

# The Transportation Times

ASHE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION

2010-11 EDITION #1

## *A Message from President Rob Prophet*



### Looking Back

As we enter into the 2010-11 Delaware Valley ASHE season, I would first like to take the opportunity to reflect back on our successes. This past season provided us with many opportunities to get together with friends and colleagues to not only discuss the transportation industry but also to discuss family, the local sporting scene, and the struggling economy.

During this time, the Delaware Valley Section was guided by the strong and steady leadership of our immediate Past President, Matt Marquardt. Matt took an active role in advancing the operation of the Board and also ensuring that our dinner meetings were a success through his efforts on the Program Committee. Matt was always humble in expressing his gratitude to our Section members and Board while not taking any credit for himself. Therefore, allow me to take the opportunity to thank Matt for his extensive efforts and leadership during this past season. I'm fortunate to have had Matt as a role model and mentor and hope to follow in his footsteps.

In addition, I would also like to thank our Officers and Board for their efforts as well. Over the past year, they have been responsible for coordinating the dinner meetings, Technical Sessions, newsletter, technical papers, Project of the Year awards, and Scholarship awards. In addition, our Board and Officers, along with other volunteers, have represented our Section at various functions, often unseen by the members, such as the Future City Competition and the Delaware Valley Science Fairs. Thanks to all.

### Looking Ahead

Starting earlier this summer, the first major event was the ASHE National Convention in Cincinnati. Just over a week after the National Conference, our Section Board and Officers convened for our Summer Board meeting. This meeting provided an opportunity to plan for the upcoming year and to see where we can improve upon what has been done in the past. To close out our summer activities, we conducted another successful Annual Section Golf Outing at Blue Bell Country Club on July 12 (see the separate article on the Outing on page 6). The Outing serves as the major

source of revenue for our Section Scholarship Fund. We appreciate your attendance, participation and sponsorship so we can continue our strong history of support of local students entering the highway industry.

Our dinner meetings and Technical Sessions begin again in September and will run through April 2011. We look forward once again to having strong speakers and topics from the industry, including presentations on transportation funding (Act 44, P3, ARRA, gas tax, etc.), ongoing construction projects, and projects still under design.

In an effort to help our members, we are currently working to ensure that our dinner meetings and Technical Sessions meet the new requirements of Act 25, which stipulates that engineers and other professionals complete 24 professional development hours (PDH's) over a 2-year cycle (see the related article on this subject on page 3). For more information regarding our dinner meeting schedule, please visit the Section website (<http://www.ashedv.org>). Dates of the meetings are provided below.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and look forward to seeing each and every one of you throughout the coming season.

## 2010-11 Meeting Dates – Mark Your Calendars!

In order to help you plan your attendance at our Section's meetings for the coming season, here are the dates for the meetings. We will be keeping our meeting dates on Wednesdays, although scheduling conflicts will not allow a consistent third Wednesday of the month pattern as in past years.

After the September 8 meeting, others this season are scheduled as follows:

**October 13, 2010**  
**November 10, 2010**  
**January 19, 2011 (annual joint meeting with ASCE)**  
**February 16, 2011**  
**March 16, 2011**  
**April 20, 2011**

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

We are also considering Technical Sessions, to follow the success of several that were conducted and well-received last season. As always, if you have any thoughts on topics or would like to present a session, please pass this along and the Board will explore it.

**Please note that Dinner prices will be increasing this year to help the Section cover increasing costs. A separate article on page 2 outlines the changes that will take effect this season.**

## New Prices for Dinners and Technical Sessions

This summer, the Section Board reluctantly voted to increase Dinner Meeting prices for the 2010-11 season to cover higher charges and costs for such. **Dinner Meetings will increase by \$5, with an advance reservation price of \$35 and an at-the-door price of \$45.** The cost for public employees and students will remain at \$20. The new costs remain low compared to those charged by other technical groups as we strive to negotiate the best deals we can with our provider to keep costs as low as we can.

Additionally, Technical Sessions, which had been free in the past, will remain free for Section members (another benefit of ASHE membership!). Non-members wishing to attend will be assessed a \$20 charge for each Technical Session.

## Delaware Valley Section Patron (D.V.S.P.) Program – Another Successful Year, Starting Our Sixth!

The Section started the D.V.S.P. Program in the 2005-06 season to allow supporting firms to be recognized. We are proud to note that 21 firms participated in the Program last season and, by doing so, helped to make it a success once again.

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

We will be starting the program again for the current year shortly, with one change. The cost for the "basic" level of support (\$100) will remain as it has been since the start of the program. **We are offering a "website" level as well, which, for \$150, will allow your logo to be placed on our website as well as in THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES, with a hyperlink directly to your website.** More details will be provided in our solicitations for sponsorship renewal.

