



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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**HIGHWAY FATALITIES AT THE LOWEST LEVEL EVER, BUT MORE WORK IS NEEDED**

The U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced last week that we have had the lowest traffic fatalities in six decades with total fatalities in 2009 at 33,808, down 9.7 % from 2008. His press release is linked as follows <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/dot16510.html>

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Traffic Safety Facts Research Note provides more details at the following link <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811363.pdf>

With traffic crashes still the leading cause of death for Americans between 3 and 34 years old, however, Greg Cohen, Executive Director of the Roadway Safety Foundation, says now is not the time to get comfortable. "This fatality count remains unacceptable," Cohen said. "The Roadway Safety Foundation is pleased that the downward trend in highway fatalities continued in 2009, but now is the time to do more – not less – to build on that momentum." Because roughly one-third of traffic fatalities are related to the roadway environment itself, Cohen stressed the importance of implementing lifesaving engineering countermeasures – such as rumble strips, roundabouts, and median barriers – on roads across the country. "This issue needs to be tackled from a variety of angles," he said. "We need safe drivers and safe vehicles to be traveling on forgiving roadways. We know shoulder rumble strips, for example, can reduce run-off-the-road crashes by up to 80 percent. Their popularity is growing across the country, and we need to keep that up."

A number of factors have been cited as contributing to the dramatic reduction in fatalities every year since 2006, not least being the downturn in VMT likely caused by the economic crisis. But a report prepared for the American Traffic Safety Services Association that was released in June (*Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Obligations and Fatalities on U.S. Highways: Final Report*) examined a variety of these factors, and found that a significant benefit came from funding increases for roadway safety engineering projects under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), established under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

**Reminder Upcoming Webinar: Making Rural Roads Safe: Retroreflectivity in Signs and Road Markings - Thursday, Sept. 30, 2 - 3:15 p.m. EDT**

Continuing NACo's Rural Road Safety Webinar Series, this webinar not only will review the current sign retroreflectivity standards (including resources) but also will focus on the new standards related to pavement marking retroreflectivity. Additionally, it will provide some best practices to consider when implementing the standards. To register, click [here](#).

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## **Obama Proposes \$50B Upfront Investment in Long-Term Surface Transportation Bill**

(AASHTO News)

President Barack Obama laid out a plan during a Labor Day address in Milwaukee to jumpstart job creation with a \$50 billion investment in highway, bridge, transit, high-speed rail, and aviation infrastructure that would be added to the first year of a six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill.

"Over the next six years, we are going to rebuild 150,000 miles of our roads -- that's enough to circle the world six times. That's a lot of road," Obama said in a 39-minute speech to a union audience during Laborfest at Henry Maier Festival Park. "We're going to lay and maintain 4,000 miles of our railways -- enough to stretch coast to coast. We're going to restore 150 miles of runways. And we're going to advance a next-generation air-traffic-control system to reduce travel time and delays for American travelers."

While the president did not cite a specific dollar figure for transportation investment in his remarks, the White House issued a paper containing \$50 billion as the targeted upfront investment level. That amount presumably would be in addition to already planned spending for federal Fiscal Year 2011, which begins Oct. 1. The House of Representatives approved a transportation spending bill July 29 that contains about \$45 billion for the Federal Highway Administration, \$11 billion for the Federal Transit Administration, and \$3 billion for high-speed and intercity passenger rail grants to Amtrak and states. The Senate has yet to act on the measure.

During Monday's speech, Obama praised states for their outstanding work putting recovery act infrastructure dollars to work. Obama noted, however, that nearly one in five construction workers is unemployed. The nation's overall unemployment rate has been stuck above 9% for 16 straight months, and there are currently almost 15 million Americans unsuccessfully searching for a job.

### *President Outlines Priorities for Reauthorization Bill*

For the first time, the president spoke about areas he wants to see emphasized in the next six-year surface transportation reauthorization bill: creating a national infrastructure bank, continuing to support states' development of high-speed rail, consolidating programs, and promoting competition and innovation in federal transportation grants. The White House fact sheet also notes a priority of expanding investments in safety, environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness, and livability including "options that reduce oil consumption, lower greenhouse-gas emissions, and expand access to job opportunities and housing that's affordable."

