

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2016-17 EDITION #1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer and finding time to spend with their family before the busy season begins. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your Section President as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Delaware Valley Section of ASHE. It is truly an honor as I look at the list of distinguished professionals in our industry that have preceded me. Our 50th Anniversary Committee has been working over the past year to prepare for our celebration on September 21 at the Radisson Hotel in Valley Forge. The celebration will include recognition of our Past Presidents and Life Members who have all been invited to attend; remarks from our National President, Larry Ridlen, and our own Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, Kevin Johnson; and our keynote speaker, PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards. We have also reduced the price for attendance to \$20 in appreciation of your continued support of the Section. If you have not already registered for the event, [please visit our website](#) for registration details.



The summer brings the peak of our construction season where we see many needed projects underway in our region thanks to the additional funding provided by Act 89. Many of you worked tirelessly to help get the act approved almost three years ago. Some of the major projects include the I-95 corridor and Vine Street Expressway overhead bridges in Philadelphia, the I-95/Turnpike Interchange in Bucks County, Route 422 in Montgomery County and the recently completed Route 202 corridor in Chester County. The passage of Act 89 was a huge accomplishment for our industry but our work is not done yet, as we still face challenges such as the funding of the State Police from the Motor License Fund. I encourage everyone to stay engaged with these issues that affect our industry and reach out to your state and local representatives when needed.

I would also like to recognize our Past President, Jeff Given, along with the rest of the Board members for their hard work and accomplishments over the last year. Much was accomplished through Jeff's leadership and the efforts of the committees. The ASHE/PennDOT District 6-0 Workshop held in May was another success with more than 120 attendees. We greatly appreciate the District's support with this event. Our 21st Annual Golf Outing had more than 100 attendees and raised approximately \$7,500 for our scholarship fund. The Scholarship Committee awarded 11 scholarships for a total of \$10,000 to deserving college students from the money raised at our outings. The Project of the Year Committee received nine applications and presented two awards. The Student Chapter at Temple University continues to thrive, and a new Chapter has been established at Widener University, while one at Drexel University is coming soon. The Young Members Committee held several networking events and continues to attract more new members to the Section. We also held three Technical Sessions that provided a total of six PDHs to our members at no additional cost. Last but not least, please check out our new website, courtesy of the Website Committee. These are just some of the highlights of what has been accomplished over the past year.

As you can see from the list of accomplishments, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved with the Section and we are always looking for volunteers to help with the committees. It is a great way for newer members to meet others in the

Continued on page 2...

MEETING SCHEDULE

Dinner Meetings

- ◆ September 21
- ◆ October 19
- ◆ November 16
- ◆ January 18
- ◆ February 15
- ◆ March 15
- ◆ April 19

Starting in October, meeting costs will be increasing slightly (please see the separate article on this on page 2).

Technical Sessions (as of this printing)

- ◆ November 16
- ◆ February 15
- ◆ April 19

More information and details will be provided as they become available.

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GOLF OUTING A SUCCESS, ONCE AGAIN



It may be hard to believe, but we've been conducting our Annual Golf Outing for 21 years! This year we returned to the Blue Bell Country Club on Monday, June 27, and the weather cooperated nicely to make it an enjoyable time for the over 100 participants. Play followed a scramble format with generous "mulligan" packages available for purchase, which all but guaranteed way-below-par scores (assuming everyone reported honestly!). The Outing resulted in over \$7500 that will go to our Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship Fund. We especially appreciate the generosity of our sponsoring firms as well (shown at right).

As noted, the scores were incredible, with the winning team from STV reporting a 53 (18 under par!). Second place, at 57, was Century Engineering, and coming in third just one stroke behind was RK & K. (Looks like some skillful use of those mulligans...?)

The event included a 50/50 drawing with two cash prizes and a putting contest, in addition to the noted "mulligan" packages available.

Thanks to the Golf Outing Committee and Chair Rob Prophet, as well as the volunteers for the event, for another successful Outing and a nice-size contribution to the Section Scholarship Fund.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

organization and transition into future Board positions. I would also strongly encourage our younger members (or those young at heart!) to participate in the Younger Members events. They provide a great opportunity for networking with your peers

If you have any suggestions for how we can improve the Section, topics for Dinner Meetings and Technical Sessions, or any other questions, please let me know. This is your organization and we want to make sure that it meets your needs. Enjoy the rest of the summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone in September at the 50th Anniversary celebration!

