

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2022-23 EDITION #5



Meeting Schedule

Dinner Meetings

April 19

May (date to be announced),
joint meeting with PSPE
Delaware County Chapter

Please see the article on
Dinner Meetings (below)
for more information on our
remaining program.

Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions will
continue to be scheduled and
will be conducted virtually. See
the article below for more
information on this.

President's Message



As we start to wind down the ASHE 2022-23 year I want to thank our membership for their patience as we try out new venues. We held our last two Dinner Meetings at Maggiano's and will be hosting our April Dinner Meeting at the Crowne Plaza in King of Prussia.

At our April meeting we will presenting our familiar Project of the Year awards and adding some new awards. We recently reviewed the applications for Member of the Year and Young Member of the Year. There were some great applications, and we can't wait to share our inaugural winners with the membership.

In April ASHE will transition to our new slate of Officers and Board Members. Isaac Kessler will be taking over as President and I'm certain the upcoming year will be very rewarding for our membership with Isaac leading the way. I would like to thank the ASHE membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as President this year and I am very thankful for the support provided by our Board Members and membership.

Sincerely,

Nathan Parrish, PE
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

Dinner Meetings – Back in Person, But Moving Around... ! Technical Sessions, Still Virtual...

We have managed to conduct a successful season of in-person **Dinner Meetings**, the first time we have had a complete season of these since 2018-19 (hard to believe...!). To date we have had six well-attended and informative meetings, with our Annual Meeting in April remaining on the schedule to finish out the season. We believe we have accomplished our goal in the scheduling of a good and diverse program of meeting topics for this season and we hope you were able to take advantage of our meeting program and earn professional development credit/hours (PDH) as you need.

As you have seen (and many of you experienced), we tried a new venue in February and March, at Maggiano's in King of Prussia, and this seemed to be welcome by many. While there are the unavoidable "bugs" and details that we need to work out with a new location, we are looking to return to Maggiano's for at least part of our 2023-24 Dinner Meeting program. For April, we will be trying another new venue, the Crowne Plaza Hotel in King of Prussia. Ironically, a number of years ago, this same hotel, at the time a Holiday Inn, was our "home base" for many years, thus in several ways this is a "coming home" for us.

It was a nice change of scenery and menu at Maggiano's, and as you likely have noticed, came at a bit of a price increase compared to what we had charged for Dinner Meetings for those conducted previously this season. The impact of recent inflation and cost increases from providers had crept up a bit to the point at which our charge to attendees would not sufficiently or fully cover the costs of these events, regardless of the venue. Thus, we had to make the difficult decision to raise our Dinner Meeting cost accordingly. We think you will agree that the quality of the dinners, along with the ambience, amenities and atmosphere of the location somewhat justifies the cost increase, and we will continue to do what we can to get the maximum benefit for our meeting attendees at the optimal cost.

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Proposed Slate of Officers for 2023-24 Season

As reported in Edition #4 of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, our Nominating Committee has developed a recommended slate of Officers and Directors for the coming season. The Committee is tasked to provide its recommended slate at least 60 days before our Annual Membership meeting (**April 19**, our last meeting of this season). The recommended slate is provided below, as it was in the last edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES to comply with the requirement of our Section Bylaws that it be published at least 30 days prior to the Annual Membership meeting. No additional nominations were received from our membership since that notice was published, as permitted by our Section Bylaws.

Accordingly, this slate was adopted and closed at our March Dinner Meeting by affirmation from the attendees.

