

THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HIGHWAY ENGINEERS, DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2023-24 EDITION #5



Meeting Schedule

Dinner Meeting

April 17 (Annual Meeting)

Technical Sessions

Technical Sessions will be scheduled throughout the season and will be conducted virtually. See page 6 for more information on this.

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President's Message

As our Section's dinner meeting season is coming to an end, the weather warming, and our sights on summer travel, I find myself reflecting on the year that was during my term as President. The experience and knowledge amongst our Section's Board of Directors is second to none. I would be remiss to not thank every one of those who volunteer and commit their time to making sure our Section is healthy and in an excellent position moving forward each year. Our Board and all those who participate in our committees keep our Section running for all our membership. It has been an honor and a great experience steering the ship over the course of the past year. I look forward to passing along the role as President come April 17th and know fully the Section will continue to grow and be an example of one of our leading professional societies in this region.



One of the goals of this past year was to ensure each aspect of our great Section was highlighted and provided opportunities for our members to share their work in our industry. This includes our contractors, consultants, and government agencies. A goal was also to make our Section more efficient and continue to look at ways to improve the way we do things to stay on a positive track for growth. As a region, as we have seen with projects that have deservedly gotten national attention this past year, we work best to enhance each of our strengths and working together. There is much to do to continue to innovate and improve our nation's infrastructure with our profession playing a vital role. As the American Society of Highway Engineers, we gather as a Section to share information about projects, both accomplishments and areas for improvement, to grow together and continue to make a difference for our communities. We encourage designers, contractors, and agencies to talk with each other and show how positive momentum can solve problems. This momentum cannot be ignored by the young people coming into the workforce and those in search for a profession looking to make a difference for the world around us.

Thank you to all the membership and our friends in the industry for the support throughout this past year during my term as President, and I look forward to resuming as a regular member of the Delaware Valley Section to be a part of our profession for all the great things to come.

Cheers,

Isaac Kessler, PE
President, ASHE Delaware Valley Section

At our March meeting, Matthew Burd of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission presented on the Turnpike's capital program and expectations for the coming several years as well as providing an update on the MP 324-328 total reconstruction project and several unique methods being utilized in that effort. He is pictured at right with President Isaac Kessler.



Proposed Slate of Officers for 2024-25 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 17**, 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 (2023-24) Officers/Board	PROPOSED SLATE (2024-25)
President	Isaac Kessler, <i>Remington & Vernick Engineers</i>	Amber Midgley, <i>AECOM</i>
First Vice President	Amber Midgley, <i>AECOM</i>	Kevin Rice, <i>HNTB</i>
Second Vice President	Steve DiSciullo, <i>Bentley</i>	Don Gusic, <i>CDM Smith</i>
Treasurer	Matt Ward, <i>TranSystems</i>	Matt Ward, <i>TranSystems</i>
Secretary	Kevin Rice, <i>HNTB</i>	Kimberly Waters, <i>JMT</i>
Immediate Past President	Nate Parrish*, <i>HNTB</i>	Isaac Kessler*, <i>Remington & Vernick Engineers</i>
Board of Directors	<i>Term expires 2024</i>	<i>Term expires 2025</i>
	Elaine Elbich*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>	Peter Berthold*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>
	Alexa Egan Harper*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i>	Bruce Masi*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i>
	Sarah McInnes, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>	Sean Pence, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i>
	Kimberly Waters, <i>JMT</i>	Juli Wolfe, <i>RETTEW</i>
	<i>Term expires 2025</i>	<i>Term expires 2026</i>
	Peter Berthold*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>	Steve DiSciullo, <i>Bentley</i>
	Bruce Masi*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i>	Mariah Kerr, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i>
	Sean Pence, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i>	Drew Sirianni*, <i>Pennoni</i>
Regional Director	<i>Term expires 2026</i>	<i>Term expires 2027</i>
	Don Gusic, <i>CDM Smith</i>	Elaine Elbich*, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>
	Mariah Kerr, <i>Traffic Planning & Design</i>	Alexa Egan Harper*, <i>Gannett Fleming</i>
	Drew Sirianni*, <i>Pennoni</i>	Sarah McInnes, <i>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation</i>
	Steve Windle, <i>McMahon</i>	Nate Parrish*, <i>HNTB</i>
Section Executive	Bob Wright*, <i>McMahon</i>	Bob Wright*, <i>Bowman</i>

The new slate of Officers and Board members will be formally installed at our Annual Membership meeting (April 17).