Last season's sponsors (who are listed on page 3) will be contacted shortly to determine if they are interested in continuing as D.V.S.P.'s for 2010-11. If you are not in this Program and would like to join, please contact Section President Rob Prophet or Director/Editor of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES Bob Wright (contact information is given on page 6).

## Delaware Valley Section Officers and Board of Directors – 2010-11 Season

### Rob Prophet, *President*

Traffic Planning & Design Inc.

### Don Stark, *First Vice President*

Ammann & Whitney Inc.

### Bruce Masi, *Second Vice President*

Gannett Fleming Inc.

### Bill Dougherty, *Treasurer*

### Stephanie Butler, *Secretary*

McMahon Associates Inc.

### Scott Sibley, *Regional Director*

Gannett Fleming Inc.

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

McMahon Associates Inc.

### Matt Marquardt

### Bob Milliken

### Dilip Radadia

### Don Steele

### Elaine Elbich

### Phil Mandato

### Curt Shugars

### Bob Wright

### Pete Berthold

### Jeff Given

### Jeff Obrecht

### Board of Directors

Term expires 2011

Urban Engineers Inc.

Underground Services Inc.

Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.

Penna. Turnpike Commission

Term expires 2012

Penna. Dept. of Transportation

Felix Mandato & Sons Inc.

Pennoni Associates Inc.

Urban Engineers Inc.

Term expires 2013

Penna. Dept. of Transportation

Loftus Construction Inc.

Apex Companies LLC

The Section is attempting to have the several components of the Society (contractors/suppliers, government/DOT, and consultants) appropriately and proportionally represented on our Board. **We are keeping one vacant Board position open for a representative of one of these areas in order to retain this balance. If you meet these requirements and are interested in serving on the Board, we would like to hear from you.**

We have also attempted to streamline our Board to operate more efficiently and to have standing committees report to, rather than necessarily being chaired by, Board members.

## Northeast Region Technical Seminar Scheduled - Hold the Date

ASHE's Northeast Region (formerly Region 6) will hold its 12th Annual **Technical Seminar** on **Thursday, October 28**, and this will be hosted by our Section. It will be conducted at the Radisson Hotel in Valley Forge, the location of our Section Meetings. It will be an all-day event with technical content and topics on the latest in our industry.

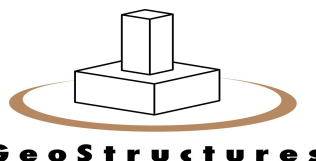
More information is included in a separate flyer which will be sent to you shortly. Plan to come for a day of education and interaction with others in the Highway industry. Sponsorships will be available for firms wishing to help our Section present the Seminar.

DVSP MEMBER FIRMS 2009-10 Thanks for your support!

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



\*\*\*\*\*



Professional Development Requirements – Now the Law in PA, Coming Soon in NJ

As you may be aware, professional engineers, land surveyors and geologists in Pennsylvania are required to obtain continued professional development (CPD) credit to renew their licenses in 2011. The passage of Act 25 in early May established this continuing education requirement.

PE's, PLS's and PG's will need to have 24 hours of professional development that is related to their practice in order to renew their licenses in October 2011. The Act will indeed cover the current licensure period (extending back to October 1, 2009), so any eligible coursework, etc. you may have amassed since then can be counted toward the current two-year period. Additionally, there will be a six-month grace period (until April 2012) for license holders to obtain the required 24 professional development hours (PDH's) if they have not already begun to do so or will not be able to acquire the full amount by the renewal date.

The State Board has contacted all current license holders who are affected by this and supplied hard copy of the new requirements and related details. These are also available on the Department of State's website at [www.dos.state.pa.us/eng](http://www.dos.state.pa.us/eng) for your information.

As you may be aware, New Jersey has also passed legislation on this and its program will become effective in early 2011. We will provide this information as it becomes available.

Our Section's meeting program and Technical Sessions will be able to count toward your continuing education requirement and a verification program will be implemented this fall to help you obtain and track your PDH's.

## ASHE Mission Statement

***"Provide a forum for members and partners of the highway industry to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable highway system through education, innovation and fellowship"***

### Project of the Year Awards Presented in April

The Section cited two projects as part of our Project of the Year competition for 2009. The rules changed slightly this time, with the "small" projects increasing from the previous under \$5 million construction cost to under \$10 million, and the "large" category changing to cover projects valued at \$10 million and above.

