

VTCA Spring Conference
 March 29 - 31, 2006
 Hotel Roanoke & Conference center



Join your industry peers at the 2006 VTCA Spring Conference. This year we will have more topics and participants representing the contracting, engineering, aggregate producing and material and service supply industries. Planning for this year's Conference agenda is nearly complete and includes five concurrent breakout tracks giving you more topics of interest.

This year we are welcoming Jennifer Joy Wilson, President and CEO of the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association as our keynote speaker. Complementing the national industry perspective is a special appearance by David Reinders, Chief Market Research Officer from John Deere. Providing a comprehensive overview from three key state agencies, we are pleased to welcome VDOT Commissioner Greg Whirley, DEQ Director David Paylor, and DMME's Division of Mineral Mining Director Conrad Spangler. We will also hear the latest on the state legislature's efforts to secure sustainable funding for the state's transportation system.

The five breakout tracks planned include topics of interest to all:

Contractor Track	Engineer Track	Business Development Track	Aggregate Producers Track	Mini Seminars
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * VDOT Chief Engineer Report * Contractor Leadership and JHCC Technical Issues * VDOT Partnering * Contractor Evaluation System (C-36) * VDOT Scheduling Provision * Prequalification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Consultant Leadership Issues Report * Design Build – Lessons Learned * Pros & Cons of DB QA/QC Programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Welfare to Work Program * Bonding * Why be bonded? * How to improve your bond capacity * How to do business with the unbonded * Employee Absence Management * Virginia's 511 Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Off site traffic control * Averting the Maintenance Crisis * Encroachment: The challenge of growth * In-Pit Crushing Methods and Resulting Impact on Costs and Safety * Highwall Scaling * Turbo Charge Your Symons Cone Crushers For Better Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Crane Safety and Management – Bill Davis, Zurich * Off-site Traffic Control for Aggregate Producers * VDOT/Industry Dialog: Guardrail Installation Contractors

ARTBA's Rich Juliano will participate in the conference's closing session, reporting on the latest federal transportation funding challenges. Capping off the full agenda we are pleased to welcome Secretary of Transportation Pierce Homer to provide his vision of the future of Virginia's transportation program.

This year we are introducing additional opportunities for your business to market to the industry with the addition of a trade show and we have multiple opportunities for your business to show your support through conference sponsorships.

If the trade show, buffet dinner and meetings don't provide enough personal interaction with your business friends we have planned two new post conference events on Friday. The conference golf tournament begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 at Hanging Rock Golf Club and for those that prefer an alternative, we are holding a sporting clay tournament also beginning at 12:30 at the Roanoke Rifle and Revolver Club.

Please note that The Hotel Roanoke has sold out. Overflow arrangements have been made with the Courtyard Marriott Roanoke Airport. Reservations can be made by calling 540-563-5002 and asking for the **VTCA Spring Conference Rate** by March 8.

The early registration deadline is March 15 and the exhibit booths are nearly sold out so don't delay! Details and registration information for the conference is available on VTCA's website at <http://www.vtca.org> or by contacting the VTCA office 804-330-3312.

**Special Announcement for Conference Attendees:
 Due to popular demand the planning committee has officially announced that this year's official conference attire will be "business casual" for the entire conference!**

B L U E T O P

March 2006

Virginia Road and Transportation Builders Association

Transportation Funding At Critical Juncture

With less than two weeks to go in the 2006 legislative session, both the Virginia House of Delegates and the Senate have approved budgets that include funding for transportation.

The Senate plan provides approximately \$4.2 billion in funding for transportation over the next four years. More than half of that would go to the highway maintenance and construction. The Senate plan enacts a series of sustainable, long-term, revenue increases, and dedicates those revenues to transportation. Those increases include: removing a portion of the sales tax exemption on automobile sales, vehicle registration fees, removing the sales tax exemption on fuel sales, and abusive driver fees. The Senate plan also includes a one-time appropriation from the general fund.

The House plan includes about \$2.2 billion in funding for transportation over the next four years, \$600 million of which is a one time general fund appropriation. The only new, sustainable funding in the House plan is an abusive driver fee. The House plan allocates about \$77 million a year in general fund money to transportation that would have to be re-appropriated every year. These general fund appropriations result in cuts (as compared to the introduced budget) to core services such as education, economic development, and emergency services.

The majority of the money in the House plan would go to projects in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. Seven of the nine VDOT Construction Districts would lose money in their urban, primary and secondary allocations.

The one time \$600 million general allocation goes to earmarked projects, many of which will not be completed. For example, The House plan provides \$10 million for the reconstruction of the I-264/Lynnhaven interchange in Virginia Beach. The official cost estimate for that project is \$92 million. The plan does not identify where the rest of the money will come from. Similarly, the House plan provides \$5 million for the widening of Route 7 between the Reston Parkway and Tyco Road in Fairfax County. The cost estimate for that project is more than \$130 million.

