

# THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2023-24 EDITION #3



## Meeting Schedule

### Dinner Meetings

January 17

February 21

March 20

April 17

Please see the article on Dinner Meetings on page 4 for more information on our planned program.

### Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions will be scheduled throughout the season and will be conducted virtually. See page 4 for more information on this.

## In This Issue

Season's Greetings/Holiday Wishes	2
Section Officers and Board of Directors	3
Section Committees	3
Section Award Nominations	3
Dinner Meetings/Technical Sessions	4
DVSP/Sponsors in Transportation/Transition	4
DVSP Program, Sponsors	5,7
National Conference	5
Young Members Committee	5
Membership Applications	5
Environmentally Speaking	6
Section Scholarship	8
Engineers Week 2024	8
Future City - Help Needed	8
Contact Us	8

## President's Message

This time of year has the calendar filled with holiday get-togethers, end of year meetings, and a look back to the year that is ending as we prepare to turn the calendar and start anew. I have been fortunate enough to attend quite a few of the meetings of other professional societies in our region this fall and winter, and the main takeaway I have had is how much support there is for each other. As the ASHE Delaware Valley Section, we are happy to support other great professional societies in our area, and we are able to do so from the excellent leadership of all our Board Members and Committee Members, and the commitment of our great membership. In our annual budget, we value the support our Section can provide to other professional societies, scholarships, and community events. As with all things, the support we give to others comes back with support of our events and meetings we host as a Section throughout the year.



We look forward to our joint meeting with ASCE and WTS in January, and then our joint meeting with MASITE in February. Heading into the new year, our Section plans to continue to support the Future City Competition, March of Dimes, Delaware Valley Engineers Week, Delaware Valley Science Fairs, and of course our scholarships and nominations for annual awards. Our mission as a Section is to represent the Highway Engineering profession and all of our members in the way we would like to see our profession support its community and lead into the future.

During this holiday season, we ask that our membership be supportive of each other and their communities. Heading into the new year, we look forward to the great things to come from our profession and from those who make it a leader in this region and for others to follow.

Happy Holidays and New Year to all.

Cheers,

Isaac Kessler, PE  
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

Our November meeting presenter, Bob Crawford of James J. Anderson Construction, with President Isaac Kessler, at Bob's informative session on development of alternate foundation designs for I-95 sections currently under construction in Philadelphia.



**Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Season's Greetings, and best wishes for a good New Year from the Officers and Board of the Delaware Valley Section, ASHE!**

### Officers and Board

Isaac	Elaine
Amber	Alexa
Steve D	Sarah
Matt	Kim
Kevin	Peter
Nate	Bruce
	Sean
	Juli
	Don
	Mariah
	Drew
	Steve W
	John
	Bob



**ASHE**  
Delaware Valley



Among this year's gifts in those boxes under our tree (not quite the 12 days of Christmas, but...):

- 12** Section Directors working diligently for our membership
- 11** years of a strong Younger Members Committee
- 10** our Section was the tenth ASHE Section to be chartered (1967)
- 8** Past Presidents currently serving on our Section Board
- 7** Dinner Meetings scheduled for the current season
- 6** anticipated Technical Sessions this season

- 6** committees chaired by Past Presidents
- 5** DVSP participants for all 19 years of the program's existence
- 5** dollars gets you 3 50-50 tickets at Dinner Meetings
- 5** Project of the Year submissions for the 2022 program
- 3** Editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES in your hands thus far this season
- 2** years until we celebrate our 60th season (2025-26)

## 2023-24 Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors

Our Section Officers and Directors are listed here. Please thank these individuals for their volunteer service in the administration and operation of our Section.