Respectfully,
Mark Kinnee, PE
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

DUES INVOICE IN YOUR HANDS

Your invoice for ASHE dues for the 2016-17 season was mailed back in May and payment was due by June 15 to be consistent with National's billing cycle. Our PayPal option for payment was also made available for the first time for your convenience. We thank you for your prompt payment so you can remain in good standing with ASHE and our Section (but we hope you've paid by now...!). **Thanks for your continued support.**

Also, please take time to provide your up-to-date contact information on the sheet that accompanies the invoice so that our files may have your current address and e-mail. We appreciate your assistance in this regard.

GOLF OUTING RESULTS

Sponsors

Platinum

Loftus Construction
Urban Engineers

Gold

Gannett Fleming
McCormick Taylor
McMahon Associates
RK & K
Traffic Planning & Design

Silver

AECOM

GPI
HDR
HNTB
J D Eckman
STV

Bronze

Century Engineering
KCI

Individual Contest

Winners

Closest to the pin, hole 3
Shane Amsler (7' 9")

Longest drive, hole 4
Christine Frey

Closest to the pin, hole 6
Chris Savo (2' 1" !)

Straightest drive, hole 7
Jeannette Quirus

Closest to the pin, hole 10
Keith Dawson (7' 11")

Closest to the pin, hole 12
Bill Ahlert (6' 5")

Closest to the pin, hole 16
Keith Dawson (10' 5")

DINNER MEETING COST INCREASING

Starting in October, the cost for Dinner Meetings will be increasing by \$5. This reflects the higher costs from our provider, Radisson. We have strived to keep this cost as low as possible and the hotel staff has been working with us on this. The dinner price has been held at \$35 since the 2010-11 season, so this will be the first increase in 6 years.

The cost for reservations made in advance will be \$40, with the price for those past the deadline and walk-ins at the door going to \$50. The government rate will increase to \$25.

We appreciate your understanding.

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR - 2015

Our Section recognized two efforts as part of our Project of the Year competition last season. As has been done in the past, the competition was broken into two categories based on construction cost (under \$10 million and \$10 million and over).

Summaries of our award-winning projects are provided here. For additional information, please see the ASHE Scanner, available on-line at ashe.pro/scanner.html.

I-95 was constructed in the 1960's as part of the Interstate Highway System and stretches from Maine to Florida as the primary north-south route on the East Coast. Its 51-mile expanse in Pennsylvania follows the alignment of the Delaware River, where it serves as a significant commuter route.

As the highway completed its third decade in service in the 1990's, PennDOT began planning and scheduling its reconstruction. The first group of projects, otherwise known as "Sector A", extends from Race Street in Center City northward to Cottman Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia. The Girard Avenue Interchange (Section GIR) was identified as one of the highest priority areas for reconstruction within Sector A, due to the age of the highway and the significant percentage of bridge structure.

Section GIR covers approximately three miles from Race Street to Allegheny Avenue and includes complete reconstruction of the main line as well as reconfiguration of the interchange ramps and associated surface streets. This section is one of the most heavily-traveled roads in the Commonwealth, carrying over 200,000 vehicles per day, and the interchange provides access to and from four major arterials - Girard Avenue, Delaware Avenue, Aramingo Avenue, and Richmond Street.

Locally, I-95 is perceived as a barrier between Philadelphia's river ward neighborhoods and the Delaware River and has become a focus of development and waterfront planning efforts. These characteristics combined to create a formidable challenge - reconstruct the aging facility to improve safety, capacity, and accessibility while minimizing the impact to the traveling public and the nearby neighborhoods and restoring waterfront connectivity.

With a total estimated construction cost of over \$1 billion, Section GIR was divided into six separate construction contracts. Section GR2, with a cost of nearly \$43 million, is the first mainline construction section and was built in advance to use as a traffic crossover between the long viaduct structures to the north and south during future sections. It includes approximately 1200 feet of full-depth concrete pavement between Frankford Avenue and Palmer Street, three single-span precast concrete box beam bridges, five retaining walls supporting the mainline with sound barriers, two ground-mounted sound barrier walls, mainline highway and understructure lighting, drainage, stormwater management, landscaping, and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) devices.