The House budget is not a long term, sustainable funding plan for transportation. With only 10 days left in the session, it is important that you call your legislator and let them know you support long term, sustainable funding for transportation as envisioned in the Senate Budget. Visit <http://www.vtca.org> and click on the Government Affairs tab for a listing of legislators. Also visit <http://www.itstimevirginia.org> for current updates on transportation legislation.

Announcing VTCA Xchange

A Member Exclusive

VTCA is excited to announce a new online resource for members. VTCA Xchange, a new online member forum, is now open for business.

VTCA Xchange provides an online forum for VTCA members to discuss issues, ask questions and exchange ideas with other VTCA members and the VTCA staff. In addition, Xchange will serve as a key communication component of the Alliance's committee activities keeping all Alliance members up-to-date on the multiple issues being addressed. VTCA Xchange is:

- * Exclusively available to VTCA members
- * A mechanism for VTCA members to discuss current issues with other members and VTCA staff
- * An open discussion forum for issues within the Alliance's technical committees
- * A system allowing members to ask questions and introduce issues to the Alliance's various committees
- * Accessible to all authorized personnel of VTCA member companies

For details and to begin the registration process visit <http://www.vtcaxchange.org>.

Alliance News

Staff Anniversaries!

VTCA is blessed with a talented and dedicated staff. On February 25, Tom Witt celebrated seven years of service. On March 1, Jan Morehead began her 18th year of service. Appreciation is extended to Tom and Jan, and to each and every VTCA staffer for all they do!



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Dana Morris, Communications Technology Manager

Stephanie Rusnak,
Administrative Operations Manager

Stacy Saunders,
Receptionist/Secretary

Welcome New Members

Columbia Wire and Casting

2296 Old Cedar Falls Road
6600 Palafox Dr.
Concord, NC 28025
Phone: 336-636-5780
Fax: 336-636-5782
E-mail: troy.cwac@earthlink.net
Web: www.unifiedscreening.com

Manufacturer of wire screen cloth and distributor of crusher wear parts.

President: Tom Lentsch
Crusher Parts Manager: Lynn Williams
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7822 Burrundie Drive
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Fax: 804-716-1500
E-mail: sbrittles@dalube.com
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Your source for complete lubrication solutions tailored to your needs.

VA Field Representative: Sonny Brittle

Matney Construction Co., Inc.

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P.O. Box 1196
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Fax: 276-935-5546
E-mail: matconst@yahoo.com

Specializing in construction, excavation and hydroseeding.

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Save the Date! 2007 Winter Meeting in Hawaii!

The next VTCA Winter Meeting will be held January 13-18, 2007 at the spectacular Fairmont Orchid in Hawaii. This dazzling oceanfront resort is set on the Kohala Coast of the "Big Island." From snowcapped mountains to flowing volcanoes to tropical rainforests, Hawaii will delight your senses and rejuvenate your enthusiasm.

We have received great response to our Winter Meeting Survey. Thank all of you who responded. The Winter Meeting Committee is analyzing your responses and will make recommendations for future winter events to the Board of Directors at its April meeting.

Member News

Fifty Years of Membership!

We are grateful for the support of each every one of our members. But when a company has been a member for fifty years, we must salute them! Here is a tip of the hard hat to **Jack L. Massie Contractor, Inc.** and **Marvin V. Templeton & Sons, Inc.** THANKS for your long, loyal and dedicated support!

Congratulations to Gerald McPeak, **A. H. Harris & Sons, Inc.** on his retirement March 3, 2006. Gerald worked in the industry for over 30 years, and was one of VTCA's most active and respected volunteers. In addition to serving numerous terms on the Associate Leadership Committee, Gerald served on the ALC's Scholarship Subcommittee, the Joint Highway Cooperative Committee and the Board of Directors. We wish Gerald and his wife Karen the very best in the years to come.

In recognition of the economic power of multicultural businesses, **Belstar, Inc.** has been named one of the top 100 small businesses in Virginia by DiversityBusiness.com, a leading multicultural internet site. "The Div100 companies are the heroes of small businesses in Virginia," said Kenton Clarke. "These are the people that have conquered the hurdles and made the sacrifices, building and strengthening their communities."

Belstar is a minority-owned small business based in Fairfax. The company provides services relating to the design, pre-construction, procurement, construction and post-construction phases of building and infrastructure development.

