



National Association County Engineers

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The Voice of County Road Officials

NACE UPDATE

The almost bi-weekly newsletter for Board members, Committee Chairs, and Members
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Summary of Senate Surface Transportation Proposal Released

Last week the bipartisan leadership of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) released an outline of its legislation to reauthorize the surface transportation program. The recommended funding level would remain at current funding plus inflation, which translates into \$339.2 billion over six years. The projected Highway Trust Fund revenues would not support this funding level and therefore the assumption is that source such as the general fund, would have to be tapped to fully fund the six-year program.

Other issues addressed in the outline were an increase in the TIFIA program; elimination of all earmarks; consolidation of existing highway programs; creation of a freight program; and streamlining of project delivery without sacrificing the environment. While the EPW proposal includes both highways and transit, it is the Senate Banking Committee that has jurisdiction over transit. The Obama administration has proposed a \$556 billion program while the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has been rumored to be developing a bill that would be funded at a level no higher than the Highway Trust Fund could support. Contact: [Bob Fogel](mailto:bfogel@naco.org) • 202/942-4217 or email: bfogel@naco.org

High Risk Rural Roads Safety Act Legislation Introduced

On Friday, June 3, 2011, Rep. Michael Michaud (D-Maine) introduced H.R. 2107, the High Risk Rural Roads Safety Act. The legislation authorizes \$400 million annually for six years to fund cost effective safety infrastructure improvements for rural roads throughout the country. The language also broadens the definition of a high risk rural road to make it easier for states and local governments to decide which roads and projects would be applicable under the program. Funds are also set aside for data collection to help states identify roads that need improvements. In the coming days, you will see a grassroots action alert email. Please take a moment to reach out to your Representative to ask that he/she cosponsor the bill. Reps. Pete Stark (D-Calif.) and Bob Filner (D-Calif.) are also cosponsors of H.R. 2107.

The Roadway Infrastructure Safety Coalition (RISC) members have endorsed the bill and have been pushing for introduction for the last few years to focus on this important issue. To read RISC's press release, [please click here](#).

URGENT! Waters of the U. S. Guidance Released – Deadline for Comments is July 1, 2011!

The draft “waters of the U.S.” guidance was released by the EPA and the Corps on May 2, 2011. Comments are due no later than July 1, 2011.

If an area is classified as “waters of the U.S.” it is under federal jurisdiction. Within the context of the 404 permit program, that means the owner/operator of a “waters of the U.S.” feature will have to obtain federal permits before doing routine maintenance, upgrades, mitigation, and/or improvements. While the federal government oversees “waters of the U.S.” projects, the federal government does not provide money for complying with the federal requirements. Additionally, many counties experience delays in the Section 404 permit process that are both time consuming and costly. It is likely that a large swath of ditches and similar type conveyances will be regulated under this guidance as “waters of the U.S.”

According to the EPA/Corps documentation, the guidance will increase the extent of waters over which federal jurisdiction has been used under existing guidelines. These new determinations will have “consequences” for states, tribal, local governments, and private parties. The new definitions will impact all CWA programs, including section 404, the Corps dredge and fill permit program; section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, and section 303, the water quality standards and total maximum daily load programs.

Each jurisdictional determination will be made on a case-by-case basis using applicable statutes, regulations and case law. For questions to ask and thoughts to consider, for drafting comments on Waters of the U. S. Guidance, [follow this link](#)

To read and respond to the Federal Register notice click on the below link:

http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/upload/signed_epa-hq-ow-2011-0409_frn.pdf

NACo plans to submit comments. We would also like to hear from our counties on how this change in jurisdiction will impact counties. Please contact Julie Ufner with your feedback.

Contact: [Julie Ufner](#) • 202/942-4269 or email: jufner@naco.org

FREE NACo/NACE Webinar: Systematic Approach to Road Safety II

Thursday, June 23, 2011

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM Eastern Time

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety (AAAFTS) is completing a (usRAP) pilot program to examine the key technological and political initiatives necessary to institute a safety assessment of all our nation’s roads, including rural. In this webinar, hear from a representative from AAAFTS who will provide background information on the results of the multi phase Pilot project being implemented in various states across the country and the results from a county (Kane County Illinois) that is about to complete it’s (usRAP) program. **Contact:** James

Davenport, jdavenport@naco.org or 202.661.8807

[Register Now](#)

Warm Mix Asphalt Survey – Please complete by July 8, 2011

On behalf of the Transportation Research Board, you have been invited to complete a survey in support of the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Project 20-07 Task 311, *Development of a Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) Technology Evaluation Program*. The project is being conducted by Myers McCarthy Consulting Engineers, LLC.

The questionnaire contains 41 questions and may take approximately 45 minutes to complete. It can be completed online using SurveyMonkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCHRP_20-07_Warm_Mix_Asphalt_Survey. We respectfully request that to **complete the survey by July 8, 2011.**

This survey is to gather information on approaches used to make an informed decision about new warm mix asphalt (WMA) technology. It will solicit valuable input regarding how your agency is handling the use of WMA and how you are finding success in doing so. It will support the overarching goal of developing a standardized evaluation program for WMA technologies that is compatible with AASHTO NTPEP's centralized system of testing, evaluation, and data reporting of engineering materials for the state DOTs (www.ntpep.org). For more information contact Leslie M. McCarthy, 610-813-208

NCHRP Report Effective Delivery of Small Scale Federal-aid Projects Published!