Past Presidents are indicated with * in this list. We remain strong with this base of knowledge and experience represented on our Board (8 on our current Board, 9 on the proposed slate).

Thanks to the Nominating Committee - Amber Midgley (Chair), Bruce Masi, Jeff Obrecht, Nate Parrish and Drew Sirianni - for their help with the development of this slate.

Young Members Committee Happenings

The Committee sponsored a Saturday morning event at Top Golf in King of Prussia on **March 23**. A full report and recap was not available for this issue of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES but will be provided in the next edition (for which you'll unfortunately have to wait until September, but...).



The spring version of the semi-annual Adopt-A-Highway cleanup event is being scheduled for **Saturday, May 4**. A separate flyer will be distributed for that in upcoming e-mail blasts.

A re-match of the popular ASCE/ASHE/MASITE **kickball event** is being planned for early June. Please watch for more information on this coming shortly. You may recall in the "first annual" event last June, ASCE managed to overcome the YMC and MASITE squads and was therefore recognized as was the proud recipient of the coveted **Traffic Cone Trophy**. The Trophy will be up for grabs once again this time.

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 Meeting.

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. The seminar will be conducted on **Wednesday, May 15**, 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, with no limit for PennDOT and other government agency attendees. (This does not apply to current Section officers and Board members.)



We hope to see you there.

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

We have scheduled our **28th (!) Annual Golf Outing** on **Monday, June 10** at **Bella Vista Golf Course** in Gilbertsville. Please mark this date in your calendar and plan to attend.

Please consider this lots of notice to allow you to blow the dust off the golf bag and practice accordingly. You may need to sharpen your "golf math" skills you haven't used since last fall as well!

Sponsorships of various types and levels will be available. A separate notice outlining the various options on golfing and sponsorship packages and other details will be distributed shortly. You can also use the QR code at right to access this and register on-line.

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



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. PDF files of the applications can be e-mailed, thus paper copies do not need to be mailed in any more. 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.

We are proud to report that we have **355** Section members, making our Section one of the largest in the ASHE national organization. This includes 18 new members who have joined our ranks to date this season.

Thanks to those of you who continue to support 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:

ASHE/PennDOT Breakfast Meeting

Alexa Egan Harper, Chair

Alex Eadline, Co-Chair

Elaine Elbich, Qiong Liu, Sarah McInnes, Sean Pence,
Curt Shugars

Auditing

Rob Prophet, Chair

Bruce Masi, Sean Pence, Juli Wolfe

Dinner Meetings

Steve Windle, Chair

John Bush, Heather Coons, Mike Grantner, Matt Ward,
Bob Wright

Educational

Juli Wolfe, Chair

John Bush, Steve DiSciullo, Caitlin Gallagher, Paul Linahan,
Matt Reber, Kevin Rice, Kim Waters, Ryan Whittington

Environmental

Susan Giannantonio, **Juli Wolfe**, Co-chairs

Heather Coons, J T Graupensberger, Mariah Kerr,
Jeff Obrecht, Bob O'Neill, Matt Reber, Ryan Whittington