The timing for Obama's plan is not clear. The last authorization law expired Sept. 30, 2009, and has been temporarily extended by Congress five times. The latest extension expires Dec. 31. The administration has maintained a position since June 2009 that it favors postponing surface transportation reauthorization until Spring 2011. Obama did not cite a target date for signing a reauthorization bill during Monday's speech nor does the White House fact sheet contain any mention of a timeframe.

The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee announced it will hold a Sept. 21 hearing on Obama's infrastructure bank concept.

Obama said his \$50 billion upfront investment in transportation projects would be fully paid for, but he did not mention increasing the federal tax on gasoline and diesel fuel in his remarks Monday or Wednesday. Administration officials told reporters they propose paying for the transportation spending by asking Congress to close tax breaks for oil and gas companies as well as multinational corporations. The Associated Press reported.

View the details of this new \$50 billion stimulus for infrastructure being proposed by the Obama Administration. <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/09/president-says-full-steam-ahead-on-new-jobs-renewed-infrastructure.html>

### **Connecting Rural and Urban America**

(AASHTO News)

Rising congestion in popular tourist destinations, inadequate roads to serve growing agricultural and energy output, and emerging cities that are not connected to the Interstate system all require immediate attention and investment to ensure that America's rural areas stay connected. Yet too often policy discussions overlook the need to improve connectivity mobility outside metropolitan areas.

According to [\*Connecting Rural and Urban America\*](#), a new report released recently at news conferences held in Little Rock, Ark., and Wichita, Kan., more investment is needed in America's rural transportation system to keep agriculture, new energy products, and freight moving; improve access for the travel, recreation, and tourism industries; connect new and emerging cities; and to ensure reliable access to key defense installations.

"Improving connectivity and mobility for the 60 million Americans who live in rural areas is just as important as improving mobility for those who live in metropolitan areas," said John Horsley, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. "Rural states are essential to the nation's success, not only to meet the needs of their own citizens, but also to maintain their part of the national network on which the U.S. economy depends."

The AASHTO report offers a three-point plan to ensure the connectivity of rural and urban America. In any reauthorization of federal transportation legislation:

- 1) Continue to fund rural portions of the Interstate Highway System and other Federal-aid highways that connect America;
- 2) Double federal investment in rural transit systems to meet rising demand; and
- 3) Expand the existing capacity of the Interstate system, upgrade rural routes to Interstate standards, and connect newly urbanized areas to the Interstate system.

[Key findings](#) from the report include:

- Sixty-six cities with populations of 50,000 or more - including one state capital - do not have immediate access to the Interstate system.
- During the next 30 years, 80% of the nation's population growth is expected to concentrate in the South and West.
- In 2008, almost one out of eight people aged 65 and older lived in rural areas. This elderly population exceeds 9.6 million people and relies heavily on rural roads and public transit systems for their transportation.
- Many of the nation's most popular tourist destinations - including ski slopes, seashores, and national parks - experience significant traffic delays. Many of these destinations are not close to Interstate or National Highway System routes.

### **Every Day Counts – FHWA Administrator Initiative Status**

Visit the FHWA web site detailing the "Every Day Counts" program.

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/>

## **CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2011 Registration Open**

The advanced registration deadline for CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2011 is quickly approaching. **Registering before February 21, 2011 saves you 40% on your registration fee.** [Register today!](#)

We are proud to support this important event by being an Official Supporting Organization. CONEXPO-CON/AGG is *the* source for what's new in construction in 2011. This is an important event for you, our members, and we don't want you to miss it. The show will take place March 22-26, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada and features:

Thousands of top construction equipment manufacturers and service providers showcasing:

- New Products and Technologies
- Technical Experts
- Environmentally-Friendly Solutions

A comprehensive Education Program with new focuses on:

- Certification Programs
- Site Development Topics
- Asset & Equipment Management Topics
- Sustainability Topics
- Workforce Development Topics

Co-locations with IFPE 2011 and ICON Expo 2011, to create your complete resource for the construction industry:

- IFPE 2011 is the leading international exposition and technical conference dedicated to the integration of fluid power with other technologies for power transmission and motion control applications.
- ICON Expo 2011 is designed to serve the needs and interests of all producers, suppliers, designers, architects, specifiers and others involved in the concrete products industry.