	CURRENT (2022-23) OFFICERS/BOARD	PROPOSED SLATE (2023-24)	
President	Nate Parrish, <i>HNTB</i>	Isaac Kessler, <i>Remington & Vernick Engineers</i>	
First Vice President	Isaac Kessler, <i>Remington & Vernick Engineers</i>	Amber Midgley, <i>AECOM</i>	
Second Vice President	Amber Midgley, <i>AECOM</i>	Steve DiSciullo, <i>Michael Baker International</i>	
Treasurer	Steve DiSciullo, <i>Michael Baker International</i>	Matt Ward, <i>TranSystems</i>	
Secretary	Kevin Rice, <i>HNTB</i>	Kevin Rice, <i>HNTB</i>	
Immediate Past President	Corey Hull*, <i>JMT</i>	Nate Parrish*, <i>HNTB</i>	
Board of Directors	<i>Term expires 2023</i> Don Gusic, <i>CDM Smith</i> Mariah Kerr, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i> Matt Ward, <i>TranSystems</i> Steve Windle, <i>McMahon Associates</i>	<i>Term expires 2024</i> Elaine Elbich*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i> Alexa Egan Harper*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i> Sarah McInnes, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i> Kimberly Waters, <i>JMT</i>	
	<i>Term expires 2024</i> Elaine Elbich*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i> Alexa Egan Harper*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i> Bob O'Neill, <i>NTM Engineering</i> Kimberly Waters, <i>JMT</i>	<i>Term expires 2025</i> Peter Berthold*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i> Bruce Masi*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i> Sean Pence, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i> Juli Wolfe, <i>RETTEW</i>	
	<i>Term expires 2025</i> Peter Berthold*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i> Bruce Masi*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i> Sean Pence, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i> Juli Wolfe, <i>RETTEW</i>	<i>Term expires 2026</i> Don Gusic, <i>CDM Smith</i> Mariah Kerr, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i> Drew Sirianni*, <i>Pennoni</i> Steve Windle, <i>McMahon</i>	
	Regional Director	John Caperilla*, <i>McTish, Kunkel & Associates</i>	John Caperilla*, <i>CDM Maguire Engineering</i>
	Section Executive	Bob Wright*, <i>McMahon Associates</i>	Bob Wright*, <i>McMahon</i>

We welcome back previous members of the Board, **Sarah McInnes and Drew Sirianni (Past President)**, after their short "sabbaticals", and thank current Board Members **Corey Hull and Bob O'Neill**, who will be ending their service with the current term.

The new slate of Officers and Board members will be installed at our Annual Membership meeting (April 19).

Past Presidents are indicated with * in this list. We remain strong with this base of knowledge and experience represented on our Board (7 on our current Board, 8 on the proposed slate).

Thanks to the Nominating Committee - **Isaac Kessler (Chair), Bruce Masi, Amber Midgley, Jeff Obrecht, Nate Parrish and Matt Ward** - for their help with the development and preparation of this slate.

DVSP Program Sponsorship - Wrapping Up Season 18

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 are entirely dedicated to our Section's Scholarship Fund. For a \$200 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
(\$200 for the season)**

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

**Logo in THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES**

We thank our 32 sponsors who have participated this season for their generosity and support. They are represented by their logos, shown on page 6 as well as on our website. 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 will be soliciting renewals and new sponsors for the 2023-24 season in the fall.

We are pleased to note that five DVSP participants - **AECOM, McCormick Taylor, McMahon, TPD and Urban Engineers** - have been sponsors for all 18 years of the Program. Thank you for your long-time support!

Dinner Meetings – Back in Person, But Moving Around... ! Technical Sessions, Still Virtual...

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We fully understand that the magnitude of this cost increase, particularly in comparison to what was charged for January and previous meetings this season, was somewhat drastic and we are looking into ways that we can handle this beyond a mere passing-along of the increased cost to our membership. Unfortunately we do not have very many options to increase revenue to help subsidize the dinner cost outside of what is collected for the dinners. We trust you will understand the reality of this situation.

Technical Sessions will continue to be virtual events for this season. There have been five already conducted this season on 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 thus far this season. There is one more session potentially coming in April and another may be in the works for May/June. They offer the PDH benefit as well.

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

PennDOT Breakfast Seminar - Mark Your Calendars...

Our Section has conducted a half-day "breakfast meeting"/seminar at PennDOT District 6-0 for several years and will continue the "tradition" this year, this time returning to an in-person format. The seminar will be conducted on **Wednesday, May 17**, from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM and will include sessions on current projects and programs as well as updates from PennDOT District 6. You will be able to earn 3 PDH's for attendance at this event.



