

The Voice

OCTOBER 2006

Voice

ACEC
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COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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Context Sensitive Solutions: A Balanced Approach to Transportation Projects

by *Gerald Stump, P.E.*

By now, most people have heard the term Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), but do they really understand what it means and its



Gerald Stump

impact on our industry and the traveling public? While CSS has been around for nearly 10 years now, it only recently has started to become standard procedure for transportation facility improvements. While originally forwarded and

embraced by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), CSS is now being integrated into standard practice at many state DOTs and other transportation organizations.

CSS when utilized during the planning process can save money and reduce project delays, result in significant benefits to the community and the transportation agency, build goodwill between the public and the transportation agency, and lead to consensus of support for projects that otherwise might be controversial.

With all of these significant benefits from the CSS process, what is CSS? CSS is a new and different way to approach planning and design of transportation projects. It is built around a process of balancing the competing needs of many stakeholders beginning with the earliest stages of project development. It

also incorporates flexibility in the application of design standards and guidelines to develop a facility that meets the purpose and need of the project while doing so in a safe manner for all users regardless of their travel mode.

Some of the principles of the CSS process include:

- Balance safety, mobility, community and environmental goals in all projects
- Involve the public and stakeholders early and continuously throughout the planning and project development process
- Develop projects that meet purpose and need and are in harmony with the community, preserve environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, and natural resource values in the area
- Use an interdisciplinary team selected specifically for the project being developed
- Address all modes of travel
- Apply flexibility that is incorporated in design standards
- Incorporate aesthetics as an integral part of good design
- The project is planned, designed, and built with minimal disruption to the community
- The project adds lasting value to the community

(continued on page 2)

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On Our Way to Achieving Goals

by Bill Johnson, P.E.
President, ACEC of Tennessee

By the time you read this, it will be autumn and all of our ACEC committees are activated and fully engaged. The schedule has been set for all of the activities surrounding the scholarship program, which I think is a great way to help young future engineers. Chris Provost, P.E. (CDM, Nashville), is chairing the committee and October 31 is the deadline for applications. The application and eligibility information are at www.acectn.org

Mike Pohlman, P.E. (Pickering, Memphis), has great ideas for our public relations committee, and I am excited about what he is doing. I hope to report on his progress at our next meeting.

It's time for you to start deciding which project you will submit for the Engineering Excellence Awards for this year. This is an opportunity to showcase a project that your company has designed. Joe Chester, P.E. (URS, Franklin) and David Harrell, P.E. (Vaughn & Melton, Knoxville), are hard at work to make the 2007 program even better than the one in 2006. You do not want to be left out! The entry deadline is November 3.

In conjunction with the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers, ACEC has been given the

opportunity to work on a project with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Jeff Breedlove, P.E. (Aquaterra, Chattanooga), will serve on a work group to discuss potential problems in older Class I landfills.

I will be attending the national ACEC meeting in Charleston and will be reporting on what I learn in the next newsletter. There are to be some interesting subjects covered at the meeting.

I think this year has started with a boom for ACEC of Tennessee and feel that we will accomplish many of our goals.



Conferring in Charleston -- Dick Corrigan (ACEC, Vice Chairman), Bill Johnson (ACEC of TN, President), Steve Hall (ACEC, Director of Government Relations), and Mac MacMurray (ACEC, Chairman-Elect)

Context Sensitive Solutions (continued from page 1)

The AASHTO publication, "A Guide to Achieving Flexibility in Highway Design," summarizes CSS as "a highway or transportation project that reflects a community consensus regarding purpose and need, with the features of the project developed to produce an overall solution that balances safety, mobility and preservation of scenic, aesthetic, historic and environmental resources."

CSS is a process that would require many issues of this newsletter to adequately explain and define. This article is intended to simply introduce the concept and spark the interest of the many stakehold-

ers in our communities to research this exciting process and begin to look for opportunities to incorporate its principles into our everyday planning, design, and construction activities. When applied correctly, I believe that CSS will lead to a much higher quality of life for us all, enhanced by an improved and pleasing transportation system.

Stump is Senior Associate at Wilbur Smith Associates, Franklin. He is a Vice Chairman of national ACEC and is Chairman of the national ACEC Transportation Committee.



Tennessee Does Charleston -- Tennessee was well represented in Charleston, South Carolina, at the ACEC Fall Conference. Gathering for a quick photo before heading off to the next event are (left to right) David Davidson, Russell Moorehead, Mary Ann Dunn, Delores Davidson, Lamar Dunn, Candy Toler, Kathy Cowan, Steve Bostic, Everett Cowan, Robin Stump, Jerry Stump, and Bob Day. Not pictured are Bill and Becky Johnson and Mark and Becky Askew.

Time to Submit Entries for 2007 Engineering Excellence Awards

10 Entry Categories Announced

The American Council of Engineering Companies' (ACEC) annual Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition recognizes engineering firms for projects that demonstrate a high degree of achievement, value, and ingenuity. For 17 consecutive years, engineering firms have entered their most innovative projects and studies into state competition conducted by ACEC of Tennessee. Qualifying firms at the state level are then eligible to participate in the national ACEC competition.