For more information, visit [www.conexpoconagg.com](http://www.conexpoconagg.com) and sign up today!

## **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day October 10**

**"Towards Zero Fatalities" is both a phrase and a goal that federal and state agencies and many organizations are promoting. Let's everyone support it and join in the effort to reduce deaths on our highways**

October 10, 2010 is the tenth anniversary of the Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day program. During the second anniversary of the program, or in 2002, there were over 43,000 fatalities on our highways and streets. This number has been relatively constant until 2007 when a down turn began and continued into 2008. For 2009 the projection is approximately 34,000, an average reduction from 118 to 93 fatalities per day.

The Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day program in the last ten years has promoted reducing all fatalities, very similar to the promotion of the "Great American Smoke Out" efforts to reduce smoking, that an initial fatality free day would be the seed leading---"Towards Zero Fatalities" on our roadways.

We want you to become an advocate of our 2010 theme “Don’t be Driven to Distraction – Drive to Arrive” and join us in making a special commitment to reducing fatalities by becoming involved and changing your driving habits and encouraging others to do the same. **We must change our driving habits as evidenced by statistics that indicate nearly 34,000 traffic fatalities occur every year. That’s about 93 fatalities every single day—one fatality every 15 minutes.**

### **You can participate!**

If you are viewing this web site for the first time or scanning it for new material, this home page includes tabs for you to click on to find a toolkit, the two previous years' local events list, fact sheets, press information, safety tips, partners and various links. Use this information to initiate and create your own 2010 event or program. Get involved!

Obtain a [proclamation](#) that October 10th is Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day in your county or state! In addition, media information, PSA's, posters, brochures, logos and a sample PowerPoint presentation can also be found in the Toolkit.

The Transportation and Development Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (T&DI), who oversees this program, requests existing partners, other private corporations or public organizations who want to become more involved in financial sponsorships to fund events, develop PSA's, web site information or other activities to contact the T&DI call 703-295-6395 or visit the website by clicking below.

### **Put the Brakes on Fatalities**



"Don't Be Driven to Distraction –  
Drive to Arrive"

[Click to learn more](#)

### **National Center for Wood Transportation Structures Announces New Website**

The National Center for Wood Transportation Structures formally announces their new site:

[www.WoodCenter.org](http://www.WoodCenter.org)

The NCWTS website was established through a collaboration between the Forest Products Laboratory and Iowa State University. The site has been designed for ease of use, and the search and browsing features provide access to a wealth of wood transportation knowledge, including Research in Progress and Demonstrations in Progress. Our Events Calendar keeps you updated on a variety of wood transportation events worldwide. Additionally, a Wood Structures Reference Library has been established and is housed at the National Center for Wood Transportation Structures at Iowa State University. This library is comprised of both print and electronic materials and is fully searchable on the woodcenter.org website. This library facilitates the dissemination of wood transportation structures information on an international scale. If you wish to join the NCWTS mailing list, please visit the following link:  
<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1103550699485&id=preview>.

## **Register for SHRP 2 Webinar: SHRP 2 Naturalistic Driving Study--Assessing the Needs of Roadway Information Database Users**

SHRP 2's Safety focus area will conduct a naturalistic driving study (NDS) and develop a complementary roadway information database that will link to the naturalistic driving database. This roadway information database will be developed in Project S04A. An early task of the project is to determine the types of data and analysis that database users will require. SHRP 2 will conduct a web briefing or "webinar" on Thursday, September 30, 2010 from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. EDT that will help the project team make their determination. The webinar will

- Describe how roadway data elements that may be of interest to researchers using the NDS data were identified (presented by S04A team)
- Describe cost and other limitations that will constrain data collection (presented by S04A team)
- Describe the S04A team's thinking on how data may be prioritized for mobile mapping (presented by S04A team)
- Discuss user needs for the roadway data (discussion led by S04A team with input from attendees)
- Ask attendees for input on their preference on top data elements (an interactive vote)
- Discuss attendees' preference

Register now at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/262099153>.