The new U.S. Route 1 bridge over the Appomattox River between Colonial Heights and Petersburg has captured a Merit Award in the 2006 Engineering Excellence Awards competition sponsored by the Virginia chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies. The prestigious award was presented to **Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern, Inc.** The bridge was constructed by VTCA member **R.R. Dawson Bridge Company.**

The Martin Luther King Bridge replaces a popular span that had been in place since 1925. Some of the original bridge's fixtures were refurbished for service on the new span, while others were painstakingly replicated. HSMM's design was honored for its sensitivity to the appearance of the older bridge, conservation of historical structures for phasing construction to allow normal traffic flows and for environmental protection of the Appomattox River.

In related news, HSMM has been honored with the *Blue Ridge Business Journal's* "Business of the Year Award." The firm was featured in the December 26 issue of the Journal.

The Roanoke office of **ECS, Inc.** was featured in the February issue of Virginia Business magazine for its innovative approach to project oversight. Called "Life Cycle Engineering," the process developed by C.R. "Buddy" Newman uniquely provides consulting and project oversight for manufacturing companies over their entire life cycles.

Christina Perry has joined **John Lambert Associates**, a public relations firm with offices in Richmond and Roanoke.

Perry came from the Virginia Health Quality Center, where she was Communications Manager. She also served as Director of Marketing for United Healthcare and held management positions with Retreat Hospital and Scott Benefit Services. She was the Corporate Trainer for Dalkon Shield Claimant's Trust.

A registered nurse, Perry is a graduate of the Virginia Commonwealth University's Medical College of Virginia. She is a native of Richmond.

Founded in 1977, John Lambert Associates provides clients with an integrated delivery of communications services, including public relations, advertising, graphic design, interactive communications and publications.

In Memoriam

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of William C. "Bill" Priest, Vice President of **Sanders Saws**. Bill passed away peacefully on February 22 following a long struggle with lung disease. Bill was an active member of VTCA and the American Concrete Pavement Association – Northeast Chapter. He befriended many in our industry and will be remembered for his infectious smile and caring ways.

Funeral services were held February 25 in Powhatan. Memorial contributions may be made to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation.

Industry Issues

VTCA Directory of Members

The *VTCA Directory of Members* is one of the industry's top tools! We are currently in the process of contacting all members to update their listings. In order for the Directory to be useful, it is important for all the information to be correct, so please take a few minutes to update your listing and return it to us.

We will mail two copies, at no cost, to each member company at their main office. Additional copies can be purchased by contacting Dana Morris (dana@vtca.org) for an order form.

Please note that the VTCA Board members are now elected at the Annual Meeting each July. Consequently the Directory will now be published in mid-August.



Richmond "Dialogue" Delivers!

Over 135 VTCA members and VDOT Richmond District professionals came together on February 16 for a half-day of productive discussion at VTCA's "Dialogue with the Richmond District." Hot topics included the District's construction, maintenance and preliminary engineering programs, and an inside look at the District's Materials Division.

VTCA Past President Stan Lanford (**Lanford Brothers Company**) gave an outstanding presentation on the benefits of sincere and dedicated partnering on projects. Slides presented by Scott Shahan of VDOT on safety were real eye openers. The day was rounded out by a lengthy question-and-answer period that provided real insight into doing business with the Richmond District.

We are deeply grateful to the VDOT Richmond District team of professionals and to our sponsors. A special tip of the hard hat to VDOT's Lee Yowell and Sandra Richardson and to VTCA's Stacy Saunders for their hard work in putting this valuable program together.

Wiley & Wilson
Virginia Geotechnical Services
R. R. Dawson Bridge Company
CH2M Hill
ECS Mid-Atlantic
Lee Hy Paving Corp.
EBA Engineering.
Volkert & Associates
P. D. Brooks Co.
Jacobs Engineering Group
Corman Construction
H. W. Lochner
NXL
Timmons Group
Rajan Mahima Associates
T. Y. Lin International
Greenhorne & O'Mara
Bryant Contracting
Slurry Pavers

TCMI Graduates 500th Alumnus

The Transportation Construction Management Institute, held at Virginia Tech, graduated its 500th student this year. The annual program has been providing extensive training for VDOT and industry personnel for well over a decade. Congratulations to the 2006 TCMI class.



Work Zone Awareness Week

April 3-9, 2006

Did you know that nearly 1,100 men, women and children are killed senselessly in work zones each year? National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 3-9, 2006. You may ask, "**How can I participate in this event?**" The most important thing you can do is **get involved** and let your **actions be seen** and **voice be heard**. The following suggestions are ways that you can help improve work zone safety.

