

Congress Kicks the Can Down the Road – Again

Does that headline look familiar? It was at the top of the front page of the September newsletter two years ago, in 2012. You can see it at www.asce-pgh.org. The previous legislation misnamed ‘Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century’ (MAP-21), was two-year extension legislation that authorized federal highway, transit, and other surface transportation programs through September 2014.

Originally conceived in the US Constitution as ‘Post Roads’ connecting post offices, federal funding now applies to public surface transportation that facilitates interstate commerce.

The current legislation, begun as H.R.5021, and co-sponsored by Bill Shuster, transfers \$10.8 billion into the highway trust fund. The cost is offset in large part ‘pension smoothing’, which allows companies to contribute less to their pension plans. The tactic raises revenue government, because companies lose the tax deduction associated with pension contributions. The Senate reluctantly agreed, wanting to authorize funding only through 12/19 to pressure Congress to pass a multiyear highway bill in the lame duck period after the November elections, when political pressures may ease. Many senators wanted to avoid using pension smoothing, considered a budget gimmick.



The Good News: The Highway Trust Fund does not run out of money yet, and projects under way have until May, 2015 before the money runs out.

The Bad news: 1. No user fee adjustment was made to pay to maintain our transportation system.
2. It fails to adequately, fully, and sustainably pay for the maintenance of our roads and bridges.

To pay the same as we did 20 years ago, is an adjustment of about 27¢ per day. Even if doubled to pay for repairs made more costly because we delayed making them when they were inexpensive, whether by fuel consumed or weight and miles

using the roads, the adjustment is about the price of only a half a donut a day.

Here’s how our elected policy makers voted on PL 113-159:

<u>House District</u>			<u>Senate</u>	
PA 3:	Mike Kelly	yea	Bob Casey	yea
PA 5:	Glenn Thompson	yea	Pat Toomey	nay
PA 9:	Bill Shuster	yea		
PA 12:	Keith Rothfus	yea		
PA 14:	Mike Doyle	yea		
PA 18:	Tim Murphy	yea		

Some were dismayed that concern and mistrust among their constituents prevented passage of better legislation.

The investment Americans make in public surface transportation provides the foundation of the American economy. Few readers remember travelling to Erie or Conneaut on Route 19. Notice the jobs created where prosperity mushrooms out from the intersection of the interstate highways. Employment created directly by funding surface transportation is only a small fraction of the economic boost your Congressman can create. Most of the economic vitality your Congressman could create is in the creation of jobs in areas that have well-maintained transportation access that is upgraded to meet America’s needs.

America needs leaders. Interstate highway President Eisenhower was such a leader. Americans must **FUND** our infrastructure, not finance it. Not borrow money from Spain, China, or our grandkids. **FUND** it. That means pay for what we use. Private investors only fund relatively small capital improvements for which they can generate a Return on Investment. Private funding does not pay to maintain what we already have.

For road infrastructure, a means of generating sustained revenue must be identified, and implemented.

Let your Congressman and Senator know you support their efforts to lead America and build America with you. Encourage our fellow Americans to vote for long term full funding of America’s surface transportation system.

This is what you pay Congress to do. How will YOU vote?



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Dinner Seminar: Social Media for Civil Engineers (2 PDH)



Wednesday, September 10, 2014
Seminar: 5-7 PM, Dinner: 7-8 PM



Description: Are you a seller-doer? Or, have you been thinking about marketing your business or yourself with social media, but you feel overwhelmed and not sure how to get started? Or maybe you're not convinced that it works? This seminar will show you the value of using social media to reach your clients, how it can lead to new clients and how it drives repeat business from your current clients. We'll take a look at the 5 most popular social media networks – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+ and Pinterest – and help you decide what is right for your business. We'll also look at what comes next: how and what to post on social media.

Speaker: Cindy Neky is a skilled Marketing and Public Relations Consultant, Certified Social Media Strategist, Constant Contact Authorized Local Expert and Speaker. With over 25 years marketing experience, she assists small businesses and professionals succeed in today's fast paced, ever-changing marketplace.

Location: Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc., 333 Baldwin Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205 (off the Rosslyn Farms exit on Parkway West, Near Robinson Township). CEC is a 3-story building with glass construction. From the garage beneath the building, take the stairs or elevator to 1st Floor and follow signs to conference hall.