The completion and opening of the highway is not as significant as the concept of "humanizing infrastructure" that was incorporated into every step of design and construction. Through an unprecedented planning and outreach program driven by PennDOT, the neighboring communities were drawn in as project stakeholders and were considered to be as important as the highway user in the design process. Through public design charrettes and near-neighbors meetings, the Design Team was able to tailor the features surrounding the highway to fit community needs.



Although covering a relatively short distance along I-95, the Section GR2 project presented many challenges during design and construction. To carry the traffic on this critical limited-access freeway, three traffic lanes were required in each direction during all stages of construction. In addition, a commitment was made to the local neighborhoods to maintain the ramp access from northbound I-95 and onto southbound I-95 during construction. The result was a five-stage construction sequence that

maximized construction areas as much as possible while maintaining traffic flow and allowing access for the contractor.

Maintenance of local street and pedestrian traffic was also a concern during design. The three streets crossing beneath I-95, Shackamaxon Street, Marlborough Street, and Columbia Avenue, serve as the most direct connection to the shops and restaurants on Girard Avenue to the west and to Penn Treaty Park and other waterfront attractions along Delaware Avenue to the east. To maximize mobility for the locals, the bid special provisions prohibited the contractor from closing two eastbound streets at the same time. The contractor was also required to maintain safe pedestrian access or establish signed sidewalk detours for the cross streets.

Project of the Year 2015
\$10 Million and Over
I-95 Section GR2

Owner - PennDOT
 Designer - AECOM
 Contractor - James J. Anderson
 Construction Manager - JMT

Construction Bid - \$42.9 Million

Continued on page 4...

SECTION COMMITTEES/ CHAIRS

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY
Isaac Kessler

ASHE/PENNDOT
BREAKFAST MEETING
Alexa Egan Harper
Curt Shugars

AUDITING
Bruce Masi

DINNER MEETINGS
Drew Sirianni

50TH ANNIVERSARY
Mark Kinnee
Bob Wright

50/50
Nate Parrish

GOLF
Rob Prophet

HOTEL
Phil Mandato

MEMBERSHIP
Isaac Kessler

NEWSLETTER
Bob Wright

NOMINATING
Jack Mitchell

PROGRAM
Mark Kinnee

PROJECT OF THE
YEAR
Stephanie Butler

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Corey Hull

SCHOLARSHIPS
Sarah McInnes

SOCIAL/SOCIETY
RELATIONS
Elaine Elbich

STUDENT CHAPTERS
John Caperilla

TECHNICAL PAPERS
Bruce Masi

TECHNICAL SESSIONS
Bill Laird

WEBSITE
Pete Berthold

YOUNG MEMBERS
Alexa Egan Harper
Drew Sirianni

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR - 2015 *(continued from page 3)*

Another key design challenge was the incorporation of stormwater management facilities that would meet Philadelphia Water Department regulations and state Department of Environmental Protection policies. A limited amount of right-of-way is available adjacent to I-95 and the surrounding homes, and ten small, shallow rain gardens were able to be squeezed into this space alongside retaining walls. These are landscaped for both appearance and the stormwater function. These rain gardens will not hold standing water and include impervious liners to prevent infiltrating stormwater from entering the basements of the adjacent houses.

The body of stakeholders that regularly meet to coordinate planning and outreach for the I-95 corridor projects is called the Sustainable Action Committee, so there is a continuing emphasis on sustainability. This project was one of the first I-95 sections designed with "green" elements in mind. The stormwater management design is intended to fulfill all agency regulations and not overload the City storm sewer system.

The landscape design includes varied species of plants, which are less susceptible to disease and require less maintenance than monoculture plantings. Repurposed salvage from nearby bridge and building demolition was incorporated into the aesthetic design as public and industrial art. The improved pedestrian and bicycle access through the highway corridor improves safety and reduces vehicle trips to waterfront venues.