### President

Isaac Kessler  
Remington & Vernick  
Engineers

*Term expires 2025*

Peter Berthold\*  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Transportation

### First Vice President

Amber Midgley  
AECOM

Bruce Masi\*  
Gannett Fleming

### Second Vice President

Steve DiSciullo  
BentleySystems

Sean Pence  
Traffic Planning & Design

### Treasurer

Matt Ward  
TranSystems

*Term expires 2026*

Don Gusic  
CDM Smith

### Secretary

Kevin Rice  
HNTB

Mariah Kerr  
Traffic Planning & Design

### Immediate Past President

Nate Parrish\*  
HNTB

Drew Sirianni\*  
Pennoni

### Board of Directors

*Term expires 2024*

Elaine Elbich\*  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Transportation

*Regional Director*

John Caperilla\*  
CDR Maguire

Alexa Egan Harper\*  
Gannett Fleming

*Section Executive*

Bob Wright\*  
McMahon

Sarah McInnes  
Pennsylvania Department of  
Transportation

\* Past Section President

Kimberly Waters  
JMT

### Section Committees/ Chairs

#### ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting

Alexa Egan Harper,  
Chair  
Alex Eadline, Co-Chair

#### Auditing

Rob Prophet

#### Dinner Meetings

Steve Windle

#### Educational

Juli Wolfe

#### Environmental

Susan Giannantonio

#### Golf

Don Gusic

#### Hotel

Bob Wright

#### Membership

Mariah Kerr

#### Newsletter

Bob Wright

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

#### Nominating

Amber Midgley

#### Outreach

Steve DiSciullo

#### Professional Society Relations

Elaine Elbich

#### Program

Kim Waters

#### Project of the Year

Alex Eadline

#### Scholarship

Bruce Masi

#### Student and Young Members

Sean Pence



## Section Awards - Nominations Coming Up...

The Delaware Valley Section is pleased to open nominations and begin acceptance of applications for our **2024 Member of the Year and Young Member of the Year Awards**. These awards will recognize members for their contributions to the Highway Engineering profession within our Delaware Valley region. This will be the second season that these will be offered.

If you wish to nominate someone, please review the rules and criteria and complete the nomination form. This package has been previously e-mailed to all members separately and is available on our website.

**ALL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT OUR APRIL DINNER MEETING.** It is encouraged and preferred that candidates are able to be present at our April meeting. Nominations must be received as a PDF electronically by 5:00 PM on **Friday, January 26, 2024**. Nominations should be e-mailed to the our Section's Nominating Committee Chair, Amber Midgley ([Amber.Midgley@aecom.com](mailto:Amber.Midgley@aecom.com)),

Also, please be aware that nominations for our **2023 Project of the Year** competition are open for nominations. The deadline for submissions will be **Thursday, February 15, 2024**. Please see the separate flyer coming on this for requirements and materials that will need to be part of the submission package.



## ***Dinner Meetings – Continuing on Course, and Still Moving Around... !***

### ***Technical Sessions, Still Virtual...***

As we pass the halfway point of our season, with three meetings under our proverbial belt and four remaining, our Dinner Meeting program thus far has been a successful one, with informative, well-presented sessions and healthy attendance. We apologize for the last-minute change in the November meeting venue and we appreciate your flexibility and accommodation with this (venues are having some difficulties of their own as they re-start booking of meetings after the two-year-plus hiatus). We will continue the two-venue schedule for the remaining four meetings of this season, with January, March and April at the Crowne Plaza and February at Maggiano's.

As we have experienced and heard in feedback from those of you who have attended the meetings thus far, the new venues have brought with them a better quality of meals and accommodations compared to those utilized previously. If there is a downside to this, it has been the associated inevitable and unfortunate higher meeting price, a combination of inflation and cost increases from providers that managed to creep up on us. We think you will agree that the noted benefits of the venues somewhat justify the higher cost, and we will continue to do what we can to get the maximum benefit for our meeting attendees at the optimal cost.

Your feedback on the meeting locations, meals, etc. is certainly welcome both in the PDH questionnaire forms as well as direct comments to the Officers and Board. We are here to help make these experiences the best possible and would certainly like to hear from you if you have suggestions, input, etc.

**Technical Sessions** will continue to be virtual events for this season. Six such Sessions were offered last season, and we are looking to schedule at least that many in 2023-24 with varying and interesting topics. They will continue to be scheduled, with different starting times (12 Noon or 4 PM), a format that has been popular and has worked successfully over the past three seasons. As always, they will continue to offer the important and valuable PDH benefit. The Session on Bridge Aesthetics for Workhorse Bridges and Historic Structures (October 30) had an impressive turnout and was well-received by those in attendance.

More information will be provided on coming Technical Sessions in upcoming editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES as well as in separate Session flyers and e-mails. We hope you have been able to take advantage of these informative sessions.

## ***DVSP/Sponsors in Transportation/Transition***

### ***Benesch Recognized for I-95 Emergency Response Effort***



Benesch was cited at the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors as a recipient of the "2023 Remarkable Achievement Award" for its role and work in the design of the temporary and permanent efforts on the I-95 Emergency Replacement Project. This award was presented to Benesch at the APC/PennDOT/Pennsylvania Turnpike Fall Seminar in November.

Congratulations to Benesch on this honor!

### ***McMahon Now Bowman***

Following the acquisition of McMahon Associates by the Bowman Consulting Group Ltd. in May 2022, the McMahon brand will end its transition as McMahon a Bowman company and be changed to be known fully as Bowman as of the start of 2024. Founded in 1976 and headquartered in Fort Washington, PA, McMahon has specialized in delivery of a full range of innovative transportation planning and engineering services to private and public sector clients. Its focus is on projects oriented

to roads, bridges, traffic, parking, traffic signals, ITS elements, community transportation, and public transit. As Bowman, the firm will continue the delivery of innovative transportation solutions to its clients while still offering the same personal attention and trusted relationships its clients have come to expect.

## ***WTS Recognizes Several Sponsors/Staff***

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) conducted its annual Snowball Awards Soiree on November 30. As is usually done at this event, a number of WTS awardees were cited. Among those were the following Section Sponsors:

**Member of the Year – Elyse Conti**, Marketing Manager, Traffic Planning & Design

**Employer of the Year – McCormick Taylor**

**Innovative Transportation Solution Award – Benesch**, I-95 Emergency Repairs

**Secretary Ray LaHood Award – James Maloney**, Senior Vice President, JMT

We congratulate each of these award winners on their honors.

## DVSP Program Sponsorship - Season 19 Underway

Our Section started the Delaware Valley Section Patron (DVSP) Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. As you may be aware, the proceeds of the DVSP support our Section's Scholarship Fund. For a single fee for the season, sponsoring firms are cited for their support with their logos displayed on our website and in each edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES. This also provides a "hot link" to access the firm's website directly from ours.

**DVSP benefits  
(\$300 for the season)**

**Logo and Hotlink on  
Section Website  
([delvalley.ashe.pro](http://delvalley.ashe.pro))**

**Logo in THE  
TRANSPORTATION TIMES**

As we kick off our 19th season of this program, there are 27 firms that have committed thus far. They are represented by their logos, shown on page 7 as well as on our website. **Many thanks to those of you who have participated in this program and helped support our Section! We very much appreciate your "service" as a DVSP participant.**

If you are not already a DVSP and would like to join or find out more about the program, please contact Bob Wright (information provided on page 8).

*We are pleased to note that five DVSP participants - **AECOM, McCormick Taylor, McMahon, TPD and Urban Engineers** - have been sponsors for all 19 years of the Program. Thank you for your long-time support!*

## ASHE National Conference

Proudly hosted by the  
Carolina Triangle Section of the  
American Society of Highway  
Engineers



<https://2024conference.ashe.pro/contact/>

**June 5 – 9,  
2024**

## Young Members Committee Happenings

This year's fall version of the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, in conjunction with ASCE's Younger Member Forum, was conducted on Sunday, November 5, on the groups' "co-adopted" segment of Bethlehem Pike in Fort Washington/Ambler. An intrepid group of 10 volunteers took part in the effort and the "obligatory" after-cleanup session at the Fireside Bar and Grill. Thanks to all who helped with this.



A joint holiday-season happy hour/Winter Mixer, co-sponsored by ASCE YMF, COMTO, and our Young Members Committee, was conducted on December 6 at Conshohocken Brewing/Puddlers Kitchen and Tap in Bridgeport. We will have a report and more information on this in the next edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

As always, please watch for more information on planned and upcoming activities in event flyers which will be available in e-mail blasts and communications as well as on the tables at our upcoming Dinner Meetings.