Golf

Don Gusic, Chair

Jim Brady, Caitlin Gallagher, Bob O'Neill, Kevin Rice,
Drew Sirianni

Hotel

Bob Wright, Chair

Isaac Kessler, Drew Sirianni, Matt Ward, Steve Windle

Membership

Mariah Kerr, Chair

Lili Bhatt, John Caperilla, Jeff Given

Newsletter

Bob Wright, Chair

Don Gusic, Alexa Egan Harper, Bruce Masi

Nominating

Amber Midgley, Chair

Bruce Masi, Jeff Obrecht, Nate Parrish, Drew Sirianni

Outreach

Steve DiSciullo, Chair

Peter Berthold, Assistant Chair

Mariah Kerr, Amber Midgley, Jeff Obrecht, Kevin Rice

Professional Society Relations

Elaine Elbich, Chair

Don Gusic, Nate Parrish, Bob Pope

Program

Kim Waters, Chair

John Caperilla, Jeff Given, Alexa Egan Harper, Isaac Kessler,
Sarah McInnes, Bob Wright

Project of the Year and Technical Papers

Alex Eadline, Chair

Bruce Masi, Assistant Chair

Peter Berthold, Sarah McInnes, Bob O'Neill, Bob Pope,
Matt Reber, Drew Sirianni, Matt Ward, Kim Waters,
Ryan Whittington, Juli Wolfe

Scholarships

Bruce Masi, Chair

Peter Berthold, Qiong Liu, Sarah McInnes, Nate Parrish

Student and Young Members

Sean Pence, Chair

Steve Windle, **Dustin Woywod**, Assistant Chairs

John Caperilla, Steve DiSciullo, Alex Eadline, Mariah Kerr,
Amber Midgley, Steve Natale, Kevin Rice

Section Committees for the 2024-25 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 Isaac Kessler (information is provided on page 9).

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

ASHE National Conference

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

June 5 – 9, 2024

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



AECOM

 **benesch**

Bowman

**CDM
Smith®**

 **Colliers** Engineering
& Design

 **Dewberry®**

 **GANNETT
FLEMING**

HDR

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Delaware Valley Section Patrons (DVSP) 2023-24


Thanks for your support!

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ENGINEERING • ARCHITECTURE • PLANNING

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Consulting
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ENGINEERS**



*Your logo could be here!
(See page 6 for how to become a
Delaware Valley Section Patron.)*

DVSP Program Sponsorship - Season 19 Finishing Up...

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)**

**Logo in THE
TRANSPORTATION TIMES**

As we near the close of our 19th season of this program, there are 27 firms that have committed, and 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 9).

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

Dinner Meetings – Another Successful Season “In the Books”

Technical Sessions, Still Virtual...

Our Section Dinner Meeting program has one (April) still remaining as you read this, and it has been (no surprise) successful and well-received/attended thus far. We appreciate your flexibility and accommodation with the two-venue approach, as we did last season. Following our one “variation” with our February meeting at Maggiano's, we will finish things up at the Crowne Plaza and close out the season.

We are pleased that we were able to offer varied and interesting topics this season and look forward to continued success when we open up the 2024-25 program year in September. We will continue to do what we can to get the maximum benefit for our meeting attendees at the optimal cost as we begin to plan our upcoming meeting program.

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. We will have six Sessions this season (which will “leak” into the next season, technically, with the last Session in June). Five will have already been conducted as you read this, along with one “bonus” event joint with ASCE on March 21 (with total reservations of over 250, making it a record-breaker), and we will continue to offer 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.

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.

Reminder - Annual Meeting, April 17

Please plan to attend our Annual Meeting, at which we will present our Project of the Year, Member of the Year and Young Member of the Year awards. We will be inviting our Section Award-winning Future City Philadelphia team as well as the recipients of our Section's Special Awards at the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. Our incoming Officers and Board of Directors for our 2024-25 season will also be formally installed.

Environmentally Speaking...

PennDOT/PADEP MOU Governing Regulated Fill In Transportation Projects

By: Jeff Obrecht, PG, RK&K

In November 2023, PADEP executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) authorizing PennDOT to implement a regulated fill beneficial reuse pilot in District 6. This pilot streamlines the planning, execution, and documentation of regulated fill transferred and beneficially reused between two PennDOT projects. Under this MOU:

- PennDOT remains in compliance with PADEP's regulated fill beneficial use permit WMGR096;
- The process leverages/accounts for PennDOT's environmental due diligence, design, and construction processes;
- Enables the planning for transfer and use of regulated fill between PennDOT's infrastructure improvement projects;
- Formalizes use constraints that align with PennDOT's typical operations allowing for significant streamlining of the approval process; and
- Defines the roles, responsibilities, and duties of PADEP and PennDOT.