The Project of the Year Committee reviewed a total of nine submissions this time around. In addition to the two winning entries, other projects considered were the following:

- Plymouth Road Bridge over Plymouth Creek, Montgomery County (\$2.1 million)
- Chester Road Roundabout, Swarthmore (\$2.4 million)
- Wood-Vine Connector, Lansdale (\$3.4 million)
- Route 23 Bridge over Pickering Creek, Chester County (\$4 million)
- Linfield Road Bridge over Schuylkill River, Chester/Montgomery Counties (\$5.1 million)
- North Delaware Avenue Extension, Philadelphia (\$13.6 million)
- SR 422 Section 4TR, Montgomery County (\$16.8 million)

Thanks to all firms who submitted for this effort.

Thinking About Joining a Section Committee...?

If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Mark Kinnee (information is provided on page 8).

Please note that some committees have co-chairs to assist in the often-complicated tasks they must handle.

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR - 2015

The SR 0213. Section NCB project involved two main goals - the replacement of the West Maple Avenue bridge over the Neshaminy Creek and the conversion of the signalized intersection of West Maple Avenue/Bridgetown Pike into a one lane roundabout. The project is located in Lower Southampton and Middletown Townships in southern Bucks County.

**Project of the Year 2015
Under \$10 Million
West Maple Avenue
Bridge/Roundabout**

Owner - PennDOT
Designer - Michael Baker
International
Contractor - Buckley &
Company
Construction Management -
JBC Associates

Construction Cost - \$7.8 Million

The existing 288-foot concrete open spandrel bridge was originally constructed in 1929. Its concrete superstructure and substructure components had deteriorated to the point that the bridge was scheduled for replacement. In order to facilitate construction of this structure and accommodate the 11,000 vehicles that cross the bridge daily, a full detour was implemented during construction. The open spandrel nature of the existing bridge would not allow staged construction. The new bridge creates a roadway with more appropriate shoulder widths, including a wider south-side shoulder to accommodate pedestrians walking between the adjacent residential development and the nearby Playwicki Park.

To streamline construction and minimize future maintenance, it was recommended that an innovative prefabricated, multi-cell Bebo arch bridge system be constructed. The three arches were approximately 75 feet wide and 20 feet high. The prefabricated arches also are sympathetic to the open spandrel arch configuration of the old structure.

The project included improvements at the West Maple Avenue/Bridgetown Pike intersection, which experienced traffic delays and congestion on a daily basis. After an evaluation of alternatives, it was recommended that a single lane roundabout be explored. Since the intersection straddled the boundary between two townships, detailed coordination with both municipalities was required. Although there was some initial apprehension with the roundabout, the community was supportive of the concept after several presentations on the operational and safety benefits.

The chosen alternative involved a single-lane roundabout located approximately 300 feet to the east of the existing intersection on a township-owned parcel. There was extensive coordination among PennDOT, the townships, and the property owners to address the ownership and maintenance of the land in the abandoned portions of the intersection.

This project is one of the first applications of this low-maintenance and cost-effective prefabricated bridge type in Pennsylvania. The replacement of a signalized intersection with a roundabout is also innovative and notable.



A full detour was utilized for the bridge construction and two construction seasons were required. To mitigate the addition of traffic on the proposed detour route, the timing of four existing traffic signals was modified and one temporary signal was installed. The staging for the bridge detour was also coordinated with roundabout construction to ensure access to the residents and businesses.

Several sustainable design elements were used in the project including LED streetlights at the roundabout, six bioretention swales/areas using native landscape plantings at the bridge and the roundabout, and power savings from the removal of the existing traffic signal equipment. The prefabricated bridge incorporates a typical asphalt roadway surface and the concrete culvert system will reduce bridge maintenance requirements.

PRESIDENT

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Urban Engineers

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Jack Mitchell
McMahon Associates

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John Caperilla
Borton-Lawson

TREASURER

Don Stark
Ammann & Whitney

SECRETARY

Alexa Egan Harper
Gannett Fleming

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jeff Given
Loftus Construction

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McMahon Associates

Corey Hull
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Isaac Kessler
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Nate Parrish
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Penna. Dept. of Transportation

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Felix Mandato & Sons

Curt Shugars
Pennoni Associates

Drew Sirianni
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Pete Berthold
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HDR

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Sarah McInnes
Penna. Dept. of Transportation

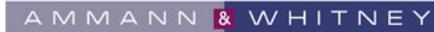
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Rob Prophet
Traffic Planning & Design

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Rich Prentice

2015-16 DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION PATRONS (DVSP)



OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY IS HERE!

