



WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY ENGINEERS

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Washington State Association of County Engineers

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Washington State Association of County Engineers

November 2009

As I sit here pondering noteworthy topics for the President's Report my mind continues to drift towards finances, and not only what a challenge 2009 has been for the Public Works Sector, but how difficult 2010 will be. But before we get entrenched into discussions that will likely not be remembered too fondly lets celebrate first with a success story.

For those of you active members you'll remember quite well that our organization wrestled with the idea of bringing on a Managing Director to lead WSACE for many years. I think it would be fair to say that although many of us had hoped to be more involved with WSACE organizational needs finding time to get it done always seemed to be a problem. We really needed a point person that could dedicate their time to these needs, be the face of our organization, be responsive to our parent organization, WSAC, and certainly be a regular at the Legislature to insure our legislative needs were met.

As of November 1, 2009, Gary Rowe has been in that position for one year and I believe has met our vision and expectations. I want to congratulate Gary on his one year anniversary and thank him for the outstanding work he has done on our behalf and the relationships he continues to build. As the President of WSACE I, probably more than anyone, benefited from Gary's presence and can't imagine how all you Past Presidents were able to get things accomplished without a Managing Director. There is still much to do but I'm excited about the start we have and the direction we are going.

Many of you have voiced your concerns about wanting a more visible presence in cyber space. I trust by now most of our members have taken the time to visit our new website and check out its features. As with many new tools, this is a work in progress and I hope as you think of ways we can enhance the website you will share your ideas with the Board. Anything we can do to add value to the website and provide another resource for our members is what we expect to accomplish.

Alright, I guess I need to fall back to the more somber discussion about Road Fund finances. I think most of us are experiencing reduced revenues from our typical sources such as County Road Property Tax, Gas Tax, Real Estate Excise Tax, Traffic Impact Fees, and State and Federal Grants. Many of us have surmised that with high mpg vehicles and fewer miles driven the Gas Tax funding will not address our long term needs. It will be incumbent upon all of us as we work with our elected officials to address the funding shortfalls to be as transparent as possible when it comes to the financial well being of the Road Fund. We need to articulate "our story" so that the elected officials are fully informed and subsequent

decisions made are done so with the best available information in front of them. Certainly the Road Fund is not alone in these dire times and it will take restraint by the elected body not to further diminish the program by diverting funds for other uses. Again, hopefully you are prepared to share with your Commissioners and Councilmembers the impact of deferring maintenance and operations of the roadway system so they are fully apprised of the consequences of their decisions.

I would like to close with a request to the members. We have had this discussion before, but let's put it out there again. What do we want from our organization? Maybe take a minute to review the website for the WSACE Mission and Vision to reacquaint yourself. In these tough economic times it's particularly important that we insist on bringing value to our members. For me personally I think the more involvement we get from the 39 County Engineers, and their staff, the better. The more opportunity we have to network, share common problems, spotlight successes, explore opportunities, the better we can serve our communities. Please let your Board know what is important to you as a member of WSACE and let's keep building the organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian D. Stacy, P.E.
President, WSACE