A total of five projects - three in the under \$10 million category and two in the \$10 million and over group - were submitted for consideration in this competition. It was an impressive list of projects to consider, and it would certainly be a tough task, but, thanks to the Project of the Year Committee, two winners were determined.

We are proud to present information and background on the selected projects and project teams below. Awards were presented to the project teams at the Section's April meeting.

#### ***2009 Project of the Year - Under \$10 Million Design-Build Bridges on Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension***

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission replaced two overhead bridges as a part of the 10.5 mile, \$300 Million expansion of the Northeast Pennsylvania Turnpike Extension (I-476) between the Mid-County and Lansdale Interchanges. This advance project involved the first two of seven overhead bridge replacements in this corridor.

The Bethel Road (NB-124) and Kriebel Road (NB-138) bridge replacement contract was extremely unique in the fact that this was a design-build project that additionally included quality control and inspection services to be performed by the contractor. This project is one of only a handful of projects that the Commission has let with these contractual obligations. This was intended to provide a quick delivery of these bridge replacements with design and construction occurring in a 12-month period. This \$7.5 million effort contained all facets of a bridge replacement project from procuring erosion and sediment permits at the beginning of construction to full-range construction operations and documentation upon project completion.

The uniqueness of this project proved very challenging to the project team. The intense level of interaction of the project team indicates the several layers of management involved with this project.

The conceptual plans provided by the Commission for this project indicated that each structure would be a two-span bridge with a center pier located in the median of the mainline Turnpike and the superstructures were conceptually shown as spread box beams. Upon review of the contract documents and the project schedule, Loftus Construction, and its designer, Rettew, chose an alternate option to these conceptual plans:

- Kriebel Road would be a single span bridge of 148' 6" with a steel superstructure
- Bethel Road would be a single span bridge of 161' with a bulb tee superstructure

The elimination of the piers proved to be a winning combination for all parties involved. This allowed traffic on the Turnpike to flow without interference for most of the duration of construction. Valuable time was cut from the already tight schedule and made the project completion attainable with reasonable resources. The elimination of the piers also provided for a much safer project since work was eliminated from the mainline median section of the Turnpike.

A major design change was the introduction of steel intermediate diaphragms into the concrete bulb tee design. This non-standard member required approval from PennDOT's Bridge Quality Assurance Division and was among the first such uses on a state-owned bridge. Another first was the use of a Type 3 approach slab, which allows for another span off the bridge to eliminate any settlement reflection in the paving related to the structure backfill, removes expansion dams from the bridge proper and provides expansion at the roadway interface.

The removal of the existing bridges was a successful milestone on this project. Both center spans of the existing structures were required to be removed simultaneously during a single 4-hour shutdown of the Turnpike. This work involved the use of two 500-ton cranes, with the removal of the concrete deck and steel beams as a unit. The removal of both structures was completed safely and both structures were removed within 3.5 hours.

The project was completed within the contractual time and under budget, despite its many different components outside of the normal contracting methods.

The Turnpike Commission was the contracting agent for the project. McTish Kunkel was the overall construction manager for the Turnpike expansion project, with on-site inspection assistance from CMC Engineering. Loftus Construction was the contractor, with design assistance from Rettew.

This was the subject of an article in the Summer edition of the ASHE SCANNER as well. Please read that article for more details on this interesting effort.

Other projects submitted in this category included **SR 29 Section 01L** in Collegeville and **SR 4005 (Germantown Avenue)** in Philadelphia.

### 2009 Project of the Year - \$10 Million and Over Gay Street Bridge (SR 113, Section 08B), Phoenixville

The Gay Street Bridge in Phoenixville, Chester County, is a 936' twelve-span concrete arch structure dating to 1924, crossing French Creek, a Norfolk Southern Railway line, two local streets, the proposed French Creek Parkway, and the Phoenix Iron Works site which is being planned for redevelopment. The structure, known locally as the "High Bridge", provides a critical connection between downtown and the north side.

Because of its prominence in the community, its importance to traffic, and its status as a contributing element to the Phoenixville Historic District, there was much public involvement in the selection of the type of replacement structure. While the existing bridge was a concrete arch, its predecessor was a steel structure, and the relevance of this, with the adjacent former Iron Works site, was a factor worth noting.

After considerable research and community feedback, a proposed structure was developed. The new bridge would

The other submission in this category was the **Market Street Elevated Reconstruction** project in Philadelphia.

2009-10 Section President Matt Marquardt congratulated the award recipients at our April meeting, when representatives of the owners, designers and construction companies accepted the awards. Jeff Given, Chair of the Section's Project of the Year Committee, expressed the Committee's pleasure with both the caliber and number of submissions.