The conventional WMGR096 regulated fill transfer process required navigating individual submissions through a multi-month long PADEP Determination of Applicability process. This was not particularly conducive to PennDOT projects. As a result, excess fill generated by PennDOT construction was regularly landfilled as a residual waste. Working with PADEP, PennDOT's team (David Condo and Neil Brofee, Central Office; Mark Radatti, District 6; and Nicole Bruno and Jeff Obrecht, RK&K) established parameters of use and aligned documentation procedures with existing processes to satisfy the WMGR096 requirements. This effectively reduced months of planning, notifications, and approvals to a streamlined 10-day notification process that can be readily integrated into PennDOT's project design and construction processes.



Jeff Obrecht shared, "Regulated fill transfer between PennDOT projects just makes sense. We believe that this represents tremendous sustainability improvements and cost savings that are achieved through reduced trucking, disposal, chemical characterization, landfill, and clean fill import costs." In addition, the beneficial reuse of regulated fill, how PADEP envisioned under WMGR096, reserves landfill space to material that offer no reuse applications.

PennDOT and PADEP both believed that piloting this process in a single District/PADEP region will enable the validation of procedures and process effectiveness. In the coming months, PennDOT's "MOU Team" will meet with the PADEP Southeast Regional Office (SERO) staff to align expectations, identify respective Department points of contact, establish a familiarization program for PennDOT and business partners, and begin to align project import and export needs and schedules. It is fully expected that following the pilot, this program will be rolled out statewide.

If you have ideas for articles concerning environmental issues of interest to our industry, please reach out to **Susan Giannantonio** (sgiannantonio@ntmeng.com) or **Bob Wright** (rwright@bowman.com) and share your thoughts with us.

Our February meeting featured Megan Clayton (Pennoni) and Bob Crawford (James J. Anderson Construction) presenting on the Navy Yard Broad Street Quay Wall reconstruction/replacement effort. We managed to miss an opportunity to get a photo of them together with President Isaac Kessler, so here are photos they each shared with us for this purpose.



Donna Prentice Memorial Scholarship Competitions - 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, applications were a bit on the "light" side, with 2 students selected and \$6000 in awards made. The students responded in force this season, and we are proud to note that we were able to make up for what we were not able to award last year and spread a total of **\$15,000** in scholarship funds among 8 students (listed at right). The successful candidates were invited as our guests at our March Section Meeting to be duly recognized and presented with their awards, and four of them were able to attend. As noted in the list, Swarthmore College literally "ran away" with awards, with **six** of the eight recipients being Swarthmore students.

We are pleased, as we have done for over 50 years at this point (!), to be able to support our local students and help them in their educational pursuits. The Program has benefited numerous local college students during its existence, and was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of long-time Section member Rich Prentice, in 2003.

Our 28th Annual Golf Outing, conducted last June, helps fund these awards. We thank those of you who participated in and sponsored the Golf Outing. (Please see the separate hold-the-date notice on our 28th Annual Outing, coming your way on June 10.)

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

Ben Aaron, Swarthmore College

Raymond Brandon, Swarthmore College

Justin Chai, Swarthmore College

Paige Cutler, Clarkson University

Angela Gil, Swarthmore College

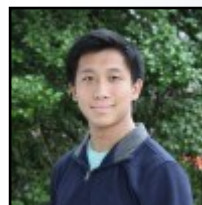
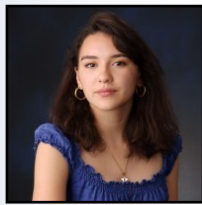
Dylan Jacobs, Swarthmore College

Landon Moore, Drexel University

Ethan Pang, Swarthmore College



Section Scholarship recipients Dylan Jacobs, Ben Aaron, Raymond Brandon and Landon Moore were cited at our March meeting and presented with their award checks by Scholarship Committee Chair Bruce Masi and President Isaac Kessler.