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Synthesis 414: Effective Delivery of Small Scale Federal-Aid Projects, has been issued. The report examines streamlines methods for achieving federal requirements for small-scale projects, and explores ways that state departments of transportation can work with local agencies to implement small projects that are eligible to receive federal funding. The report is available for review at:

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_414.pdf

10th International Conference on Low-Volume Roads

TRB is sponsoring the 10th International Conference on Low-Volume Roads on July 24-27, 2011, in Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida. The conference, held every four years, is designed to foster communication about new and innovative ways of building, maintaining, and managing low-volume road systems between practitioners worldwide in local, state, and federal agencies; universities; private firms; and international organizations. [\[More\]](#)

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2011 NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY AWARDS – Deadline Extended to June 30, 2011

The Roadway Safety Foundation and the Federal Highway Administration are currently accepting applications for the 2011 National Roadway Safety Awards. RSF and FHWA recognize best practices in roadway safety improvements and publish the practices to help solve reoccurring roadway safety issues throughout the nation.

“We are very excited to begin the process once again of searching for and honoring high achievers in the field of roadway safety,” said Greg Cohen, Executive Director of the Roadway Safety Foundation. “This biennial celebration is an exciting time for us, and for all of the applicants who are doing such tremendous work across the country to keep road users safe.”

The competition includes three award categories: Infrastructure Improvements; Operational Improvements and Program Planning; and Development and Evaluation. Applicants can submit projects, programs, or activities that include effective and innovative safety agendas, and resourcefully employ various sources of aid including federal, state, local, and/or private sector funds.

Winners of the competition will receive an invitation to attend a national-level recognition event in Washington, DC; local and national media coverage opportunities; appearance in trade press and other RSF and FHWA publications and websites, and meeting opportunities with key roadway safety officials and legislators in Washington, DC.

The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2011**. To learn more or to download an application, please visit www.roadwaysafety.org

Hearing on Financing 21st Century Infrastructure

On May 17, 2011, the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing to examine existing tools to finance infrastructure investment: the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Member statements, witness testimonies, and a video of the hearing are available online. [\[More\]](#)

A Manual for Design of Hot-Mix Asphalt with Commentary

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Report 673: A Manual for Design of Hot-Mix Asphalt with Commentary incorporates the many advances in materials characterization and hot-mix asphalt (HMA) mix design technology developed since the conclusion of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP).

[\[More\]](#)

Supporting Materials for NCHRP Report 673

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 159: Supporting Materials for NCHRP Report 673 contains the final report on the project that developed [NCHRP Report 673: A Manual for Design of Hot Mix Asphalt with Commentary](#) and Appendixes C through F to the report.

[\[More\]](#)

Bridge Preservation Guide: Maintaining State of Good Repair Using Cost Effective Investment Strategies

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Office of Infrastructure has released a report that provides guidance on development of a systematic approach to a preventive maintenance program.

[\[More\]](#)

FHWA Focus Magazine: May 2011

The Federal Highway Administration has released the latest version of its Focus magazine, which highlights efforts designed to accelerate infrastructure innovations in order to build better, safer roads.

[\[More\]](#)

University of Minnesota's CTS Research E-Newsletter: May 2011

The latest issue of the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) Research E-Newsletter is now available. The newsletter is designed to highlight the center's latest research project milestones, published reports, and seminar coverage.

[\[More\]](#)

Farewell and God Speed to NACE!

As I reflect on my 17 years as your Executive Director the most vivid memory will be you.... the members of NACE. You, the members, have made the association strong; you, the members, allowed us to thrive; you, the members, made us who we are. Whether you are a County Engineer, Public Works Director, Highway Superintendent, Road Supervisor, Parish Engineer, Highway or Road Commissioner, or the many other titles that describe the position your energy, enthusiasm and dedication to public service will remain with me forever. Thank you for your service and thank you for making my job the best job anyone could hope to imagine.

I have been blessed in my professional life of 45 years to have many jobs that I loved. 17 years as your Executive Director has been a joy and it has been my honor to know and serve you. Each of the 18 Presidents who have led the organization during my assignment has been truly remarkable and always stepped up to the plate when needed.

The NACE staff has been stellar particularly our long time Assistant ED Bonnie West who has been at NACE 14 years. Finally the strength of our families has sustained us and has been vital to our success and mental health. I thank the NACE wives or husbands for their love and support of their County Engineer.

The new Executive Director, Brian Roberts, comes to NACE with excellent credentials. I am confident he will do an outstanding job. As you have done for me, please give him your support as he gets up to speed on the many association duties and responsibilities.

I especially thank my wife Alice, who has been at my side for 37 years and during my many jobs in the United States Navy, private sector, public sector and the years at NACE. She is my rock and has been my reality check.

As I bid farewell I wish NACE and its members God Speed!

Warm regards, Tony Giancola

PS. While I am “graduating” from NACE I do plan on being active as a consultant on transportation, highway safety, technology transfer and local government operations and procurement. New Contact Information: Anthony R. Giancola, P. E., Transportation and Local Government Consultant; Email: tonygiancola@rcn.com; Phone: (202) 297-0751