



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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Transportation Programs Funded Through March 4, 2011; Surface Transportation Program Extended (NACo Legislative Bulletin)

Congress completed action on a Continuing Resolution (CR) on December 21 that provides funding for federal highway, transit, aviation, safety and other transportation programs through March 4, 2011. All transportation programs will be funded at the FY2010 levels and pro-rated to about 42.5 percent, reflecting the period October 1, 2010- March 4, 2011, the period of the fiscal year covered by the CR. The good news is that no transportation programs were cut; the bad news is that if a separate transportation appropriations bill had passed, it is likely that there would have been increased funds available, particularly for the highway program. Also included in the CR is another extension of the surface transportation program, known as SAFETEA-LU, through March 4, 2011. This includes highways, transit and safety programs, which were set to expire on December 31, 2010. It is very unlikely that the new Congress will make much progress on the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU by March 4, so additional extension (s) will be necessary in early 2011. Since it will be a new Congress with Republican control of the House, the legislative process will begin anew for the reauthorization.

Contact: [Bob Fogel](mailto:Bob.Fogel@naco.org) • 202/942-4217

Interested in Safety Focused Workshops? Consider Attending the ATSSA annual conference from February 13 – 17, 2011 in Phoenix AZ

NACE is a sponsor for the Roadway Infrastructure and Safety summit scheduled at the ATSSA annual show on February 16 – 17, 2011 with a host of important workshop presentations including; Federal Aid Streamlining in Safety: Best Practices in Federal Aid and Improving Project Delivery; Pavement Marking Retroreflectivity; Safety Countermeasures: Lessons Learned; A Traffic and Safety Professional's Peer to Peer Exchange (Rumblestrips/Rumblestripes - Construction and Durability, Bicycle Accommodation, Guardrail Installation and Certification, Flashing Yellow Arrow (FYA); Use of Pavement Marking Symbols at Freeway Interchanges; FHWA Guidance on Roadside Safety Hardware Road Safety Audits: From Federal, State and Local Levels; Solving the Rural Road Safety Challenge; Toward Zero Deaths: A National Effort; Improving Safety During Mobile or Short Duration Work Operations; Low Cost Safety Improvements Evaluation of Effectiveness; and the Olmsted County (MN) Highway Safety Plan.

The NACE Roadway Safety Committee will also formally meet during the show.
For more information visit <http://expo.atssa.com/>

Upcoming Stormwater Rule

(NACo Legislative Bulletin)

In September 2011, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to release a new stormwater rule that will potentially impact all Phase I/Phase II/ transportation/ and non-regulated Municipal Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). The rule may develop performance standards for discharges from new, existing, and redeveloped areas by requiring green infrastructure usage in stormwater management by using infiltration, evapotranspiration, and harvesting/use. This will include such approaches as bioretention, permeable pavements, parking and street designs, and green roofs.

The EPA is considering whether to expand the current MS4 boundary into non-regulated areas; to establish different requirements for transportation facilities; to set retrofit requirements on MS4s; and to add additional provisions specific to the Chesapeake Bay.

Some of the options for expanding the current MS4 boundaries include: extending coverage to jurisdictional boundaries of the MS4 rather than using the urbanized boundary; extend coverage to urbanized clusters/Metropolitan Statistical Areas/Metropolitan Planning Areas; regulate based on population or impervious cover threshold/ watershed boundaries; regulate all MS4s but allow states to exempt areas and/or require states to designate additional MS4s.

The EPA may also require MS4s to develop and implement a stormwater retrofit plan to include: a list of all “sensitive” waters; identify specifically where stormwater plays a large part in degradation and impairment of water quality; set goals and milestones to reduce stormwater pollution; pinpoint priority projects that meet long-term goals such as redevelopment retrofits or routine repair and maintenance; and create inducements for retrofits on private property.

The EPA asked for written input on the proposal prior to January 22, 2011. The EPA wants to know what proposals are (or are not) valid and workable for local government. Please send comments to: Ms. Connie Bosma, USEPA Headquarters, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mail Code 4203M, Washington, DC 20460.

For further detailed information on the proposal, [contact Julie Ufner, 202-942-4269](mailto:jufner@epa.gov).

APPLICATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2011 NATIONAL ROADWAY SAFETY AWARDS

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 **May 1, 2011**. To learn more or to download an application, please visit www.roadwaysafety.org

INFORMATION: FHWA Request for Comments on MUTCD Compliance Dates

FHWA has published a notice in the Federal Register, requesting comments on compliance dates for highway agencies to upgrade their existing non-compliant traffic control devices in the field to comply with requirements established in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). This Federal Register notice is not a rulemaking action. It merely solicits comments on the issues, to help FHWA in analyzing the issues and in considering what actions, if any, might be advisable in the future.

The Federal Register notice presents a general discussion of issues related to MUTCD compliance dates, discusses seven of the existing established compliance dates, and solicits comments and input on those issues and dates. The notice also includes a series of specific questions for which the FHWA requests input on each.

The safety benefits of uniform traffic control devices are well known. However, we have been made aware of concerns by some State DOTs and local highway agencies about the potential impacts of MUTCD compliance dates in the current economic downturn, which has significantly reduced the resources available to public agencies. Therefore we have decided to seek input from all stakeholders on this issue. The public has 45 days starting November 30, 2010 to submit comments to the Federal Register. To review the Federal Register notice and to post comments, please go to www.regulations.gov and enter FHWA-2010-0159 as the docket number.

NACE Member Volunteer Needed for NCUTCD!

NACE is a sponsor for the National Committee Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD). We have 3 primary and 3 alternate representatives. Lee Billingsley, former Broward County (FL) Engineer, is the chair of the overall NCUTCD and Jeff Blue, Champaign County (IL) heads our delegation. All NACE representations are involved and participate in one of the several subcommittees. **We have a vacancy for an alternate representative.**

Background: The NCUTCD meets twice a year. NACE does provide a \$500 stipend for travel per delegate each year. The purpose of the NCUTCD is:

“The National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (NCUTCD) or the "National Committee" is an organization whose purpose is to assist in the development of standards, guides and warrants for traffic control devices and practices used to regulate, warn and guide traffic on streets and highways. The NCUTCD recommends to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to other appropriate agencies proposed revisions and interpretations to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and other accepted national standards. NCUTCD develops public and professional awareness of the principles of safe traffic control devices and practices and provides a forum for qualified individuals with diverse backgrounds and viewpoints to exchange professional information.” Further information on the NCUTCD is available on their website www.ncutcd.org

Please share the above information with your members and let me know if there are any interested volunteers who want to serve. They should be a NACE member and we prefer someone with extensive traffic engineering experience who will have the time to make two meetings each year, one of which is in

Washington DC in early January. If you have a candidate please have that person send me an email, nace@naco.org expressing their interest and including a short bio outlining their specific experience and current position. Thanks.

Highway Safety Manual Message Board Established

AASHTO has created a message board on the Highway Safety Manual website (www.highwaysafetymanual.org) to allow users to interact with each other – post questions, share information, etc. This message is initially being sent to members of various AASHTO, TRB, and other Highway Safety Manual-related groups, but please forward it to anyone who might be interested in participating. To join the discussion forum, visit <http://www.highwaysafetymanual.org/Pages/UserDiscussionForum.aspx> for additional details and a link to the forum. This forum is intended for sharing information and experiences. Several categories have been established to organize discussions – please post your question or comments in the most appropriate categories. This will help users looking for information find discussions more easily. The forum is not to be used for advertising commercial products or services.

National Concrete Pavement Technology Center

The need has never been greater for engineered strategies to preserve and maintain the nation's pavements. With shrinking budgets, ever-increasing traffic volumes and loads, and the critical focus on infrastructure sustainability, highway agencies are being asked to do more with less in managing their pavement networks.

Agencies need proactive, sustainable pavement maintenance and rehabilitation strategies that last longer at reasonable cost. In many situations, concrete overlays represent such strategies. They offer cost-effective, versatile, short- and long-term solutions for the full range of concrete, asphalt, and composite pavement needs. In addition, they contribute to more sustainable construction practices by preserving pavement service for several decades beyond the original design life.

The National Concrete Pavement Technology Center *Guide to Concrete Overlays* provides the key elements of the six major types of concrete overlays along with specifics on materials, typical sections, and important construction elements. [Click here for a free downloadable PDF.](#)

The CPTech Center also developed the [Guide for Roller-Compacted Concrete Pavements](#). This publication provides owner-agencies, contractors, material suppliers, and others with a thorough introduction to RCC and its many applications. Based on current research and best practices, the guide provides detailed overviews of RCC properties and materials, mixture proportioning, structural design, and production and construction considerations, plus troubleshooting guidelines and an extensive reference list for more comprehensive information.

The *CP Road Map E-News* is the newsletter of the [Long-Term Plan for Concrete Pavement Research and Technology](#), a national research plan developed and jointly implemented by the concrete pavement stakeholder community. [Read the latest issue.](#)

Nominations Are Being Accepted for the 2011 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2011 FHWA Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards. This biennial awards program recognizes innovation and excellence with improving the practice of relocating or accommodating utilities on surface transportation projects. This year's awards will showcase innovative utility relocation and accommodation practices and outstanding utility programs, initiatives, technologies, and projects. Awards will be presented in five categories to showcase outstanding accomplishments with how the accommodation and relocation of utilities have been integrated into public agency highway improvement programs, project development processes, and the planning and development of highway improvement projects.

Nominations are only being accepted through January 31, 2011. Nomination forms are available electronically at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/utilities>. These forms must be submitted electronically to FHWA.utilityaward@dot.gov. Anyone may nominate an individual, team, process, initiative, or project that used Federal-aid highway funding or is on the National Highway System, where the project was completed between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2010.

Award winners will be recognized during the meeting of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation (AASHTO) Design, Right-of-Way and Utility Subcommittee's which will be held May 9-13, 2011, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Additional information on the FHWA Excellence in Utility Relocation and Accommodation Awards program, including award categories and previous winners is available at www.fhwa.dot.gov/utilities.

States Use Technology and Efficiency to Cut the Cost of Battling Winter

(AASHTO News)

Major snowfall and freezing temperatures continue to impact a large portion of North America this week, although winter didn't officially begin until December 21. The National Weather Service says a La Niña is at least partially responsible and the agency predicts this weather pattern could cause a second consecutive year of record snowfalls in many parts of the United States.

The challenge for most state transportation departments will be to maintain a high level of service this winter season without the benefit of additional financial resources. Many states have already turned to new technology and environmentally sensitive solutions to cut costs and improve efficiency.

- The [Utah Department of Transportation](#) (UDOT) recently installed 17 HomeView Technologies® road condition monitoring cameras at remote locations throughout the state. The solar-powered system uses state-of-the-art, low-cost web cameras, high speed wireless communication, and infrared sensors to broadcast video from distant mountains passes or other problem areas. Now instead of sending a snow plow to investigate a location, supervisors can take a quick look and decide whether an area needs to be plowed. "So far this winter we have a net cost savings of about \$200,000 using this system," said Lynn Bernhard, UDOT Operations Program Manager.
- The [Colorado Department of Transportation](#) (CDOT) has deployed 222 snowplows statewide, equipped with a Maintenance Decision Support System (MDSS), which combines advanced weather and road condition prediction and rules of practice to help operators determine the proper application of anti-icing and de-icing chemicals on a route-by-route basis. CDOT is also using automatic de-icing systems to spray liquid de-icers once on-site sensors detect a decrease in surface temperatures and an increase in moisture.
- This season, more than a dozen state DOTs will be using the highly efficient 26-foot-wide [Tow Plow](#) that is pulled behind a conventional plow truck, allowing two interstate travel lanes to be cleared and treated in a single pass. The original design for the Tow Plow was the brainchild of a Missouri DOT (MoDOT) employee who applied his knowledge of farm equipment to

snowplows. MoDOT worked with a snowplow contractor to design and build the version in use today.