Our Section will celebrate 50 years of service this season. It was formed in September 1966 with a total of 69 members. Our Charter was approved by ASHE National on January 25, 1967 as the tenth Section in the then-fledgling ASHE organization (which itself was founded in 1956, with the Harrisburg Section holding Charter #1). To cite this, we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary during the coming season in several ways.

Our 50th Anniversary Committee is developing programs and events to cite our golden anniversary season. The “kickoff” event will be our September Dinner Meeting, which will be conducted on **Wednesday, September 21**. Details are provided in the meeting flyer which was sent separately.



We also conducted a competition for the creation of a special **50th Anniversary logo** to be used as part of our celebrations and events. **Bill Faries** of McMahon Associates submitted the winning design (at left) which will be used throughout our 50th anniversary season. *Thanks, Bill!*

More information on Anniversary events and programs will be provided in upcoming editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES and in separate flyers and mailings.



2016-17 DVSP PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

Our Section started the Delaware Valley Section Patron (DVSP) Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. As we begin our twelfth year of this Program (!), we are proud to note that 27 firms participated last season and 3 new DVSP's have already committed for 2016-17 (logos of these firms are provided on page 6).

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up and helped support our Section's many activities. As you may be aware, the proceeds of the DVSP go directly to support our Section's Scholarship Fund.

We are now starting the program for the current year. It will follow the same format as last season, with sponsor logos displayed on our website and in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES for a \$200 fee.

Last season's sponsors will be contacted shortly to determine if they are interested in continuing as DVSP's for 2016-17. If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Bob Wright (information provided on page 8).

DVSP benefits
(\$200 for the season)

Logo and Hotlink on
Section Website (delvalley.ashe.pro)

Logo in THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES

TAKE A PEEK AT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE !

Please visit delvalley.ashe.pro and see our revamped site, with all the Section's information you'll need to keep up-to-date on things.

CONTACT US

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, the newsletter of the Delaware Valley Section, is published and distributed to our members several times each season to advise and update all on current events and happenings in our Section.

If you have news items for future editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, please feel free to contact us.

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REMINDER

Deadline for copy/
information for the next
edition of THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES

October 21

MEMBERS IN TRANSPORTATION/TRANSITION

Caperilla Cited as Young Member of the Year

Section Second Vice President **John Caperilla** was cited by ASHE National as the 2016 Young Member of the Year. John received this Award during the banquet dinner at the National Conference in Pittsburgh on May 21, at which he was an invited and honored guest. Congratulations to John on this honor!

Promotion for Shugars

Section Past President **Curtis Shugars** has been promoted to Regional Technology Principal in the Construction Services group at Pennoni Associates. Curt previously served as construction services division manager in Pennoni's King of Prussia office. In this expanded role, he will now be designated as the Principal in Charge of construction services projects throughout the region and will be responsible for the coordination of senior staff, overall contract review and approval, client satisfaction and quality control, and financial performance and reporting. He has more than 35 years of construction engineering experience, 12 of which have been spent working at Pennoni. We congratulate Curt on his promotion!

DONNA PRENTICE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION - OPENING SHORTLY...

Our Section's Scholarship Program has been benefitting local college students since 1972. We have had one of the largest such efforts among ASHE Sections nationally over the years. Many recipients have gone on to positions in the industry, both locally and out of the area, and a number have become members of ASHE.

Last season, 11 students received awards totaling \$10,000. We are proud to be able to support our local students and help them in their educational pursuits.

This season's competition will open in October, with information and applications to be provided on our website shortly. We strongly encourage students to apply (and ask parents to let their college-age children know about this opportunity!).

REMINDER - ELECTRONIC DINNER MEETING PAYMENT AVAILABLE

When signing up to attend Section meetings, we encourage you to pay electronically with PayPal. It's easy and eliminates the need for tracking checks and cash at the door, getting YOU into the meeting more quickly! Please remember to include your PayPal receipt when faxing in your dinner reservations. Additional details are provided in each Dinner Meeting notice/flyer.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship