

The Voice

FEBRUARY 2010

Voice

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COMPANIES OF TENNESSEE

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Tennessee Needs Adequate Funds for State's Transportation System

by State Representative Bill Harmon
Chairman, House Transportation Committee

Tennessee's highways have been described as some of the best in the nation; we have been fortunate. The federal stimulus funds we received last year helped tremendously to maintain the roads, but we need to meet the growing need for an improved transportation system. The thing that worries me is that costs continue to go up and revenue seems to have remained flat. How long can we maintain one of the best road systems in the country? We can't predict that.



Rep. Bill Harmon

We are heading into what I consider a crisis. Last year's special Transportation Funding Study Committee looked at several options, including indexing the gas tax to the Consumer Price Index, raising the gas tax, imposing a state wheel tax, and increasing license plate fees. It was the consensus that something is going to have to be done, but the majority of the members of the Study Committee felt that it would be better to put the decision off for a while.

It can't be put off too many more years. We need to find another funding source. It's not just TDOT that is hampered by limited funding; local governments are suffering, too. At some point we are going to have to do something. As our infrastructure deteriorates,

the need will become more urgent. I think our transportation system needs to be paid for by user fees.

More than Roads Needed

Tennessee is one of the few states in the nation that has mass transit in all of its counties. That's right. All 95 Tennessee counties have some form of mass transit. Plans are under way for light rail in Memphis; the Music City Star commuter train runs from Nashville to Lebanon; and electric buses operate in Chattanooga, to name just a few mass transit options.

In an ideal world, we would have truck lanes on the interstate for nothing but trucks. We would have bike paths. We would have light rail systems to run from Murfreesboro to Nashville. We would expand our general aviation program. We would have a magnetic levitation train system (known as *maglev*) from Memphis to Nashville to Knoxville, and Chattanooga to Nashville, with a stop in South Pittsburg to pick me up and bring me to the Capitol.

Consider the economic benefits that our highways have brought to Tennessee. Imagine what having the best transportation system in the country could do for economic development in the Volunteer State!

In my district, which is composed of four counties—Grundy, Marion, Sequatchie and Van Buren—and 15 cities, the local road

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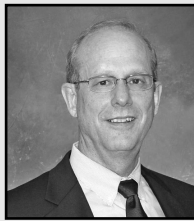
Judy Logue

Manager of Member
Services

Take Pride in Engineering Accomplishments on March 2

by Ed Hargraves
President, ACEC of Tennessee

March 2 is rapidly approaching when once again Tennessee engineers will showcase their talents at the annual *Engineering Excellence Awards* event sponsored by ACEC of Tennessee.



Ed Hargraves

Engineers are somewhat reticent to promote and spotlight their design skills except at this one time of the year. They typically take a behind-the-scenes quiet approach rather than stepping out front and trumpeting their many contributions to the public welfare of the citizens of Tennessee.

More often than not, engineers work in obscurity and, in my opinion, are not ade-

quately appreciated or acknowledged for their many accomplishments. Engineers are at the core of the many projects that improve the quality of life in communities throughout Tennessee. The clean water that you use on a daily basis, the street systems that you drive on throughout the state, and the clean air that you breathe all have the hard work and creativity of the engineer at their source.

I am justifiably proud of the accomplishments of the engineering community and highly recommend that you take the opportunity to review the projects that will be on display at the annual *Engineering Excellence Awards* banquet on March 2 at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. I feel confident that you too will be impressed with the diversity of the projects as well as the creative genius that was required in the development of the design and construction of these varied projects.

Transportation System

(continued from page 1)

commissioners do a great job with the funds available. However, one of the counties in my district still does not have a 4-lane highway to the county seat. Legislation was passed when the gas tax was increased in the late 1980s to mandate that each county seat have a 4-lane highway; the problem is that no timetable was set.

TDOT is doing a great job, but there still about 40 counties without a 4-lane highway to the county seat.

In Tennessee, we still have the finest roads. TDOT does a great job with the funds available. However, we won't continue to have the finest roads if we don't do something soon.

... there are still about 40 counties without a 4-lane highway to the county seat.

Congratulations, New PEs!