## Reminder - Membership Applications Are Now Electronic !

If you know someone who is considering becoming an ASHE member, our Membership Application can be downloaded and completed, then submitted via e-mail, with payment available via PayPal. Please visit our website ([delvalley.ashe.pro](http://delvalley.ashe.pro)) and click on the **Membership** tab for more information and details on this.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in joining our Section.

We are proud to report that we currently have **340** Section members, making our Section one of the largest in the national ASHE organization. Thanks to those of you who continue to support our Section.



## Environmentally Speaking...

### Room at the Inn...and a seat at the Table...

This month's column is provided by **Brionna Marks** of **NTM Engineering, Inc.** and provides a brief history of Environmental Justice (EJ) and recent regulatory updates surrounding EJ at both state and federal levels.

We'll begin today's column with a little history lesson - because - who doesn't love history? The Environmental Justice (EJ) Movement is thought to have started in the 1980's. One specific incident was believed to be the catalyst for this Movement when community members in Warren County, North Carolina protested a hazardous waste disposal project located in a primarily black and rural community. Three lawsuits, multiple public hearings, and protests failed to stop the project. It is thought that the community opposition to this waste disposal project is the event that kickstarted the EJ Movement that ultimately led to the creation of Executive Order 12898 (condensed from, *Labalme, Jenny. "From the Archives: Dumping on Warren County."* *Facing South*, 30 Sept. 2022).

Executive Order (EO) 12898, was signed on February 16, 1994, and stated that federal agencies must identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on environmental justice communities, where EJ communities were minority and/or low-income populations.

Recently, EO 14096 was signed on April 21, 2023. This EO supplements the original foundational efforts of EO 12898 which addressed environmental justice in minority and low-income populations. However, the definition of an EJ community has significantly broadened. For transportation projects that use federal funds, clients must identify both disproportionate adverse effects/burdens and positive benefits to both human health and health of the environment in EJ communities; and incorporate robust public outreach with EJ communities during the decision-making process.

Executive Order 14096: [Federal Register : Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All](#)

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has also released a new interim EJ Policy on August 14, 2023. The purpose of the policy is to facilitate EJ in communities across Pennsylvania and to ensure equity and EJ in the administration of DEP's constitution, statutory, and regulatory duties. The DEP Policy is not yet finalized. DEP has also broadened its definition of EJ communities in collaboration with the new federal EO. The policy outlines actions that DEP will take to proactively educate, engage, and empower, and involve Pennsylvanians living in EJ communities in the permit application process. DEP's Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ) will lead any EJ public outreach/engagement if necessary. DEP's OEJ released a new EJ mapper, PennEnviroScreen. It depicts whether an area is within an EJ area or not based on DEP's definition of EJ. It also outlines the pollution burden, environmental exposures (*traffic, pesticide, toxic air, ozone*), environmental effects (*coal mining, hazardous waste, impaired lakes*), sensitive populations (*asthma, cancer, disability*), and the socioeconomic population (*poverty, race, unemployment, linguistic isolation*) percentages within that area as well.

DEP EJ Policy: [015-0501-002-InterimFinal.pdf \(state.pa.us\)](#)

DEP's PennEnviroScreen: [PennEnviroScreen \(pa.gov\)](#)

The goal of both the new EO 14096 and DEP's EJ Policy is to achieve environmental protection for all communities.

**Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Holidays and Happy New Years from your friends on the Environmental Committee!**

### We need your help!

Do you have a local environmental event you love to support? Such as a park cleanup, a tree planting, or similar event in the Delaware Valley you want to gather volunteers for? The Environmental Committee is looking for our Del Val Section membership ideas on local events to join for environmental volunteer days. We will be selecting an event to support so please email your suggestions to Susan Giannantonio at [sgiannantonio@ntmeng.com](mailto:sgiannantonio@ntmeng.com)

If you have ideas for articles concerning environmental issues of interest to our industry, please reach out to **Bob O'Neill** ([roneill@ntmeng.com](mailto:roneill@ntmeng.com)) or **Bob Wright** ([rwright@bowman.com](mailto:rwright@bowman.com)) and share your thoughts with us.