1. Attach an orange ribbon made out of survey tape to your vehicle antenna.
2. Wear an orange ribbon during the week. This opens the door to conversations and leads to an opportunity to talk about the week with others.
3. Write a letter to your local newspaper editor about the dangers motorists present to you and your work crew. Points to stress: motorists need to slow down, pay attention, obey the traffic control devices and look out for our workers.
4. Invest in work zone safety training materials for your employees. FHWA, ATSSA, National Safety Council, the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse and VDOT have many tools to help you.*
5. Talk with your employees to increase their awareness – remember safe work zones begin with them! Ensure current practices are up-to-date with the latest requirements.
6. Examine the traffic control devices you use every day to ensure they are compliant and in good working condition and appearance.
7. Visit the VDOT Workers' Memorial. It will be a sobering experience.
8. Go speak at a high school driver's education class on the dangers of traveling through work zones - see the following article for details. It means more hearing the message from someone who faces the dangers everyday.

The more voices joining together, the greater impact we will have in asking motorists to slow down and drive responsibly through work zones. We all need to play an active role in raising driver awareness when entering work zones!

*www.atssa.com

*http://ops.fhwa.gov/wz/outreach/wz_awareness.htm

*www.nsc.ie/RoadSafety/

*<http://wzsafety.tamu.edu/outreach/awareness-week/>

How Can You Help Stop Work Zone Tragedies?

Get involved in the VTCA/VDOT Driver's Education Program! With just an hour of your time, some equipment used in work zones, and the VDOT/VTCA Tool Kit, you can compel students to understand how just one careless act can affect their own life and the life of a highway worker forever.

Thanks to the combined efforts of VDOT professionals and VTCA members, we have reached more than **12,976** students to date through our program. That is wonderful, but we are **less than half way to our goal of 30,000 students** this school year.

Contact your VDOT District Public Affairs Office today for more information on how you can help us reach our goal. The life you save maybe that of your own employee, or your spouse or child.

We would like to give an "A+" to several members who are in classrooms across Virginia on a regular basis:

Jim Akers and Jay Openshaw from **E. V. Williams**

Jay Lipscomb and Danny Johnson of **Branscome**

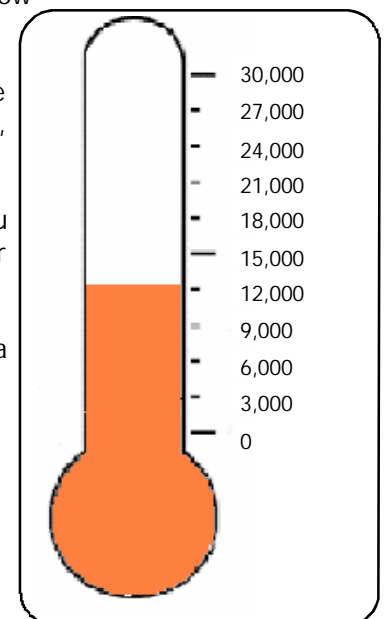
Mike Weakley of **Marvin V. Templeton & Sons**

Don Pollay of **Lee Hy Paving**

Al Soltis, Mike Loveman and Richard Ferron of **Lanford Brothers Company**

Scott Hodge and Ann Booker of **Hayes Seay Mattern & Mattern**

Kyle King of **Adams Construction**



Spotlight: Joint Highway Cooperative Committees

The importance of effective representation for each of the four categories of VTCA membership is the core of our organizational structure. VTCA has an overall governing body in the form of the Board of Directors. Each membership category also has a Leadership Committee to represent their specific issues within the Alliance. The four groups are the Aggregate Producer Leadership Committee, the Associate Leadership Committee, the Contractor Leadership Committee and the Engineering Consultant Leadership Committee. In the January *Blue Top* the Contractor Leadership Committee was introduced. A key component of the CLC's success is their utilization of the Joint Highway Cooperative Committee and its subcommittees. This month we are focusing on the operation of the Joint Highway Cooperative Committee and its four subcommittees.

Over 50 years ago VRTBA's and VDOT's leadership had a clear understanding of the power of working together to achieve common objectives. That vision led to the establishment of the Joint Highway Cooperative Committee (JHCC) which continues its success today. VDOT and VTCA are represented on the JHCC by some of the two organization's top leaders. Through their experience and understanding of the contracting industry, the joint representation is designed to resolve issues ensuring the delivery of an effective quality transportation system. The JHCC employs four subcommittees divided into specific areas of responsibility. The subcommittee members from industry and VDOT bring knowledge and experience consistent with each of the committees' scope of responsibilities. Those committees and their scope of responsibility are:

Contract Administration Subcommittee (Chair: Joe Kasimer, Kasimer & Annino)

Focuses on all VDOT specification section 100 items, VDOT Construction Division Memorandum and Department policy and procedures not directly dealing with the physical element of construction or maintenance. The committee serves as a portal for industry and VDOT to introduce new contracting and procurement methods for construction and maintenance as well as providing guidance and insight into alternative contracting methods (i.e. design-build, lane rental, incentives/disincentives, asset management)

Structures and Bridge Subcommittee (Chair: David Lyle, D.W. Lyle, Inc.)