Our other Scholarship recipients, who were not able to attend our March meeting, from left - Justin Chai, Paige Cutler, Angela Gil, Ethan Pang

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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Section Charter

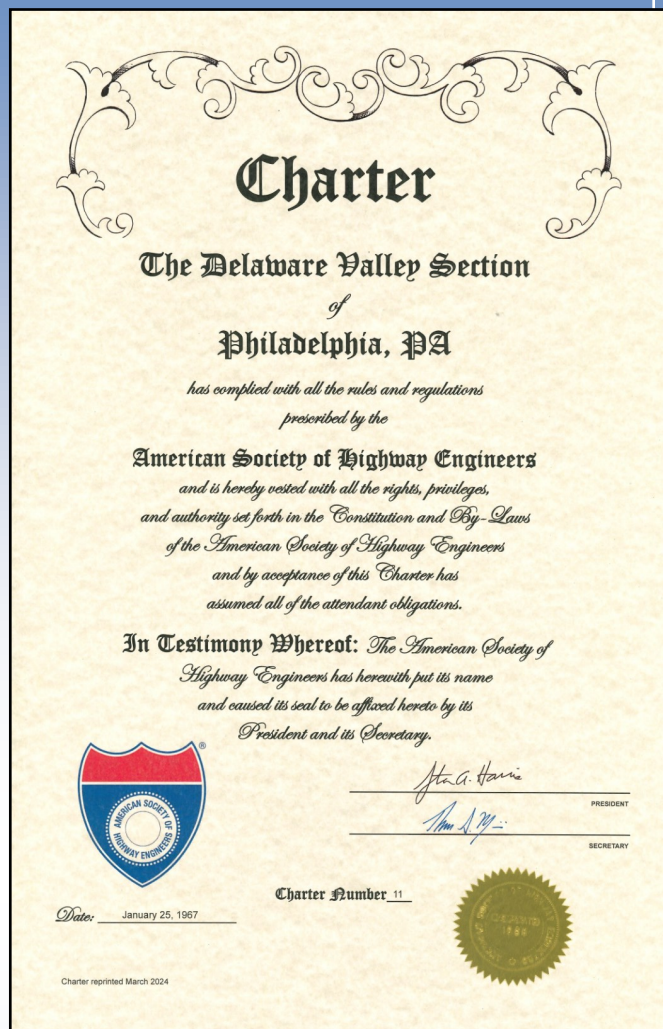
In case you were ever wondering when and where it all began for our Section, we have recently been able to locate our Section Charter that was issued by ASHE National to formally establish our Section.

We "got off the ground" with 69 members and conducted our first Section dinner meeting on September 26, 1966 at Williamson's Barclay in what is now the One Belmont Avenue building (formerly the GSB Building) on City Avenue. The cost to attend this dinner (\$5.25) was considered too high (!), so different venues were explored in search of a lower dinner price, as we have been told. The next meeting was conducted at Donnolo's Fort Side Inn in Fort Washington (currently MaGerk's Pub and Grill), where the cost was a more reasonable \$3.50.

As noted, we hold Charter #11 but were the tenth Section formed in ASHE, which began with the Harrisburg Section in 1956.

In 2027 we will be celebrating our 60th anniversary as a Section.

We thank our Section members for helping to make this all happen.

**RE M I N D E R**

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

August 23

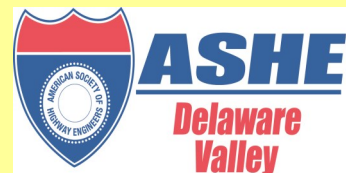
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

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

Your Last TRANSPORTATION TIMES for This Season...

It's hard to believe, and time indeed does fly, but our 2023-24 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 2024-25 (...!) 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.

**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