The following people, associated with ACEC of Tennessee member firms, have received their professional engineer licensure in Tennessee:

Matthew A. Roach, PE
AECOM, Nashville

Joshua D. Holtgrewe, PE
Allen and Hoshall,
Memphis

Benjamin Byars, PE
AMEC Earth &
Environmental,
Nashville

Shane L. Hollin, PE
Askew Hargraves
Harcourt & Associates,
Memphis

R. Roberson Witcher, PE
Aquaterra Engineering,
LLC, Chattanooga

Emily R. Fronheiser, PE
(Nashville)
John W. Wehunt, PE
(Chattanooga)
Barge Waggoner Sumner
& Cannon

S. Gregory Sanford, PE
Gresham Smith &
Partners, Nashville

Jacob C. Harville, PE
IC Thomasson Associates,
Inc., Nashville

Brent L. Fulghum, PE
Jordan, Jones & Goulding,
Nashville

Sean H. Coleman, PE
Jeffrey L. Eaglehouse, PE
Kimley-Horn and
Associates, Inc., Nashville

Barbara A. Carlson, PE
Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Jackson

David G. Carter, PE
Jeremy E. Daugherty, PE
Pickering, Memphis

Harold W. Garrett Jr., PE
(Nashville)
J. Ericson Huber, PE
(Nashville)
D. Saunders Ramsey III, PE
(Memphis)
Marvin W. Webb II, PE
(Memphis)
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.

Jon Eric Montgomery
SSR Ellers, Memphis

Winners Will Be Announced on March 2

After months of anticipation, the winners of the prestigious *Engineering Excellence Awards* will be announced on the evening of Tuesday, March 2, during a banquet at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs in Franklin, Tennessee. More than 250 engineers, public officials, business leaders and guests are expected to attend the event. This year, 29 projects, submitted by 24 engineering firms, are competing for honors.

An independent panel of eight judges convened in February to review the project entries and select the winners. An overall *Grand Iris Award* will be presented in addition to a *Grand Award* in each entry category. Winning projects receive statewide media attention.

Invitations to the EEA banquet were mailed in mid-January. Tickets must be purchased by February 26. For additional information, contact Judy Logue at jlogue@tnec.org. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of the Tennessee engineering community's event of the year.



A Special Thank You

Thank you to the companies sponsoring the 2010 Engineering Excellence Awards program. Sponsors—as of January 20—are:

Titanium Sponsor — PBS&J, Inc.

Platinum Sponsor — Crow Friedman Group

Silver Sponsors — AECOM; CROM Corporation; Gresham Smith & Partners; Hagerman; Lellyett & Rogers; Neel-Schaffer, Inc.; Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.; Tennessee Road Builders Association

Bronze Sponsors — Aerial Innovations; Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates; Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon; ETEC; Greenleaf 3D; Hall Blake; Hanson Pipe and Precast; KS Ware & Associates, LLC; RPM Transportation Consultants

For information about sponsorship opportunities at the EEA gala event on March 2, contact Judy Logue at jlogue@tnec.org or call 615-242-2486.

2010 EEA Entrants listed by project location

Chattanooga

Tetra Tech, Inc., *Innovative Soil Treatment of Organic Explosives at the Former Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant* for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Knoxville/East Tennessee

Camp, Dresser & McKee, Inc., *Kingsport WWTP Upgrades Construction Management at Risk Implementation* for City of Kingsport

Ross Bryan Associates, Inc., *Thompson-Boling Arena Improvements* in Knoxville for Studio Four Design

S&ME, Inc., *General Shale Spring City Operations* for General Shale Brick, Inc.

Wilbur Smith Associates, *SmartFIX40* in Knoxville for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Nashville/Middle Tennessee

Gresham, Smith and Partners, *Got Water? Water Utilities Planning Evaluation* for Giles County

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc., *Pulaski Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation & 24 MG In Flow Holding Basin* for City of Pulaski

J. R. Wauford & Company, Consulting Engineers, Inc., *Livingston's New Water Source—Cumberland River* for Town of Livingston

K. S. Ware & Associates, LLC, *Omohundro Water Treatment Plant Hazardous Materials Abatement* for Metro Nashville Water Services

Neel-Schaffer, Inc., *Coordinated Signal Timing and Corridor Operations Study* for City of Murfreesboro

PBS&J, Inc., *Pulling the Pieces Together—Nashville International Airport RW 13-31 East & TW Tie-Ins* for Metropolitan Nashville Airport Authority

RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC, *Greater Nashville Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Study* for Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Smith Seckman Reid, Inc., *Stones River Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Upgrade* for Murfreesboro Water and Sewer Department

Stantec Consulting Services Inc., *Willow Branch Stream Enhancement* in McMinnville for Tennessee Department of Transportation

TranSystems Corporation, *Music City Central* for Nashville Metropolitan Transit Authority