## **Listen to NACE Past President Chris Bauserman Discuss Critical Issues in the New Authorization of the Surface Transportation Program! Visit Our Local Roads Matter website!**

Chris E. Bauserman, NACE Past President & County Engineer, Delaware County OH discusses the important issues associated with the next transportation authorization in this important PODCAST. To view his presentation visit the NACE Local Roads Matter Campaign site <http://countyengineers...org/LRM/index.html> (click on Social Media Center).

## **Paving Greener with Asphalt Conference – Denver, Colorado**

NAPA and FHWA, with the support of several state associations, will present NAPA's first-ever conference on the topic of environmentally sustainable pavements, Nov. 17-18, 2010 in Denver. The **Paving Greener with Asphalt** program is designed for contractors and their partners looking for ways to compete in a greener environment, and to assist plant operators and paving contractors in their environmental and occupational health compliance obligations. Sustainability topics will include asphalt and LEED, the impact of climate change regulations on the asphalt pavement industry, carbon footprints of different pavement technologies, recycled materials including reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP) and reclaimed asphalt shingles (RAS), porous pavements, and water quality. A limited number of tabletop exhibit spaces are available for companies interested in showcasing their products. Sponsorships are offered to support the educational and networking opportunities at the conference. For more information or to register, go to the NAPA Web site at [www.hotmix.org/pgwa](http://www.hotmix.org/pgwa) or call Nancy Lawler or Sandy Palacorolla in the NAPA Meetings Department at 888-468-6499.

## **Crash Impact of Smooth Lane Narrowing with Rumble Strips at Two-Lane Rural Stop-Controlled Intersections**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration has released a TechBrief that examines a treatment to reduce approach speeds at unsignalized intersections on two-lane rural roads by narrowing lanes using rumble strips in the median and on the right-lane edge.

[http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Crash\\_Impact\\_of\\_Smooth\\_Lane\\_Narrowing\\_with\\_Rumble\\_163](http://www.trb.org/Main/Blurbs/Crash_Impact_of_Smooth_Lane_Narrowing_with_Rumble_163)

[980.aspx?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-+08-31-2010&utm\\_content=Customer&utm\\_term=](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/sep10nl.asp)

### **Success in Stewardship Newsletter**

The September issue of FHWA's "Successes in Stewardship" Newsletter is now available at:

<http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/sep10nl.asp>.

FHWA is pleased to announce that this issue's feature story is: "FHWA Procedures for Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise and Construction Noise."

### **Infrastructure Maintenance and Preservation**

TRB's Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board, No. 2150 includes 15 papers that explore performance-based road maintenance contracts, equipment replacement at state departments of transportation, optimal timing and preventive maintenance of pavements, pavement preservation, and thin surface treatments for bituminous pavements. [\[More\]](#)

### **Roadway Worker Safety Website**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Office of Operations has launched a new page on its Work Zone Safety website designed to be a central source of data and links to information and technical resources on roadway worker safety. [\[More\]](#)

### **FHWA Focus Magazine: August 2010**

Articles in the August 2010 issue of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) Focus magazine explore the new Pavement Health Track Analysis Tool, validation and quality control checks of weight-in-motion traffic data, a new online Work Zone Compendium, and more. [\[More\]](#)

### **University of Minnesota's CTS Research E-Newsletter: July/August 2010**

The latest issue of the University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) Research E-Newsletter is now available. Planning and policy; intelligent transportation systems; transportation safety; transportation and the environment; and transit, bicycling, and walking are among the topics addressed in this issue of the CTS Research E-News. [\[More\]](#)

### **2009 Urban Congestion Trends: How Operations Is Solving Congestion Problems**

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Office of Operations has released a brochure that highlights examples of how transportation agencies are helping to reduce congestion through enhanced highway system operations. The report also explores trends in congestion and reliability over the past three years from 23 urban areas. [\[More\]](#)