*Marchers protesting the toxic waste dumping of PCB in Warren County, North Carolina (1982).  
[Image from Greg Gibson/Associated Press]*



**AECOM**

 **benesch**

**CDM  
Smith®**

 **Colliers** Engineering  
& Design

 **Dewberry®**

 **GANNETT  
FLEMING**

**HDR**

**JBC** **35**  
YEARS

**JMT**

  
**KCI**  
TECHNOLOGIES

**L & V**

L & V ENGINEERING

 **LaBella**  
Powered by partnership.

**LDG**

**Architecture  
Engineering &  
Consulting**

*Delaware Valley Section Patrons (DVSP) 2023-24*

Thanks for your support!

**LOFTUS**  
CONSTRUCTION, INC.  
ENGINEERING • DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION

 **McCORMICK  
TAYLOR**

**MCMAHON**  
a **Bowman** company

**Pennoni**

**RYE** REMINGTON  
& VERNICK  
ENGINEERS  
1901

**RETTEW**  
SM

**RK&K**  
Engineers | Construction Managers | Planners | Scientists

  
**SAI**  
Consulting  
Engineers

 **Stantec**

**stv**

*Est. 1989*  
**TRD**

**TRANSYSTEMS**

 **URBAN  
ENGINEERS**

**WSP**

*Your logo could be here!  
(See page 5 for how to become a  
Delaware Valley Section Patron.)*

**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.

**Isaac Kessler**  
Section President  
Remington & Vernick  
Engineers  
Lower Makefield Corporate  
Center North  
1010 Stony Hill Road  
Suite 175  
Yardley, PA 19067  
610-451-1650  
isaac.kessler@rve.com

**Bob Wright**  
Editor/Section Executive  
McMahon, a Bowman  
Company  
1515 Market Street  
Suite 1360  
Philadelphia, PA 19102  
215-433-1660 x5056  
rwright@bowman.com

**RE MINDER**

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

**February 23**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

Please visit  
**delvalley.ashe.pro**  
for all the Section's current  
information you'll need to  
keep up-to-date on things.

**Donna Prentice Memorial Scholarship Competition - Now Open for Submissions**

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 gone on in their professional careers to become members of ASHE.

Last season, applications turned out to be on the lighter side, and the Scholarship Committee was able to recognize 2 students with a total amount of \$6000 being made available for this. In our 2021-22 season there was a total of \$12,000 in awards to 7 students, and we are hopeful that we can get back to that level of participation and applications. We are proud to be able to support our local future engineers and help them in their educational pursuits. The Scholarship Program has assisted numerous students over the years, and was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of long-time Section member Rich Prentice, in 2003.

Applications for this season's competition were closed on November 17. Submissions are now being reviewed by the Scholarship Committee to develop recommendations for worthy recipients and award amounts. The proceeds of our 28th Annual Golf Outing, conducted on June 12, will go toward the awards that will be made for this season as in years past.

Successful Scholarship candidates will be notified in January and invited to attend our February Dinner Meeting to be honored in person. We appreciate being able to assist local students with this program to help cover the costs of their educational pursuits and career goals.

**Mark Your Calendar - Engineers Week 2024**

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will celebrate **Engineers Week 2024** on February 15-24. This will be the 72nd year that Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley has been conducted.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Dinner** on **Thursday, February 15** at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Dinner. The 2024 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, our own **Bob Wright**, will be cited and formally inducted at this event, as will the 2024 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year, to be selected shortly.

A social and networking event will be conducted to recognize the Young Engineer of the Year on **Tuesday, February 20**, location to be announced.

Please visit the Engineers' Club website, [www.engrclub.org](http://www.engrclub.org), for more information on events, awards and updates, and if you would like to support Engineers Week through a donation or volunteer service.

**Future City - Help Needed**

As it has done for a number of years, the Future City Philadelphia program is conducting its annual competition and will hold the regional finals on **January 20** at Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor. Mentors and various volunteers for the competition, including judges, evaluators and hosts, are needed. Please visit [www.futurecityphilly.org](http://www.futurecityphilly.org) for more information and details on this.

A total of 43 local schools will be competing this time around and our Section will be among those groups offering a Special Award as we have done for a number of years.

**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 transportation*