- This winter, the [Tennessee Department of Transportation](#) (TDOT) will use a substance called "Magic Salt" to help melt ice and snow during lower temperatures. Magic Salt, made from potato juice, is a biodegradable, non-corrosive and environmentally friendly substance. TDOT and several other states, including Maryland DOT, will also use beet juice to improve snow and ice removal from roadways when temperatures fall. TDOT is also adding ten new 14-foot snow plows across the state. The plows are more than four feet wider than traditional plows and have the ability to clear an entire travel lane in one pass. Some TDOT trucks will be fitted with new, underbody plows that are being tested for the capability to remove hard-packed ice from the roadway.
- This season, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and other state agencies that respond to emergencies will use WeatherShare, a new web-based tool that sends alerts, warnings, and advisories (depending on the level of danger) for fog, ice, winds, fire, and more. The system sends weather data to Caltrans' transportation management center operators, maintenance staff, and other agencies, such as Emergency Medical Services and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Users can easily gather more information about a specific location or a statewide region through WeatherShare's easy-to-use online maps. The public can view WeatherShare at <http://www.weathershare.org>.

"Innovation is critical," said John Horsley, executive director of the [American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials](#). "And so is efficiency. Part of AASHTO's mission is to help install new technologies as they become market-ready. We accomplish this objective through an AASHTO committee called [Technology Implementation Group \(TIG\)](#), which helped to deploy the Maintenance support system (MDSS) and the Tow Plow. States suffered a major financial blow last year due to record-setting storms and blizzards, and all indications are state budgets will remain tight throughout 2011."

Did you miss the Winter Maintenance Overview of Available Training CD's? View and listen to this important presentation!

“Winter Operations Computer-Based Training Package: An Overview for Local Agencies”
View the taped session: <http://fhwa.adobeconnect.com/p42392495/>

This online broadcast provided an overview of the AASHTO winter operations training package now available to your agency through LTAP/TTAP Centers. This package consists of eight modules (43 hours of training) covering all aspects of winter operations. This broadcast is free of charge but you must register prior to the broadcast. Participation is limited, so reserve your connection now.

Details on the training CDS:

Anti-icing / RWIS (24 hours)

Selecting Snow & Ice Control Materials to Mitigate Environmental Impacts (2 hours)

Equipment Maintenance (2 hours)

Proper Plow Techniques (2 hours)

Deicing (4 hours)

Blowing Snow Mitigation (3 hours)

Winter Maintenance Management (2 hours)

Performance Measures for Snow and Ice Control Operations (4 hours)

New Roundabout publication from NCHRP

View this Second Edition on Roundabouts.

http://www.trb.org/Publications/Blurbs/Roundabouts_An_Informational_Guide_Second_Edition_164470.aspx

System Trials to Demonstrate Mileage-Based Road Use Charges

TRB's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 161: System Trials to Demonstrate Mileage-Based Road Use Charges explores factors to be considered in designing and implementing large-scale trials of mechanisms for collecting road-user charges based on vehicle-miles of travel. [\[More\]](#)

FHWA Focus Magazine: December 2010

Articles in the September 2010 issue of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Focus magazine explore transportation asset management, bridge inspection training, the FHWA's newly updated Value Engineering Workshop, and more. [\[More\]](#)

Best Practices for Rural Traffic Safety

[SafeRoadMaps: Enhancements and New Applications of the Crash-Mapping Tool](#)

A webinar sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Rural Safety in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration

Thursday, January 20

3 p.m. – 4 p.m., Eastern
(2 p.m. Central, 1 p.m. Mountain,
noon Pacific)

About the Event

CERS researchers will discuss [SafeRoadMaps](#), an interactive crash-mapping tool they launched in July 2008 to map every roadway fatality in the nation since 2001 to the local level. Visitors can view a map or satellite image of crash locations as well as examine crash details and notes on public policies employed in a given area. To date, the site has logged nearly 10 million hits.

CERS researchers recently enhanced SafeRoadMaps by identifying the top 100 summer rural "hot spots," or the rural areas that have experienced the most fatalities over the past eight years during the summer months. This new version also includes user-friendly interfaces for travelers, policymakers, and crash analysts. In addition, SafeRoadMaps now contains Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) data from all years that contain geo-referencing information, currently 2001 to 2008.

SafeRoadMaps has attracted international media attention and is being used in a variety of ways to educate the public about road fatalities. In addition, road safety officials are using the tool to better pinpoint where policy, structural, and traffic management adjustments are most needed.

Event Web page

Webcast

This webinar will be broadcast live on the Web and available for later viewing. Registration is requested. For more information, visit the [event Web page](#)

NACE Wishes Everyone a Safe and Happy New Year