The Section extends our thanks to all the award applicants for their participation, and we look forward to the recognition of projects within our area next year. We encourage project designers, constructors and inspectors to submit efforts for consideration when the 2010 competition opens in January. **Special thanks to the Project of the Year Committee for another job well done!**

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

Our Section Committees and Committee chairs are listed below. If you have an interest in being part of any Committee, please contact Section President Rob Prophet or Section Director/Editor Bob Wright (contact information is provided on page 6):

<i>Audit</i>	Bob Milliken
<i>Dinner Meetings</i>	Curt Shugars
<i>50/50</i>	Dilip Radadia
<i>Golf</i>	Rob Prophet
<i>Hotel</i>	Phil Mandato
<i>Membership</i>	Bruce Masi
<i>Newsletter</i>	Bob Wright
<i>Nominating</i>	Don Stark
<i>Program</i>	Matt Marquardt
<i>Project of the Year</i>	Jeff Given
<i>Public Relations</i>	Elaine Elbich
<i>Scholarships</i>	Don Stark
<i>Technical Papers</i>	Peter Berthold
<i>Technical Sessions</i>	Jeff Obrecht

## Legislative Affairs Day Recap

On May 24, over 80 engineers from across our state assembled in Harrisburg for Legislative Affairs Day 2010. This year's event, the fourth annual, focused on transportation funding and the newly-released Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card (which can be viewed at [www.pareportcard.org](http://www.pareportcard.org)) developed by the four American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Sections in Pennsylvania. The attendees met with over 100 legislators and staff and urged the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support these issues.

ASCE sponsored the event this year, with support from the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE), the American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania (ACEC), the Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, and ASHE. Our Section was among the participants.

Thanks to those who were able to attend and those who provided financial support for this important event. We look forward to continued such interfaces with elected representatives in the future.

## Dues Invoice in Your Hands

Your invoice for ASHE dues for the 2010-11 season should have been in your mailbox in early August. We appreciate your prompt payment so you can remain in good standing with ASHE and our Section. **We thank you for your continued support.**

## Golf Outing Remains A Success

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing was held on a beautiful Monday, July 12 at Blue Bell Country Club. For the second year in a row, a scramble format was used (instead of individual play, as in the past) to make things more interesting. Over 70 participants were there to enjoy a day of golf and support the Section Scholarship Program. Over \$4,000 was raised for the Scholarship Fund, through the proceeds of the Outing, including a putting contest. We especially appreciate the generosity of our sponsoring firms as well:

### **Platinum**

Jacobs  
Urban Engineers

### **Silver**

Ammann & Whitney  
Brudis  
JMT

### **Bronze**

Apex Environmental  
Felix Mandato and Sons  
McMahon

### **Gold**

AECOM  
Pennoni  
Traffic Planning & Design

Among the prize winners this year were:

Low Score – Vince DeFlavia, Clay Payne, Jim Schlagle, Steve Thomas

Long Drive – Noreen Nolan, Therese Fischer

Putting Contest – Pete Chronowski

In appreciation of our Outing attendance, Blue Bell Country Club has graciously donated passes to the Section for two foursomes. These passes include a round of golf, golf carts, and access to the Club's restaurant and clubhouse, and have a value of approximately \$400 each. We will be auctioning these passes at the September Dinner Meeting. All proceeds from the auction will go directly into the Section Scholarship Fund.

Thanks to the Golf Outing Committee and Chair Rob Prophet for another successful Outing and a nice-size contribution to the Section Scholarship Fund.

## And, Speaking of the Donna Prentice Memorial Section Scholarship...

The application process for the Section Scholarship Program will open in November. More information will be provided on this in the next edition of THE TRANSPORTATION TIMES.

The Scholarship Program was started by the Section in 1972. Over the past 35-plus years, it has benefited numerous local college students, many of whom have gone on to become ASHE members after graduation. It was renamed in honor of the late **Donna Prentice**, wife of longtime Section member Dick Prentice, in 2003.

Please contact our Scholarship Committee Chair, Don Stark (215-567-1341, x234) or visit the Section's website for more information on the Section's Scholarship Program.

## From the Editor...

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

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

*Rob Prophet, Section President*  
Traffic Planning & Design Inc.  
2500 E. High Street  
Pottstown, PA 19460  
610-322-3200  
[rprophet@trafficpd.com](mailto:rprophet@trafficpd.com)

*Bob Wright, Director/Editor*  
Urban Engineers, Inc.  
530 Walnut Street, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
215-922-8081 x1647  
[rmwright@urbanengineers.com](mailto:rmwright@urbanengineers.com)