Addresses major structures and bridge topics including materials and structures w/36" opening or larger (i.e. box culverts, retaining walls, etc.). The committee focuses on development and enhancement of specification section 400 and environmental compliance and procedural issues specific to structures and bridge construction.

Construction, Maintenance, and Methods Subcommittee (Doug Jackson, Bryant Contracting)

Addresses typical construction and maintenance items. The group focuses on items within VDOT specification sections 200, 300, 500, 600 and 700 as well as fostering the development and review of construction and maintenance methods, procedures and materials specific to the committee's scope.

Design Quality and Constructability Subcommittee (Chair: Emmett Heltzel, VDOT L&D)

Provides input to design procedures on VDOT and consultant designed plans emphasizing procedures and policies that will enhance the constructability and efficiency of design plans. Identifies and develops enhancements to VDOT's project delivery methods and business procedures as well as input on the VDOT Roadway Design Manual, Road and Bridge Standards, Instructional and Information Memorandums.

The JHCC and its subcommittees exist to provide VDOT and VTCA members a vehicle to develop a transportation system exemplifying the highest standards of quality, and safety. Whether or not you are a regular member of these committees your participation is encouraged and necessary to support the objectives of these groups. Additionally, the chairman and members of the JHCC and its four subcommittees are available to discuss the issues important to you.

VTCA is continuing the development of some new communication mechanisms to keep members aware of the committee activity as well as adding a new way for members to introduce issues and concerns. Under development is the addition of a new area of the VTCA web site which will provide updates, meeting minutes and meeting schedules for the standing committees. Bookmark <http://www.vtca.org> on your computer!

VDOT News

Nationwide Search for New Commissioner

Governor Tim Kaine has announced that a nationwide search had begun for a new Transportation Commissioner. The recruiting firm Korn/Ferry International has been selected to conduct the search (the firm also facilitated the recruitment of former Commissioner Philip Shucet).

Korn/Ferry is expected to take 45 days to search for an initial field of candidates, who will be interviewed by Governor Kaine, the Secretary of Transportation and a bipartisan recruitment team, including the leadership of the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates. The final selection of a VDOT Commissioner is expected this spring.

"We are launching a nationwide search for a transportation professional who will continue our significant VDOT reforms, and oversee a new era in the way we develop and improve Virginia's transportation network," said Governor Kaine. "This search will be done in a professional and bipartisan manner to make sure we get the very best person for the job – a commissioner who can serve multiple governors."

VDOT Calls For Private Sector Proposals To Build New U.S. Route 460

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is soliciting conceptual proposals from private entities to build a new east-west transportation link under the Public Private Transportation Act (PPTA). The "new" Route 460 would extend 55 miles from I-295 in Petersburg to Route 58 in Suffolk. The four-lane divided highway would be built south of the existing road, with nine interchanges at towns and major secondary roads.

"VDOT is opening the field for competition to get the best deal possible for improving mobility on one of Virginia's most vital transportation links for motorists and commerce," said Acting VDOT Commissioner Gregory A. Whirley. "This project is part of VDOT's overall commitment to seeking private funding and tolling as ways to meet our long term infrastructure needs."

The new road would be supported totally or substantially by private investments, user fees - including tolls - or other innovative financing methods. Presently there are no public funds programmed to support this project.

VDOT also encourages private entities to explore the potential of locally supported economic development opportunities to generate revenues to fund the project. Cost estimates for the project at this preliminary stage are approximately \$500 million to \$700 million.

As VDOT solicits for proposals, environmental review of the new Route 460 location is in its final stages. The Final Environment Impact Statement is scheduled for completion this summer. That would be followed by a Record of Decision by the Federal Highway Administration.

Private sector proposals are due June 14, 2006. For more information go to <http://www.VirginiaDOT.org>.

The direct link to the solicitation for Route 460 PPTA proposals is <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/ppta-rfp.asp>.

Spotlight on the Materials Division



The Materials Division of VDOT supplies technical leadership and training in building and maintaining a safe and efficient transportation system through the assessment of highway construction materials and the application of innovative engineering.

The Materials Division is organized into a Central Office and nine District Offices. The District Materials Engineer represents the State Materials Engineer in matters pertaining to sampling, inspection, field-testing, construction and maintenance materials, and soil survey and pavement design. The Division is broken into three major areas: Preliminary Engineering, Operations and Support Services.

To learn more and to download Materials Division documents and training schedules visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/business/materials-default.asp>.