More information will be provided in a separate event flyer, including the seminar topics and registration information. The event will be open to all ASHE Delaware Valley Section members but will be limited to two attendees per firm. (This limitation does not apply to current Section officers and Board members.)

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) 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.

Section Committees/ Chairs

In each edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES we list our Section Committees and chairs. We would like to recognize and thank all who participated in these committees this season and kept our many activities viable and ongoing. They are listed below:

Adopt A Highway

Amber Midgley, Chair

Mariah Kerr, Steve Natale, Sean Pence, Steve Windle

ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting

Alexa Egan Harper, Chair

Peter Berthold, Alex Eadline, Elaine Elbich, Don Gusic, Sean Pence, Curt Shugars

Auditing

Rob Prophet, Chair

Bruce Masi, Sean Pence, Kevin Rice, Drew Sirianni, Juli Wolfe, Bob Wright

Dinner Meetings

Isaac Kessler, Steve Windle, Co-chairs

Steve DiSciullo, Matt Ward

Environmental

Bob O'Neill, Juli Wolfe, Co-chairs

Heather Coons, Susan Giannantonio, J T Graupensberger, Mariah Kerr, Jeff Obrecht, Bob Pope, Ryan Whittington

50-50

Sean Pence, Chair

Tom Rowader, Steve Windle, Dustin Woywod

Golf

Don Gusic, Chair

Jim Brady, Bob O'Neill, Kevin Rice, Matt Ward

Hotel

Bob Wright, Chair

Steve DiSciullo, Nate Parrish

Membership

Mariah Kerr, Chair

John Caperilla, Steve DiSciullo, Mike Grantner, Isaac Kessler, Drew Sirianni

Newsletter

Bob Wright, Chair

Alexa Egan Harper, Bruce Masi

Nominating

Isaac Kessler, Chair

Bruce Masi, Amber Midgley, Jeff Obrecht, Nate Parrish, Matt Ward

Program

Isaac Kessler, Kim Waters, Co-chairs

John Bush, John Caperilla, Ben Deatrich, Elaine Elbich, Alexa Egan Harper, Juli Wolfe, Bob Wright

Project of the Year

Matt Ward, Chair

Rick Kemper, Nate Parrish, Matt Reber, Kim Waters, Steve Windle, Juli Wolfe, Chris Wright

Public Relations

Corey Hull, Chair

Elaine Elbich, Bob Wright

Scholarships

Bruce Masi, Chair

Peter Berthold, Rick Kemper, Matt Reber, Chris Wright

Social/Society Relations

Elaine Elbich, Chair

Corey Hull

Student Chapters

Mariah Kerr, Chair

John Caperilla, Gene Cipriani, Kyle DiSessa, James Stanton

Technical Papers

Bruce Masi, Chair

Peter Berthold, Bob O'Neill, Matt Reber, Bob Wright

Technical Sessions

Kevin Rice, Chair

John Bush, Ben Deatrich, Steve DiSciullo, Paul Linahan, Bob O'Neill, Kim Waters

Website

Peter Berthold, Chair

Amber Midgley

Young Members

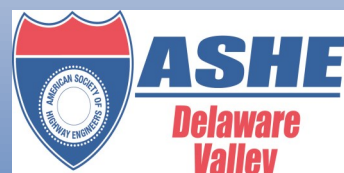
Sean Pence, Chair

Ben Deatrich, Amber Midgley, Steve Natale, Kevin Rice, Dustin Woywod

Section Committees for the 2023-24 Season will be developed and finalized this summer.

If you have an interest in being part of any Committee for the coming season, please contact Section President Nate Parrish (information is provided on page 8).

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



Young Members Committee Happenings - Celebrating 10 Years !

The Committee is proud to be celebrating ten years of existence and activity as a Section Committee this season! It seems like just yesterday that the founding members got things started with several social events and happy hours and this has grown to include the Adopt-A-Highway effort, bowling, bicycle rides, ice skating, and many more interesting sessions and happenings. These have often been scheduled as joint undertakings with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Philadelphia Section's Younger Member Forum (YMF).

