFERENCE NUMBER TO ACCESS AUDIO PORTION

888-810-6809

Pass code: 2649821

(Please note: this number may change, a new number will be provided upon log-in)

Background:

Road Safety 365: A Safety Workshop for Local Governments is a one & one half hour workshop, that focuses on processes for incorporating safety into all aspects of local and rural road projects, and on making safety a priority through inclusion in the traditional decision-making process—365 days a year. The main goal of this workshop is to raise the safety awareness of practitioners on how to incorporate safety into project development and everyday work. It stresses the importance of road safety, and illustrates how it can be integrated into rural/local transportation project development at all stages: planning, design, construction, implementation, operations, and maintenance. After completion of the workshop, participants should be able to identify problems and solutions. The intended workshop audience ranges from decision-makers to road crews. This webinar will introduce the workshop and summarize the main modules.

NACo President Glen Whitley's Inaugural Speech and initiatives

Click [here](#) to watch President Glen Whitley's speech at NACo's Annual Conference on July 20, to learn about his plans for the coming year. One of his key initiatives is, County Government Works, a project to raise greater public awareness and understanding of county government. County officials, state associations of counties and NACo each have an important role to play in educating various targeted audiences. Click [here](#) to learn more about Whitley's County Government Works initiative and to find useful tools to assist you in doing your part. If you have had a particular success educating the public about county government in county, and are willing to share it, please contact Tom Goodman at NACo at tgoodman@naco.org or 202.942.4222.

FHWA to Provide an Accelerated Boost to the Deployment of Selected Safety Technologies

Through the Highways for LIFE Technology Partnerships Program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will enter into Cooperative Research and Development Agreements with selected safety product manufacturers and conduct Product Safety Performance Evaluations. **The solicitation opens on August 6th, 2010 and closes on October 6th, 2010.** The program anticipates selecting up to eight technologies to evaluate in a two year period.

The purpose of the Technology Partnership Program is to partner with the highway construction industry and state and local highway agencies to accelerate the adoption of promising innovations. For the 2010 solicitation the program will focus exclusively on safety and address a challenge in the deployment of new innovative technologies – the need for an independent performance and product evaluation of technologies with limited or no U.S. installations so that public agencies can make informed purchasing decisions.

To address this challenge, the program seeks to develop a process to evaluate, document, and disseminate the performance results of promising innovative highway safety technologies through a partnership with general industry and state and local highway agencies. The resulting evaluation report will provide credible, comprehensive performance information on a select group of technologies to help highway agencies make informed decisions.

Specifically, the **program limits the scope to commercially available infrastructure-based safety products** that address one of the following focus areas:

- Roadway departure events (with an emphasis on those occurring on two-lane rural road horizontal curves), or
- Pedestrian-related detection, warning and enhanced conspicuity, or
- Rural, unsignalized intersections

Competition under this solicitation is open to all non-profit and for-profit organizations. International companies are encouraged to apply.

The deadline for submission is October 6th, 2010. A pre-proposal teleconference is scheduled for September 2st and September 16th. The application requirements are posted at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/tech.cfm>.

CONTACT:

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Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day October 10

"Towards Zero Fatalities" is both a phrase and a goal that federal and state agencies and many organizations are promoting. Let's everyone support it and join in the effort to reduce deaths on our highways

October 10, 2010 is the tenth anniversary of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day program. During the second anniversary of the program, or in 2002, there were over 43,000 fatalities on our highways and streets. This number has been relatively constant until 2007 when a down turn began and continued into 2008. For 2009 the projection is approximately 34,000, an average reduction from 118 to 93 fatalities per day.

The Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day program in the last ten years has promoted reducing all fatalities, very similar to the promotion of the "Great American Smoke Out" efforts to reduce smoking, that an initial fatality free day would be the seed leading---"Towards Zero Fatalities" on our roadways.

We want you to become an advocate of our 2010 theme "Don't be Driven to Distraction – Drive to Arrive" and join us in making a special commitment to reducing fatalities by becoming involved and changing your driving habits and encouraging others to do the same. **We must change our driving habits as evidenced by statistics that indicate nearly 34,000 traffic fatalities occur every year. That's about 93 fatalities every single day—one fatality every 15 minutes.**

You can participate!

If you are viewing this web site for the first time or scanning it for new material, this home page includes tabs for you to click on to find a toolkit, the two previous years' local events list, fact sheets, press information, safety tips, partners and various links. Use this information to initiate and create your own 2010 event or program. Get involved!

Obtain a [proclamation](#) that October 10th is Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in your county or state! In addition, media information, PSA's, posters, brochures, logos and a sample PowerPoint presentation can also be found in the Toolkit.

The Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (T&DI), who oversees this program, requests existing partners, other private corporations or public organizations who want to become more involved in financial sponsorships to fund events, develop PSA's, web site information or other activities to contact the T&DI call 703-295-6395 or visit the website by clicking below.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities



"Don't Be Driven to Distraction –
Drive to Arrive"

[Click to learn more](#)

THE NORTHWEST PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 26th thru OCTOBER 29th 2010 IN VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

WITH BUDGETS AND RESOURCES BEING REDUCED, IT IS NOW MORE IMPORTANT TO SEEK OUT NEW INFORMATION REGARDING INNOVATIVE COST EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES AND BE A PART OF A LARGE GROUP THAT CAN SHARE INFORMATION IMPORTANT TO US ALL.

The NWPMA Executive Board and conference committee is happy to announce that the 2010 conference will be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver, Washington again this year. For reservations at the Heathman Lodge please visit their Web Site at

https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=429826&hotelID=6457 .

On Tuesday October 26th we will begin our conference with FOUR exciting ½ day classes on Pavement Design, Pavement Management, Pavement Preservation and Asset Management at no additional cost. The remaining conference days will be filled with presentations on funding, maintenance treatments, structural testing, pavement management software, construction techniques and round table discussions on innovative cost effective treatments for roadways. We have incorporated a flavor of the spring conference into the agenda because of its elimination after 20 years. This year we are offering a \$100.00 reduction in the registration fee (Regular registration is \$250.00) to attendees who register before September 1st 2010 and a \$50.00 reduction for registrations received before October 1st. The agenda, registration, vendor details and additional information is available online at <http://nwpma-online.org/> Please mark your calendars and take advantage of the reduced registration fees. We are looking forward to your participation in this year's conference.

Hot off the presses, the summer edition of *Safety Compass* is here!

What is *Safety Compass*? An outreach source to share and provide the latest in program delivery, best practices, research, training, regulations and legislation designed to help improve and establish a more productive national and local safety program. The Safety Compass also provides resources for implementation, networking, applicable tools-more importantly; unify the overall highway safety community efforts and involvement. This and previous issues of the Safety Compass also available online at:

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/newsletter/safetycompass/2010/summer10/>.

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).

Road Safety Work Zone Products to be mailed to NACE members

Products developed under the FHWA Work Zone Safety Grant, by ATSSA, will be mailed to all NACE members by the end of August 2010. In 2006 FHWA awarded ATSSA a Work Zone Safety Grant. This grant covered the development of 14 new products. NACE, as a supporter of the effort has arranged for shipment of the products to our members. These 14 products include:

1. Guidelines (Decision Tool) for When to Use Positive Protection in Temporary Traffic Control Zones
2. Field Guide for the Use and Placement of Shadow Vehicles in Work Zones
3. Work Zone Positive Protection Toolbox
4. High Visibility Apparel in Work Zones Characteristics of High Visibility Safety Apparel
5. Increasing the Work Zone Worker's Visibility Through High Visibility Apparel (poster)

6. High-Visibility Safety Apparel In Highway Work Zones – When Does My High-Visibility Apparel No Longer Protect Me and Need to be Replaced?
7. Pedestrians Checklist and Considerations for Temporary Traffic Control Zones
8. Guidance Sheet – Temporary Traffic Control Zone Pedestrian Access Considerations
9. Work Zone Safety Performance Measures Guidance Booklet
10. Guidelines for Treating Potential Back-of-Queue Safety Hazards
11. Considering Work Zone Impacts: Planning for Safety, Mobility, and Constructability
12. Field Guide on Installation and Removal of Temporary Traffic Control for Safe Maintenance and Work Zone Operations
13. Work Zone Safety: Temporary Traffic Control for Maintenance Operations
14. Maintenance Work Zone Safety – Pocket Guide of MUTCD’s Guidance on Temporary Traffic Control

FHWA Releases Video Describing Benefits of Roundabouts

The Federal Highway Administration has released a video titled "Modern Roundabouts: A Safer Choice," which explains the many benefits of roundabout intersections and why they should be considered as an intersection alternative.

The video covers such things as: roundabout features and principles; applicability to all roadway types, including state highways; accommodation of pedestrians, large trucks, and emergency vehicles; and acceptance by the public, including older drivers. It discusses the safety, operational, environmental, and aesthetic benefits of roundabouts.

The goal of this video is to help decision makers in state and local transportation agencies to overcome the common barriers and reasons for not considering roundabouts. It is presented in a non-technical manner and can be used at public meetings for proposed roundabout projects.

The video is available on disc or it can be viewed at FHWA's safety website at <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/roundabouts/>.