VDOT News

VDOT Launches New 511 Email Alert Service

VDOT's 511 travel service, which offers traffic and traveler information, has a new email alert system. The email alerts are a subscription-based messaging system giving subscribers real time traffic information. The subscription service can send traffic information via text messaging or simple emails.

To sign up, click on the email alert tab on <http://www.511Virginia.org>. The tab will bring up a log-in screen. Users will create an account, which is free. Once logged in to the email alert system, subscribers can pick what time of day to receive alerts and select which roads their alerts will cover. New users who do not select specific times will receive their messages between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily. Fees for text messages may apply depending on the subscriber's text messaging provider.

511 Virginia has the latest information on weather conditions, road construction and traffic incidents as well as lodging, food and gas. The system provides information on all of Virginia's interstates and most major primary roads. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial 1-800-578-4111. TTY users can call 711 to obtain these services. Traffic alerts and traveler information also are available at <http://www.511Virginia.org>.

Looking For Employees? Did You Know?

You can receive bonus points on your Project Performance Evaluation (C-36) if you:

- * Exceed the OJT goal;
- * Still have employed the OJT trainees at project completion;
- * Hire a Welfare to Work graduate and enroll them in OJT!
(Also you will receive a tax break from the IRS!)

Are you interested in retaining able, qualified and diverse individuals while increasing enrollment in VDOT's On-The-Job (OJT) training program? If so, support VDOT's Welfare to Work Program by hiring program graduates. The OJT Program is a federally funded program designed to offer training opportunities to women, minorities, and other disadvantaged groups in the construction trades.

Please consider hiring graduates of VDOT's Welfare to Work program as prospective employees within your organization. The program is also looking for guest speakers! The training in Northern Virginia at the Lee Center begins March 6 and concludes with a graduation ceremony on April 14. Job Readiness training in Richmond District begins April 17 and concludes on May 26 at a downtown Richmond location. Modules begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m.

To all contractors currently performing on Virginia highways-please play an active role by volunteering to be a guest speaker! The knowledge you provide will help develop a dependable qualified labor force.

For more information, contact Gena Thompson Burr at GTT Enterprises 804-530-1899 or gena@gttenterprises.net.

Crashes Decrease In Highway Safety Corridors

Designating certain roadways as Highway Safety Corridors is saving lives! VDOT reports that the total number of crashes in the I-81 Safety Corridor decreased by 29 percent in 2005 as compared to the previous year. Crashes decreased by 13 percent in the I-95 Safety Corridor.

The I-81 Safety Corridor is a 15-mile stretch from Ironto to Salem. The I-95 Corridor in Richmond, which went into effect one year ago, is a 13-mile section from Bells Road to Parham Road. The third safety corridor, an 11-mile stretch of I-95 in Northern Virginia, was launched last March. Motorists who speed, tailgate or drive recklessly on these interstate sections could be fined up to \$2,500.

"VDOT is encouraged that the program is achieving results - reducing crashes on some of Virginia's most crash-prone stretches of interstate," said Acting VDOT Commissioner Gregory A. Whirley. "Our partnership with the Virginia State Police and the Department of Motor Vehicles is critical as we continue our efforts to make traveling safer and reduce bad driver behavior, such as aggressive driving, impaired driving and motorists not wearing seat belts."

Mining Trends

EPA Extends SPCC Deadlines Again

On February 17, 2006 Environmental Protection Agency published in the Federal Register a final rule extending the dates by which facilities must prepare or amend Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans, and implement those plans (71 FR 8462).

- * Under the new 40 CFR 112.3(a), a facility that was in operation on or before August 16, 2002 must make any necessary amendments to its SPCC Plan, and implement that Plan, on or before October 31, 2007.
- * Under the new 40 CFR 112.3(b), a facility that came into operation after August 16, 2002 must also prepare and implement an SPCC Plan on or before October 31, 2007.
- * Finally, under the new 40 CFR 112.3(c), a mobile facility must prepare or amend and implement an SPCC Plan on or before October 31, 2007.

In other words, this action extends the SPCC compliance dates in §112.3 (a), (b), and (c) for all facilities until October 31, 2007.

This action allows EPA time to take final action on proposed revisions to the July 17, 2002 SPCC rule before owners and operators of facilities are required to meet requirements of that rule when preparing or amending their SPCC Plans. Additional information is available at <http://www.epa.gov/oilspill>.

Smoke School Update

Don't forget that the next Smoke Schools are scheduled for April 8, 10, and 11 in Glade Springs, Manakin and Blue Ridge respectively. The schools will offer the classroom portion from 8:00 – 10:00 with the field portion following from 10:30 – 12:30. As mentioned in a previous *Blue Top*, the schools were moved to a later date in an attempt to find more favorable weather climate to conduct the training.

