

# The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2012-13 EDITION #3

*Happy Holidays from the Officers and Board of Directors  
of the Delaware Valley Section*

We wish you the best of the Season...whatever season you celebrate, and hope you find the presents you want under your tree (maybe like some of those below this one?)!



*Slide Rules*

*PDH's and Meetings*

*Transportation \$*

*Coal?*

*Technical Sessions*

*Networking*

*50-50 Prizes*

## A Message from President Bruce Masi



**A most Happy, Healthy, and Festive Holiday Season is wished for you and yours!!!!**

Many, many holidays around this time of year involve light. The lights on the Chanukah Menorah or the candles in a Kwanzaa Kinara, even the lights around the Christmas Tree or the blazing Yule Log of the Winter Solstice, all are symbols of the holiday seasons during December.

We can view light from a scientific perspective or from a poetic perspective. We can understand that light is a “transverse, electromagnetic wave” that is either **incandescent** (the emission of light from “hot” matter) or **luminescent** (the emission of light when excited electrons fall to lower energy levels in matter that may or may not be “hot”). Or we can talk about the “lightness of being” or the concept of “sweetness and light” which was a phrase popularized by the nineteenth-century English author Matthew Arnold (though it had been used earlier by Jonathan Swift).

Looking at things scientifically versus poetically reminds me of a lyric from “Ride The Tiger”, a track off the 1974 Jefferson Starship Dragon Fly album:

“It’s like a tear in the hands of a western man  
Tell you about salt, carbon and water,  
But a tear to a Chinese man  
He’ll tell you about sadness and sorrow or the love of a man and a woman.”

Ignoring the 1970’s cultural stereotypes, the verse illustrates that what we perceive is (or appears to be) our reality. Each of us can observe the same substance or event, but perceive “two different worlds”. Thus, we can be either logical or poetic, practical or imaginative, literal or figurative, a pragmatist or a dreamer.

I offer that we wish to be BOTH.

While engineering IS based on science, and many engineers are logic-minded, left-hemispheric brain-driven individuals, engineering is ... in essence ... an art. While we use math and science to design and build highways, bridges and other facets of infrastructure, it is the imagination, the creativity, and the search for what is “possible” (not always what is “probably”) that is often called upon to solve “engineering problems”. Walt Disney World in Florida could be taken as the quintessential example of this.

Even in theoretical science, we “imagine” what COULD BE, then we test the hypotheses to determine what most probably “IS”. FIRST, we imagine .... THEN we test.

So I invite you to embrace the holiday season with not only the practicality of the engineer, but also with the joy and celebratory faculties of a child. Look at what is possible, not what is probable. To badly paraphrase the hybrid expression from the Biblical Books of Isaiah and Ecclesiastes, “Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow ..... it’s “back to work”. ;)

Your devoted President,  
Bruce Paul Masi, P.E.

## Younger Members Committee Off to a Good Start

Our Section’s brand-new Younger Members Committee (YMC) held its first event on December 4, a joint happy hour with the Philadelphia Section ASCE’s Younger Member Forum at Rock Bottom Brewery in King of Prussia. There were approximately 60 attendees partaking of interesting brews and food! Thanks to all those who attended and helped to make the event such a success.

Next up, the YMC will be hosting a community service event in the new year. Look for additional information in early 2013.

A new committee, the YMC is a group focused on increasing younger member participation and involvement in ASHE. The events welcome everyone who feels young at heart, no age restrictions apply! Thanks to Committee Chair Alexa Harper for getting things going on this.

## Golf Outing – Please Hold the Date

Our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing will be conducted on **Monday, July 22** at Blue Bell Country Club. Please mark your calendar (and perhaps keep some of those golf gifts you may have gotten for Christmas at the ready). More information and details will be forthcoming on this.

## Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors – 2012-13 Season

### **Bruce Masi, President**

Gannett Fleming Inc.

### **Stephanie Butler, First Vice President**

McMahon Associates Inc.

### **Bob Wright, Second Vice President**

Urban Engineers Inc.

### **Jeff Obrecht, Treasurer**

URS

### **Jeff Given, Secretary**

Loftus Construction Inc.

### **Board of Directors**

Term expires 2013

### **Pete Berthold**

Penna. Dept. of Transportation

### **Bill Laird**

CHA

### **Sarah McInnes**

Penna. Dept of Transportation

Term expires 2014

### **Carlos Garcia**

Orth-Rodgers and Associates Inc.