Registration: Register and pay online at: <http://www.asce-pgh.org/event-1710851>

Or, mail your check and the registration form below:

Registration Form: Social Media for Civil Engineers, September 10, 2014

Please mail this registration form with a check payable to "**ASCE Pittsburgh Section**" to: Robert Dengler II, P.E., ASCE Pittsburgh Section Treasurer, Foster Plaza III, Suite 200, 601 Holiday Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15220.

Checks must be received by **September 9, 2014**.

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Registration / Cancellation Policy: This event has 100 seats which available on a first come basis. If registering by snail mail in the last week, please contact us before sending payment to make sure seats are still available. If the event is full, we will return your payment. Cancellations for refund must be made via email to sam.shamsi@jacobs.com by August 29, 2014. If seminar is cancelled, registration fee will be refunded in full.

For more information, contact **Sam Shamsi, PE**, Chair Continuing Education Committee, at **Jacobs, Inc.**, **412-298-7932**, sam.shamsi@jacobs.com

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WOTUS

Waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act



Source: EPA.gov

Following Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006, determining when the Clean Water Act protected streams and wetlands became confusing and complex. For nearly a decade, members of Congress, state and local officials, industry, agriculture, environmental groups, and the public have asked for rulemaking to provide clarity.

The EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a proposed new rule on the definition of Waters of the US in the Federal Register on Monday, April 21, 2014, defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule can be reviewed at: <http://www2.epa.gov/uswaters/definition-waters-united-states-under-clean-water-act>.

Specifically, the proposed rule clarifies that under the Clean Water Act:

- Most seasonal and rain-dependent streams are protected.
- Wetlands near rivers and streams are protected.
- Other types of waters may have more uncertain connections with downstream water and protection will be evaluated through a case specific analysis of whether the connection is or is not significant. However, to provide more certainty, the proposal requests comment on options protecting similarly situated waters in certain geographic areas or adding to the categories of waters protected without case specific analysis.

The proposed rule is consistent with the Supreme Court's more narrow reading of Clean Water Act jurisdiction. But it does not protect any new types of waters that have not historically been covered under the Clean Water Act. It also regulates groundwater and actually proposes to *reduce* jurisdiction and exclude certain ephemeral and intermittent ditches.

Fall Kickoff and Life Member Recognition Banquet

When: Tuesday, September 30, 2014

5:30 pm - Social Hour

6:30 pm - Keynote Speaker

7:00 pm - Dinner

8:00 pm - Featured Presentations (0.5 PDH)

Where:

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Register:

Online at: www.asce-pgh.org
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WOTUS (continued from page 4)

EPA estimates the proposed rule would provide \$388 million to \$514 million annually of benefits to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater. The public benefits significantly outweigh the costs of about \$162 million to \$278 million per year for mitigating impacts to streams and wetlands, and taking steps to reduce pollution to waterways.

The public comment period on the proposed rule will close on Monday, October 20, 2014. ASCE strongly urges its members to submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- **Email:** ow-docket@epa.gov. Include EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880 in the subject line of the message.
- **Mail:** Send the original and three copies of your comments to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 2822T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880.
- **Hand Delivery/Courier:** Deliver your comments to EPA Docket Center, EPA West, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880. Such deliveries are accepted only during the Docket's normal hours of operation, which are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. The telephone number for the Water Docket is 202-566-2426.

Pittsburgh Section Opportunities to Learn and Network

Maintain technical proficiency and current knowledge, and learn what other members, companies, organizations, and lawmakers are doing. **Mark your calendars now.**

Member prices extend to non-member spouses or one guest of member, except as noted by “*”.



September 4, 2014, Thursday, Green Infrastructure Event

1. 'Lessons Learned: A Case Study by the Philadelphia Water Department
2. Sponsored by Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI)
3. Location: Engineers' Society of Western PA (ESWP)
4. Noon (lunch event)

September 9, Tuesday, Younger Member Forum (YMF) General Body Meeting

1. Roland's in the Strip
2. Contact Linda Kaplan: lkaplan@gfnet.com

September 10, 2014, Wednesday, Social Media for Civil Engineers

1. Seminar: 5-7 PM,
2. Dinner: 7-8 PM ESWP
3. Location: **Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.**
4. Registration online: www.asce-pgh.org
5. \$20/member, \$25/non-members



September 10, 2014, Wednesday, AEG/ASCE G-I joint meeting

1. Richard H. Jahn's Distinguished Lecture
2. ESWP
3. 6:00 pm Social Hour
4. 7:00 pm Dinner
5. 8:00 pm **"KABOOM! (or whoosh?): Mitigating Blasting Impacts without Diminishing Effectiveness"** by Dr Gregory Hempen.
6. \$35/member, \$45/nonmember, \$10/student with valid current ID (checks preferred)
7. RSVP with meal choice (chicken/fish/beef) by September 8 to **Nate Saraceno**, nsaraceno@gmail.com
8. See flyer on website: www.asce-pgh.org

September 11, 2014, Thursday, Verification of Computer Calculations by Approximation Methods

1. Live Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) Seminar
2. 11:30 am
3. Location: LR Kimball - 437 Grant St, Frick Building, Room 802
4. Registration online: www.asce-pgh.org
5. Contact Sonya Flournoy: sonya.flournoy@lrkimball.com



September 11, 2014, Thursday, Lessons for Brownfield Development

1. Sponsored by EWRI
2. Pitt Campus (M3 William Pitt Union)
3. 6:00 PM (Buffet Dinner)
4. \$20/member, \$25/non-members
5. Speakers:
 - a. Dr. Deborah Lange (Director of Environmental Projects, Steinbrenner Institute, CMU)
 - b. Dr. Udai Singh (VP & Sr. Program Manager – CH2M Hill, Past President of EWRI).
6. Registration online: www.asce-pgh.org

September 13 – 27, 2014, Saturday to Saturday two weeks, CANSTRUCTION

1. The Mall at Robinson
2. Check out the structures and bring a can to vote for your favorite!



September 19, 2014, Pirates Tailgate

1. Sponsored by YMF
2. 5:00 Tailgate,
3. 7:05 game
4. PNC Park
5. Register online.
6. \$25
7. For more information contact Greg Holbrook: holbrookgt@cdmsmith.com

September 19, 2014, Friday, Steel Day Tour

1. Scott Hall construction site
2. CMU Campus
3. 2:00 – 4:00 pm
4. Contact Linda Kaplan: lkaplan@gfnet.com

September 30, 2014, Tuesday, ASCE Pittsburgh Section Kick-off Meeting

1. LeMont Restaurant
2. 5:30 pm
3. Recognize 2014 life members
4. Speaker: Dan Bonk, Project Development & Technical Support at Montauk Energy Capital
5. "The Making of the First Modern World Series: A Pittsburgh Story"

October 2, 2014, Thursday "Changes to the FE and PE licensure exams and what you need to know."

1. Sponsored by YMF David Widmer, President, NCEES
2. Location TBD
3. Time TBD

October 4, 2014, Saturday, YMF Golf Outing

1. contact Bill Confair, bill.confair@aecom.com

October 23, 2014, 2014 Terzaghi Lecture

1. PAA
2. Sponsored by Geotechnical Institute.

October 30, 2014, Thursday, EWRI Innovative Disinfection Technologies

1. ESWP
2. Presentation of EPA Pilot Testing by Craig Patterson, P.E. (US EPA)!

November 3, 2014, Monday - Student Skills Workshop: Career Fair 'Speed Dating'

1. CMU Campus, Robert's Hall, Singelton Room. 5pm.
2. filter potential employers/employees quickly and effectively.
3. develop an "elevator pitch" to use at career fairs
4. practice in a mock career fair
5. Contact Jeff Argyros: jeffargyros@gmail.com

November 4, 2014, Tuesday, General election Day

November 18, 2014, Tuesday, Cross-USA lecture

1. Sponsored by Geotechnical Institute
2. Ken Stokoe
3. Gaetano's Restaurant, Banksville Road
4. 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6 pm

December 3 or 4, 2014, December dinner

1. Sponsored by YMF
2. Bill Flanagan, Allegheny Conference on Community Development, speaker
3. Location TBD
4. 5:00 pm, Dinner at 6 pm



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INTRODUCING – ROCKS ROADS RIPPLES N'AT

Pittsburgh's Civil Engineering Weblog (BLOG)

September 2014 will mark the launch of the new ASCE Pittsburgh Section NewsBlog – **Rocks Roads Ripples n'At**. This move is part of a continuing effort to make important information readily accessible, searchable, and interactive for current and future Pittsburgh Section ASCE members, public policy makers, news media, and advertisers. In addition to newsletter information, the Blog will allow for more frequent updates including Government Relations and legislative developments, additional photos of events, personal profiles of members, and other developments of interest to our members. The blog design will also allow for a search by subject or keyword feature, to streamline convenient topical browsing through previous articles. The format encourages comments and discussion on new and archived articles.

You will find **Rocks Roads Ripples n'At** under the 'News' section of the ASCE Pittsburgh website at www.asce-pgh.org. Be sure to check it out!



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