Wilbur Smith Associates, S.R. 840 *Socio-Economic Justification Study* in Williamson County for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Memphis/West Tennessee

Askew Hargraves Harcourt & Associates, Inc., *Ripley Courthouse Square* for City of Ripley-Ripley Downtown Development Corporation

Burns Cooley Dennis, Inc., *Rivertown on the Island* in Memphis for Rivertown, LLC;

Burr & Cole Consulting Engineers, Inc., *University of Memphis School of Law* for Tennessee Board of Regents

EnSafe Inc., *Greening a Brounfield: Rails-to-Trails Assessment* for Shelby County Government

EnSafe Inc., *Optimizing I-69 Route Selection Via Geophysics* in Memphis and Millington for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Fisher & Arnold, Inc., *FedEx Winchester Ramp* in Memphis for FedEx Corporation

Gresham, Smith and Partners, *TDOT Smartway Memphis* for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Pickering Firm, Inc., *Riviana Foods' New Memphis Facility* for Riviana Foods, Inc.

Statewide

Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., *Interstate 40/Interstate 81 Corridor Feasibility Study* for Tennessee Department of Transportation

Out-of-State

AECOM, *Sheffield Yard Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade* in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, for Norfolk Southern Corporation

AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., *Former Hahn Oil Facility Phytoremediation* in Evansville, Indiana, for CSX Transportation, Inc.

Barge, Waggoner, Sumner & Cannon, *Rehabilitate Building Systems for Building 4207 at Marshall Space Flight Center* in Alabama for National Aeronautics and Space Agency

K. S. Ware & Associates, LLC, *Wolf Creek Dam Exploratory Drilling and Pressure Testing* in Jamestown, Kentucky, for U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District

CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY
14 - 20**

Engineers' Week

**MARCH
1**

Legislative Reception
Sheraton Nashville
Downtown
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

**MARCH
2**

Engineers' Day
on the Hill
State Capitol,
Nashville
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Engineering Excellence
Awards Banquet
Franklin Marriott
Cool Springs
6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**MARCH
3**

ACEC Board Meeting
Franklin Marriott
Cool Springs
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**APRIL
25 - 28**

ACEC Annual
National Convention
The Grand Hyatt
Washington, D.C.

The ACEC Convention and Legislative Summit is another opportunity for engineers to promote their profession with Tennessee's Senators and Representatives. More information is available at www.acec.org

Tennessee Engineering Center
800 Fort Negley Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

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MEMBER NEWS

Littlejohn Engineering Associates, Nashville, has acquired three divisions of ER Alley and Associates. Littlejohn acquired the environmental, engineering, and health and safety divisions of Alley. Tom Davis, PE, senior project manager, oversees operations of the new divisions. The transaction gives Littlejohn a presence in three new markets.

Jon Hanson has joined the Nashville office of Smith Seckman Reid, Inc. as a senior client manager. He was previously a facility administrator/CEO for DaVita Inc. in Lone Tree, Colorado.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Engineers in the Spotlight in March

by Candy Toler
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

The General Assembly reconvened in January and moved into special session to address education reform. In early February, the Governor presented his budget; we did not expect it to be pretty and it isn't! With tax collections below expectations, the Governor had to make a lot of cuts in state programs and tap the reserves.



Candy Toler

Both events, which drew record crowds last year, offer you the opportunity to “build bridges” with our state’s decision makers, promote the value that engineers bring to every community across Tennessee, and address issues that impact public safety and the engineering profession.

The Nashville Chapter will host the Legislative Reception on March 1 at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown. The event begins with a discussion of the issues at 5:15 p.m. Engineers’ Day on the Hill

on March 2 begins at 9:00 a.m. in the Old Supreme Court Chamber (1st floor of the State Capitol) with an issues briefing and ends after lunch. During Engineers’ Day, we will have a wide variety of issues to address. A few of these issues are the prevention of damage to underground utilities, the timing of traffic signals at intersections with automated enforcement cameras, energy efficiency in state buildings, and defining the practice of interior design.

Sign Up Now

Use the registration form on www.acectn.org, (*What’s New* tab) or send an email to ctoler@tnc.org telling me that you plan to participate in Engineers’ Day. I suggest that you to make appointments with your legislators in advance, to increase the odds that you will get to meet with them. I also hope you will attend the *Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet* on March 2 when ACEC turns the spotlight on engineering accomplishments.

Join your colleagues from across the state on March 1 and 2 to meet state legislators; also attend the EEA banquet. These are important events for the engineering profession in Tennessee. Please make your reservations today!