Registration information for the classes was mailed out to former participants in late February. However, anyone can register for a class through the link provided on the VTCA web site at <http://www.vtca.org>.

New VTCA Aggregate Producer Scholarship

The Aggregate Producer membership of the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance is pleased to announce a new scholarship!

The "Aggregate Producer Scholarship" will provide support to full-time students enrolled in Commonwealth of Virginia four-year institutions. Applicants will be pursuing an undergraduate degree in one of the following areas: Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Geology or Mining and Mineral Engineering.

This is a great opportunity for deserving and qualified young people. For a full package of information, call Stephanie Rusnak at the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance in Richmond, 804-330-3312. You can also obtain an application package by visiting <http://www.vtca.org> and clicking on Scholarships.

Recent Mine Fatality

On Wednesday, February 1, 2006, a 58-year old bulldozer operator with 15 years mining experience was fatally injured while cutting a bench in the natural slope of a hillside in preparation for surface mining. The accident occurred when the blade of his bulldozer ruptured a buried 16-inch, low pressure, high volume, natural gas transmission pipeline. Natural gas escaping from the pipeline immediately burst into flames, engulfing the bulldozer.

This could just as easily have been an underground electrical line which every mine site has I'm sure. It is imperative that anytime we start digging around our sites we identify and mark all right-of-ways for pipelines and other buried utilities in that particular area to be disturbed. NEVER assume that there is nothing running underground where you are digging. Many sites are older and there may have been lines buried years before the current operator even took over the site. A good practice would be to have an independent utility contractor come in and mark these areas and then post visible signs noting the hazard.

It only takes one time to lose an employee!!!

National News

Do You Have a Blaw-Knox Paver? Help Ingersoll Rand Celebrate!

Ingersoll Rand purchased Blaw-Knox in 1995, and for the last decade has been committed to honoring their strong heritage in the paving industry. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Blaw-Knox's entrance into asphalt paving equipment and Ingersoll Rand is leading the celebration by reflecting on their legacy in the road construction industry.

Ingersoll Rand invites all paving professionals to celebrate the heritage of Blaw-Knox products throughout 2006, and asks customers to share information on:

- * The oldest Blaw-Knox paver in operation
- * The oldest Blaw-Knox paver in existence
- * The most unique application in which a Blaw-Knox paver was used
- * The most unique jobsite on which a Blaw-Knox paver was used

In addition to these categories, customers and dealers are encouraged to submit unique stories or experiences with Blaw-Knox or Ingersoll Rand paving equipment. Ingersoll Rand will publish articles, photos and interviews based on information customers submit. Prizes will also be awarded to those whose stories are used during the celebration.

Submissions can be entered on the Ingersoll Rand Blaw-Knox 75th Anniversary web site, <http://www.ir-bk75.com>.

AASHTO Center For Environmental Excellence

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Center for Environmental Excellence has been developed in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration to promote environmental stewardship and to encourage innovative ways to streamline the transportation delivery process. The Center is designed to serve as a resource for transportation professionals seeking technical assistance, training, information exchange, partnership-building opportunities, and quick and easy access to environmental tools.

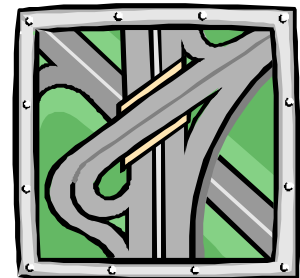
The Center's Technical Assistance Program offers a team of highly qualified and experienced experts on-call and ready to assist transportation and environmental agency officials in improving environmental performance and program delivery. The team members individually or as a team supply strategic environmental analysis and focused environmental management technical advice through short-term assignments.

The Center has re-launched its web site to better respond to user feedback, provide the latest reports and serve as a clearinghouse for environmental questions related to transportation issues, as well as meetings and events. Visit the Center's web site at <http://environment.transportation.org/>.

Interstate 50th Anniversary Web Site

The Federal Highway Administration has launched a new web site, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/interstate/>, to provide information about the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System.

The site features links pertaining to history, frequently asked questions, a gallery of road-related art, an Interstate Highway System "fact of the day" and transcripts of interviews with people who helped build the interstate system, under the heading "memories." There are also numerous links to other anniversary-related sites and extensive historical and bibliographic material provided by FHWA's historian Richard Weingroff.



ARTBA News

Problem Solvers Needed on Vital ARTBA Committees

ARTBA committees are an important way to share in-depth information on issues facing the industry, as well as formulate ARTBA policy relating to them. Some of the notable committees are as follows:

The **Contract Administration Committee** (contractors only) will meet on Tuesday, March 28, and look at issues like price escalation clauses, agency engineering estimates, "alternative" contracting, immigration, and suspension & debarment.