Continuing on the theme of highlights of the Committee's activities over the past 10 years, started in the last report in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES...

While 2020 and 2021 had groups struggling to be able to put on events and meetings given the virus shutdowns, YMC was able to schedule some virtual sessions, such as a Quarantine Quizzo competition in August 2020 and a virtual panel discussion for high school and college students in early 2021.

As restrictions eased, and outdoor events were able to be planned, a ride along the Perkiomen Trail in May 2021 attracted a nice size crowd of participants eager to get out of their confines and see colleagues and friends on something other than a computer screen.



The Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, in conjunction with ASCE YMF on the groups' "adopted" segment of Bethlehem Pike in Fort Washington/Ambler, resumed after the easing of virus shutdowns in October 2021 and has continued on its twice-yearly regular schedule since then (of course followed by the "mandatory" happy/social hour). **The spring event of this effort is scheduled for Sunday, April 23 if you are interested** (see the separate flyer on this for registration and other details).

A new and different event occurred in February 2022, as YMC teamed with ASCE

YMF and the Mid-Atlantic Section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE) for a winter celebration at the Blue Cross River Rink at Penns Landing in Philadelphia (photo at right).

The annual bowling event resumed in May 2022.

As we have covered in all of the editions of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES this season, YMC has accomplished a great deal in its ten years of existence and will continue to plan and schedule events geared toward our Section's younger members (as well as those who are young at heart).

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.



Calling All "Golfers" - Upcoming Section Outing (Fore...!)

Our **27th (!) Annual Golf Outing** will take place on **Monday, June 12 at Bella Vista Golf Course** in Gilbertsville. Please mark this date in your calendar and plan to attend.



We're giving you a heads up on this so you can plan to take time to blow the dust off the golf bag and practice accordingly (as well as sharpen your "golf math" skills)!

Sponsorships of various types and levels will be available. A separate notice with more details and information outlining the various options on golfing and sponsorship packages and other details will be distributed shortly.

As usual, the proceeds of the Outing will benefit our **Section Scholarship Fund**.

We hope to see you there!



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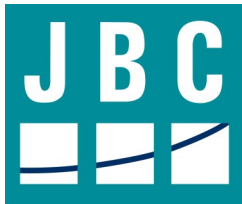
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National Conference - Atlanta

June 7– 11, 2023

The ASHE Georgia Section is honored to host the **2023 National Conference** at the **Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel and Convention Center**. The Georgia Section is excited to see you in Atlanta this summer for fellowship and learning opportunities within our industry.

This year the Georgia Section will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its Charter. The ATL Team is prepared to throw a memorable birthday bash to celebrate this milestone.

Please visit 2023conference.ashe.pro for more information.



Environmentally Speaking...

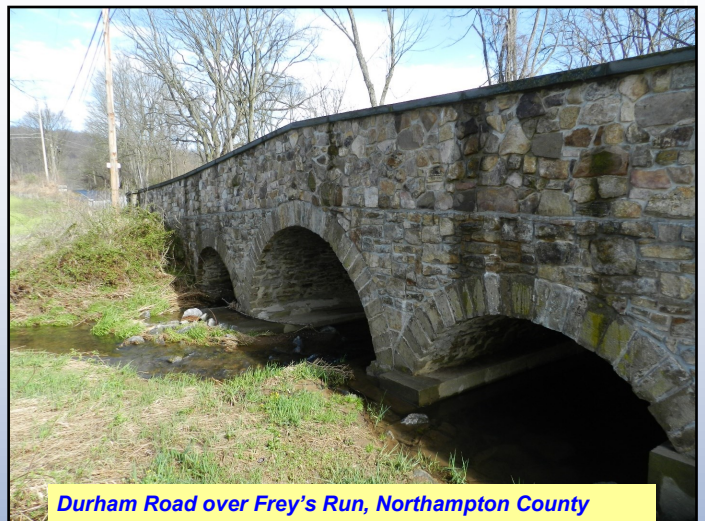
It's not the "Treaty of Versailles"... but it's still historic, figuratively speaking!