### **Mark Kinnee**

Urban Engineers Inc.

### **Jack Mitchell**

McMahon Associates Inc.

### **Don Steele**

Penna. Turnpike Commission

Term expires 2015

### **Elaine Elbich**

Penna. Dept. of Transportation

### **Phil Mandato**

Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.

### **Curt Shugars**

Pennoni Associates Inc.

### **Don Stark**

Ammann & Whitney Inc.

### **Rob Prophet, Regional Director**

Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

### **Dick Prentice, Past President (ASHE National)**

McMahon Associates Inc.

As noted in the last edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, we have a vacancy on the Section Board for a contractor representative. We are once again in search of someone to fill this position and will keep it open until we are able to find such a person, to help keep our balance of representation on our Board.

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be part of our Section's governance.

## So You Want To Be On A Section Committee...?

Our Section Committees and Committee chairs are listed below. If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Bruce Masi or Second Vice President/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 7):

### *ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting*

*Audit*

*Dinner Meetings*

*50/50*

*Golf*

*Hotel*

*Membership*

*Newsletter*

*Nominating*

*Program*

*Project of the Year*

*Public Relations*

*Scholarship*

*Social/Society Relations*

*Student Chapters*

*Technical Papers*

*Technical Sessions*

*Younger Members*

Carlos Garcia

Bruce Masi

Mark Kinnee

Dick Prentice

Rob Prophet

Phil Mandato

Bruce Masi

Bob Wright

Stephanie Butler

Rob Prophet

Bill Laird

Don Steele

Sarah McInnes

Elaine Elbich

John Caperilla

Curt Shugars

Jack Mitchell

Alexa Harper

## Dinner Meetings/Technical Sessions Costs

Dinner Meeting prices for the current season will be held at \$35 with advance reservations (by the reservation deadline) and \$45 for after the deadline/at the door (the same as the last three seasons), with the cost for public employees and students remaining at \$20. These costs remain low compared to those charged by other technical groups as we strive to negotiate the best deals we can with our provider to keep costs as low as possible.

Additionally, Technical Sessions, which had been free in the past, will remain free for Section members (another benefit of ASHE membership!). Non-members wishing to attend will be assessed a \$40 charge for each Technical Session.

## 2012 Project of the Year Competition

**The Project of the Year competition is now open for submissions.** The program will follow the two-category format, with separate awards for "large" and "small" projects. **The breakpoint between the two classifications will be determined once submissions have been made**, unlike in past years when this was divided at \$10 million, to allow more flexibility in the decision making. Projects must have been completed in 2012, be located within the geographic boundaries of the Section, and nominated by an ASHE member in good standing. **Applications are due on March 2.**

Please visit the Section website ([www.ashedv.org](http://www.ashedv.org)) for more information and applications.



**Delaware Valley Section Patron (D.V.S.P.) Program – Season 8**

**\*\*\* Five-Year Participants \*\*\***



The Section started the D.V.S.P. Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. We are proud to note that 14 firms are participating in the Program so far this season (listed above).

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

The cost for the "basic" level of support (\$100) will remain as it has been since the start of the program. As we started last season, we are once again offering a "website" level, which, for \$150, will allow your logo to be placed on our website as well as in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, with a hyperlink directly to your website.

If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President Bruce Masi or Second Vice President/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 7).

**2012-13 Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendars!**

In order to help you plan your attendance at our Section's meetings for the coming season, here is the schedule of remaining meeting dates. We will be keeping our meetings on a third-Wednesday pattern.

After the January 16 meeting, others will be held on **February 20, March 20 and April 17.**

Meeting topics have not yet been finalized but will be announced in each monthly meeting announcement flyer.

**ASHE 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*

## Professional Development Requirements Update

As you may be aware, professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists in Pennsylvania are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses. PE's, PLS's and PG's will need to have 24 hours of professional development that is related to their practice during a licensure period (two years). A similar requirement is in effect for New Jersey PE's.

Our Section's meeting program and Technical Sessions will be able to count toward your continuing education requirement and a verification program is in place to help you obtain and track your PDH's. We will have a sign-in sheet and blank certificates available at all Section meetings and Technical Sessions to substantiate and verify attendance. Please be sure to sign the sheet and pick up a certificate at the end of the meeting/session for your records.

## Technical Sessions – More Coming

Our first Technical Session of the season was held on November 7, prior to the November Section Meeting. This session, on "Innovative Slopes and Retaining Systems", was well received and attended.