Joe Chester

"November 3, 2006 is the deadline to submit entries. This year EEA entries will be accepted in ten project categories," said Joe Chester, P.E., Chair of the awards program and Senior Department Head for Infrastructure Services at engineering firm URS. "Entry information has been sent to every engineering firm in Tennessee. Information is also available at www.acectn.org."

David Harrell, P.E., EEA awards program Co-Chair and Vice President at engineering firm Vaughn and Melton, announced that the ten (10) entry categories for the 2007 competition are: A) Studies, Research and Consulting; B) Building/Technology Systems; C) Structural Systems; D) Survey & Mapping Technology; E) Environmental; F) Water and Wastewater; G) Water Resources; H) Transportation; I) Special Projects; and J) Small Projects. During a gala banquet on the evening of March 6, 2007 at the Hilton Nashville Downtown, an Honor Award will be presented in each entry category and an overall "Best of Competition" Grand Award will be announced.



David Harrell

"We are in the process of assembling the distinguished panel of judges that will convene to critique the projects," said Harrell. "Judges typically have backgrounds in engineering, architecture, state and federal government, media, academia, or the military. Their names will be announced once the panel of five to seven members is complete."

Chester said, "The 2007 Engineering Excellence Awards provide firms an opportunity to obtain statewide and regional recognition and to showcase their talent and expertise in a dramatic setting before an audience of clients, peers, and decision-makers at all levels."

Working with participating firms, ACEC staff will contact local media to announce winners and their awards. Display panels will be available after the competition for exhibition in city halls, universities, shopping centers, office buildings and the like. These activities enhance business development benefits for award winners. Further benefits are gained through feature stories presented in firm brochures, newsletters, and other publications.

Chester added, "The annual ACEC of Tennessee EEA Gala celebrates, with pride and elegance, the outstanding achievements of the engineering profession."

Engineering Excellence Awards 2006 Winners

2006 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence
Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., Nashville

Honor Award for Building Technology Systems
I. C. Thomasson Associates, Inc., Nashville

Honor Award for Environmental Engineering
EnSafe Inc., Memphis

Honor Award for Structural Systems
Askew, Hargraves, Harcourt & Associates, Inc., Memphis

Honor Award for Studies, Research & Consulting Engineering Services
Bowlby & Associates, Inc., Franklin

Honor Award for Surveying & Mapping Technology
Vaughn & Melton, Knoxville

Honor Award for Transportation
PBS&J, Nashville

Honor Award for Water, Wastewater & Water Resources
Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon, Inc., Nashville

Meet Judy Logue



Judy Logue

Judy Logue recently joined the staff of ACEC of Tennessee as Manager of Membership Services. Judy, who recently moved back to Tennessee from Charleston, SC, has many years of experience in human resources. She previously was a Manager with Healthcare Management Resources and has also worked as a Branch Manager for Staffmark in the Metro Nashville area.

CALENDAR

**OCTOBER
27**

ACEC of Tennessee
Board Meeting
9:00 a.m., Tennessee
Engineering Center
Nashville

**OCTOBER
31**

Deadline to submit
Scholarship
Applications
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

**NOVEMBER
3**

Deadline to submit
entries to *Engineering
Excellence Awards*
competition

**NOVEMBER
7**

Election Day

**NOVEMBER
14**

Environment
Committee Meeting
1:30 p.m., Nashville

**DECEMBER
6**

Professional Liability
Seminar, Knoxville
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

**DECEMBER
7**

Professional Liability
Seminar, Nashville
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

**DECEMBER
8**

Professional Liability
Seminar, Memphis
Information:
ctoler@tnec.org

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INSIDE

- Context Sensitive Solutions – page 1
- Time to Enter EEA – page 3
- Meet Judy Logue – page 3

Welcome, New Member

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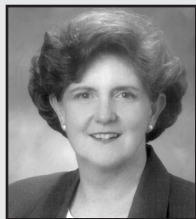
Long Engineering provides land surveys, land planning, site development, and transportation-related services including roadway design, pedestrian corridors and bicycle paths, and traffic operations. Additional Long services include utility and other infrastructure planning and design including water, sanitary sewer, and pump stations; storm water management; hydrologic and hydraulic modeling; flood mitigation; and water quality enhancement.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Engineers Enrich & Improve Lives

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Every time I drive by Nashville's new Schermerhorn Symphony Center, I marvel at it for many reasons: the beauty of the building; the creativity that went into the acoustics; and the excellence of the mechanical and electrical systems, to name a few. I am proud to be associated with a profession that enriches our lives in so many ways while also making it safer, cleaner, and healthier.



Candy Toler

Engineering firms create amazing and unique structures from Mountain City to Memphis. Engineers also focus their creativity and knowledge on solving environmental, water, wastewater and transportation challenges. Although most of their work is behind the scenes, every year ACEC places the

accomplishments of engineering firms in the spotlight through its Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA). I encourage you to review the projects that your firm completed in the last two years, select projects that show off your company's accomplishments and capabilities, and enter the EEA program. Remember, projects do not need to be located within Tennessee's borders; they just need to be managed in this state.

Through the Engineering Excellence Awards program, ACEC of Tennessee honors the accomplishments of engineering firms and their clients as well as the important contributions that engineers make to society and the quality of life. These contributions often will be felt and appreciated throughout many lifetimes.

P.S. After listening to the Nashville Symphony Orchestra perform in its new home, I can only say that reports about the acoustics are not exaggerated! Bravo.