The **Environmental Committee** (all ARTBA divisions) will meet on Wednesday, March 29, and take an in-depth look at all manner of issues relating to the Clean Air Act, NEPA, ESA, Clean Water Act, and wetlands.

The **Bridges & Structures Committee** (all ARTBA divisions) will meet on Thursday, March 30, and share information on bridge design and construction with the Director of FHWA's Office of Bridge Technology. They will also tour the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project that day.

The **DBE Committee** (contractors only) will also meet on Thursday, March 30, and examine issues in DBE program implementation across the states.

The **Technology Conference Planning Committee** (contractors only) will also meet on Thursday, March 30, and discuss ideas for a proposed contractors conference on highway and bridge construction technology to take place later this year.

The **Motor Carrier Safety Liaison Team** (contractors only) will meet in May with officials from FMCSA to discuss industry concerns about hours of service and other regulatory matters.

Enclosed with this **Blue Top** is an information sheet and an RSVP form for the committee meetings that will be held in March. For more information, contact Rich Juliano at ARTBA, rjuliano@artba.org, or 202-289-4434.

The Roads That Built America

You helped design and build the most complex public works project in the history of the world! Now, just in time for the Interstate 50th anniversary in June 2006, is a new book that shares your fascinating story with the American public.

In "The Roads That Built America," author Dan McNichol chronicles the building of the U.S. Interstate Highway System and details how it has changed the fabric of America. He examines the history of this intricate system from its origins in a primitive road conceived by George Washington, to the 46,000 miles that bind the country together today and is the backbone of the nation's military transportation and economy.

Available in paperback, "The Roads That Built America" can be ordered from ARTBA for \$16, plus shipping and handling. To order visit <http://www.artba.org> or call Karen Evans at 202-289-4434, ext. 301.

Mark Your Calendar

- * 2006 ARTBA Federal Issues Program: May 16-17, Washington DC
- * Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-In: May 17-18, Washington DC
- * ARTBA Annual Convention: September 26-29, San Diego

For more information, please visit <http://www.artba.org>.

Bits and Pieces

New Program at GMU

George Mason's School of Public Policy has announced formation of a "Regional Development and Transportation" track in its public policy Ph.D. program. Students interested in regional development or transportation are encouraged to apply. The new track draws on the School's nationally recognized faculties in transportation and in regional development, and builds on the Masters Degree in Transportation Policy, Operations, and Logistics.

Dr. Kenneth Button, Director of the new program, said it will "bring together the disciplines of transportation and regional development to examine how their interaction promotes, or retards, economic growth in metropolitan areas."

George Mason University is located in Fairfax, Virginia. More information on the new Ph.D. track in transportation and regional economic development is available at <http://policy.gmu.edu>.

Virginia Economic Development Seminar

The Virginia Department of Business Assistance invites you to attend a new seminar entitled ***Solving Economic Development Workforce Challenges***. This event will be held Wednesday, March 29, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Richmond Marriott West.

The Honorable Patrick O. Gottschalk, Secretary of Commerce & Trade will deliver the luncheon address on legislative outcomes, updates on previous initiatives and the diversity of workforce programs in the Commonwealth. The morning panels will explore staffing issues for existing industry and start-ups from the corporate, community and economic development perspectives.

In addition to an informative seminar, attendees are invited to attend an evening reception on Tuesday, March 28th from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Richmond Marriott West sponsored by Froehling & Robertson, Inc. and REGION 2000.

Register for this seminar online at <http://www.dba.virginia.gov/form.asp> or by filling out and returning a registration form along with a fee of \$60 payable to the "Treasurer of Virginia" by Wednesday, March 22, 2006. Visit http://www.dba.virginia.gov/events/event.asp?EVENT_ID=2792 for more information on the event.

Learn About the "Tricks and Traps" in Project Scheduling

If you are responsible for project scheduling, a unique seminar titled "Tricks, Traps and Ploys Used in Scheduling in Virginia" will be of guaranteed benefit to you, your company and your projects. Attendees will learn how CPM scheduling and construction scheduling specifications can be used – and sometimes misused – to provide unreliable results, or results intended to bolster delay claim positions.

The seminar will be held on April 26 in Fairfax, Virginia. Two of the three instructors are VTCA members – James D. Fullerton, an attorney with ***Fullerton & Knowles***, and Charles E. Bolyard, Jr., PSP, with ***McDonough Bolyard Peck***.

For more information, contact Lorman Education Services at <http://www.lorman.com> or call 866-352-9539.

Enclosures

ARTBA Committee Information Sheet
and RSVP Form