Additional Technical Sessions are being scheduled for **February 20** and **April 17**. More information will be provided in future editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES and in event-specific flyers which will accompany the monthly meeting announcements.

As always, if you have any thoughts on topics or would like to present a session, please pass this along for our consideration.

## Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship Competition – Candidates to be Selected

The Section's Scholarship Program continues to be successful. The Program was started by the Section in 1972. Over the 40 years of its existence, it has benefited numerous local college students, many of whom have gone on to become ASHE members after graduation. It was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of longtime Section member Dick Prentice, in 2003.

A total of **28 (!)** applications were received by the October 26 deadline. Several thousands of dollars are expected to be

awarded to deserving candidates this year, with a minimum award of \$500 anticipated to be provided to each successful applicant.

Successful candidates will be notified in January. Those selected for awards will be invited to be the Section's guests at our February Section meeting to be cited accordingly.

Good luck to all candidates!

## A Second Perspective on MAP 21

*We had one perspective on this, as it relates to our Section's geographic area, in the last edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES. Here's another from Spencer Finch, Director, Sustainable Development Programs for the Southeast Region of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and a Board member of the Philadelphia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).*

### MAP-21 is Here – What does it mean for us?

So after long periods of uncertainty, MAP-21 (Public Law 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act) was approved by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012. What does it mean for us in the highway business, both in engineering and construction?

First, the uncertainty is somewhat over, at least for two years. The current bill is the twelfth multi-year transportation bill ever issued by Congress, became effective on October 1, 2012 and will run until September 30, 2014. However, it is sad to note that the bill reverts to a two-year funding period, similar to the first three transportation bills issued in 1964, 1966, and 1968 – and not to what had become the more standard 4 to 6 year period since the 1980s.

This shorter period makes it harder for transportation officials – and engineering firms – to conduct long-range

planning and sustain longer-term implementation efforts. So, the uncertainty is reduced – at least for the next year or so – but not eliminated.

Overall, the bill will fund \$105 billion per year in transportation investments nationwide – or about the current levels of funding, corrected by inflation. Because the Highway Trust Fund cannot sustain these levels of investment at current revenue levels, Congress authorized a transfer of \$18.8 billion from the Federal Government's general funds. So, the good news is that funding levels will not decline in these two years. The bad news is that the Highway Trust Fund gap continues to grow and will have to be addressed in the next transportation bill.

The bill also instituted structural reforms in the transportation program, consolidating over 60 different programs (from 90 to less than 30). The most obvious

consolidations were the merging of the old Interstate Maintenance, National Highway System, and Highway Bridges programs into the new National Highway Performance Program; and of the old Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails programs into a new Transportation Alternatives program.

The goal of the first was to refocus on maintenance needs. For the second merger, the goals were different for different groups of Congressmembers – for some, the goal was to altogether eliminate funding for modes they felt were superfluous, such as pedestrian and bicycle funding; for others the motivation was to seek more efficient funding.

Overall, it remains to be seen if these consolidations will result in significant cost savings. The more serious long-term funding challenges (Highway Trust Fund gaps, for example)

and infrastructure management issues were not addressed in the bill.

In other words, the overall effect might have been to “nibble around the edges”, trying to eliminate smaller programs that do not sit at the core of the trust fund issues, while ignoring the “elephant in the room”, the quickening deterioration of our transportation infrastructure systems (whether land, water, or air) and the increasingly outdated ways transportation funding is raised.

In the bullets below, we list the more direct impacts that we might see in our day-to-day work in the next two years.

- Highway / Transit funding split kept at 80/20
- Focus shifts to funding maintenance and safety
  - Highway funding formulas eliminated, funding now based on state's 2012 share of funding
  - Highway Safety Improvement Program funding will increase from \$1 billion to \$2.4 billion per year
- However, funding for pollution reduction also increased – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding increased from \$1.7 billion to \$2.2 billion per year
- Transit funding stays at about the same levels, around \$10.6 billion per year
  - But many programs eliminated or consolidated, such as the Alternatives Analysis, Job Access Reverse Commute, and Transit in Parks programs
- Ped-Bike funding reduced from \$1.2 billion/year to less than \$800 million/year
  - With additional types of projects (such as vegetation management and highway stormwater structures) now also eligible to compete for these funds, reduction is even more substantial
  - Whole categories of projects no longer eligible, including bike safety education, scenic byways, historic preservation and transportation museums
- New Funding:
  - Transit New Starts program funded at \$1.9 billion per year
  - TIFIA funding increased from \$122 million/yr to \$750 million in Year 1 and \$1 billion in Year 2
  - Matched with slightly more incentives for public-private partnerships and slightly more authority for tolling
  - Mega Projects grant in FY 2013 - \$500 million

These were collected from MAP-21 summaries prepared by the FHWA, FTA, AASHTO, and League of American Bicyclists.

## Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2013

*The Officers and Board of Directors of the Delaware Valley Section wish all good things for you and yours for 2013 and we hope you have a joyous, memorable and safe holiday season!*

In place of the twelve days of Christmas, we would like to pass along 12 things for which our Section should be thankful:

- \* 12 Section Directors
- \* 11 Director positions filled (still looking for that contractor's rep!)
- \* 10 million dollar cutoff between “small” and “large” projects in last year's Project of the Year competition
- \* 9 colleagues at your table at a Section meeting with whom to network and socialize
- \* 8 five-year DVSP participants (and 8 seasons of the DVSP Program)
- \* 7 monthly meetings
- \* 6 PDH's (if you attend all 3 Technical Sessions)
- \* 5 dollars gets you 3 50-50 tickets (which supports the Scholarship Fund)
- \* 4 Dinner meetings left this season
- \* 3 Technical Sessions this season
- \* 2 colleagues to tell about ASHE
- \* 1 colleague to bring to the next Section meeting



## Delaware Valley Engineers Week – Right Around the Corner...

The Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee has scheduled these events for Engineers Week. Please note the dates in your calendar. More information will be provided as details are finalized. Please check the website ([www.dvewc.org](http://www.dvewc.org)) for updates.

### AWARDS AND PROCLAMATION LUNCHEON

Friday, February 15, 2013

Doubletree Hotel, Center City Philadelphia

The Awards and Proclamation Luncheon will include:

- A poster session with presentation of student paper winners from 11:00 AM to 12 Noon prior to the Luncheon
- Engineers Week Awards and Scholarships will be presented
- Engineers Week proclamations will be displayed
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks

### YOUNG ENGINEERS SOCIAL

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Fado Restaurant & Pub, Center City Philadelphia

This will be a happy hour/social networking event geared to younger engineers. The Young Engineer of the Year will make brief remarks.

The 2013 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, **Charles Clerecuzio**, was elected to this position in November and will be recognized at the above events.

The Committee is always in need of volunteers to assist in the many activities surrounding Engineers Week. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions on the various volunteer opportunities, please contact the Committee at [www.dvewc.org](http://www.dvewc.org).

### CELEBRATION OF ENGINEERING RECEPTION

Thursday, February 21, 2013

Widener University, Chester

The culminating event of Engineers Week will be a social/networking gala event to celebrate engineering. There will be cocktails, appetizer stations, and dessert stations.

Other features of the event include:

- Award recipients will be honored with posters, exhibits, and a running PowerPoint presentation in the networking area
- Future City Competition Regional winners will display their first-place model
- The Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the year will provide brief remarks, followed by a brief recognition of the Hall of Fame, Outstanding Service, and Engineering Achievement award recipients

## Nominations for Section Officers About to Open

The Delaware Valley Section will shortly be opening nominations for new Officers and Directors for the 2013-14 season. We anticipate that several vacancies will open on the Section's Board of Directors for terms ending in 2016 as well as the Second Vice President position.

Nominations can be made to First Vice President Stephanie Butler ([stephanie.butler@mcctrans.com](mailto:stephanie.butler@mcctrans.com) or 215-283-9444, x1256). **Nominations are due by February 20** (the date of our February Section/Board meeting). The proposed slate of incoming nominees will be announced at the March Section meeting.

You can contact Stephanie for a list of open offices and positions on the Board of Directors.

## From the Editor...

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

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

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**ASHE Northeast Region** – Albany ♦ Altoona ♦ Central New York ♦ Clearfield ♦ **Delaware Valley** ♦ East Penn ♦ First State ♦ Franklin ♦ Harrisburg ♦ Long Island ♦ Mid-Allegheny ♦ New York Metro ♦ North Central New Jersey ♦ Northeast Penn ♦ Pittsburgh ♦ Southern New Jersey ♦ Southwest Penn ♦ Williamsport