This month's write-up is provided by **Paula Miller** and **Bob O'Neill** of NTM Engineering, Inc.

On February 7, 2023, the new Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) was executed. This PA, which governs how PennDOT completes the Section 106 process, replaces the previous PA, which was implemented in 2010, and amended in 2017. Recall that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires, in part, that federal agencies consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. FHWA has delegated much of its authority for implementing Section 106 regulations to PennDOT through the PA.

The new PA is quite similar to the original, with a few interesting "wrinkles":

- ◆ The three USACE Districts (Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Philadelphia) are included in the PA.
- ◆ For federally-funded projects that require USACE permits, FHWA will be designated as the Lead Federal Agency.
- ◆ For projects that require a USACE permit but no federal funding, the USACE will be designated as the Lead Federal Agency.
- ◆ For state-funded projects that require a USACE permit, the USACE Baltimore, Philadelphia, or Pittsburgh District Commander is the Agency Official.
- ◆ Minor changes to the Exemptions list (Appendix A).
- ◆ Includes specific references to PA-SHARE and PATH.
- ◆ Reflects a concern for stone arch and closed spandrel concrete arch bridges.
- ◆ Offers context-sensitive design as a standard treatment option to mitigate the adverse effect of replacing a bridge that is only significant as a contributing resource to a historic district.
- ◆ Formalizes a commitment to notify ACHP of adverse effects through PATH.
- ◆ Allows for the use of a Letter of Agreement (LOA) for any type of mitigation provided that the Lead Federal Agency, SHPO, PennDOT, and other consulting parties, including Tribes and Nations, do not have objections or a role in fulfilling the mitigation.
- ◆ Clarifies the process for projects for which archaeology is deferred until final design and there are adverse effects. A LOA/MOA is still required.
- ◆ The new PA will be reviewed every 10 years for modifications or termination. If no changes are proposed and no party objects, the term of the PA will be extended for another 10 years.



Durham Road over Frey's Run, Northampton County
The new PA reflects concern for Pennsylvania's remaining stone arch and closed spandrel concrete arch bridges.
(Hat tip to **Gabrielle Vicari** of NTM Engineering)

Watch this space for future developments!

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

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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RE M I N D E R

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

August 18

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 - Awards Made !

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, a total of \$12,000 in awards was distributed among 7 students. Applications were a little light this year, and the Scholarship Committee was able to recognize 2 students with a total amount of \$6000 being made available for this.

Both recipients were invited to attend our March Dinner Meeting to be duly recognized and presented with their awards. Kris Melag was able to attend and be cited accordingly.

We are proud to be able to support our local students and help them in their educational pursuits. The Program has benefited numerous local college students over the years, and was renamed in honor of the late Donna Prentice, wife of long-time Section member Rich Prentice, in 2003.

Our 26th Annual Golf Outing, conducted in June, helps fund these awards. We thank those of you who participated in and sponsored the Golf Outing. (Please see the separate notice on page 5 on our 27th Annual Outing, which will be coming your way in June.)

Our DVSP Program also supports our scholarships, thus we thank all who participate and contribute to this as well. These efforts help us make our Scholarship Program a success every year.

And thanks to our Scholarship Committee, chaired by **Bruce Masi**, for another good effort helping future engineers pursue their career goals!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kris Melag, Drexel University
Matt Price, Drexel University

Your Last TRANSPORTATION TIMES for This Season...

It's hard to believe, and time indeed does fly, but our 2022-23 season will shortly be coming to an end. Our April Dinner Meeting, also our Annual Meeting, will close out the season. Our new officers and Board members for the coming season will be officially installed at this meeting.

We hope you've enjoyed THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES all season, and we hope you can manage to go without a new edition until late August or so, when our production schedule will pick up once again and the first issue for 2023-24 will arrive in your e-mail box. We have certainly enjoyed putting each edition together, and we hope you have found it informative and enlightening, and properly keeping you "up to speed" on all things our Section has to offer.

We hope you enjoy your summer and we'll see you again as it winds down and our season begins once again.

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 system through education, innovation and fellowship