

Transportation Act Brings Needed Repairs and Construction Jobs



The December 2013 issue of this newsletter honored those western Pennsylvania legislators who followed Governor **Tom Corbett's** leadership to restore some of the long-overdue funding to maintain our surface transportation system.

For example, in Allegheny County, the 1976 Birmingham bridge will receive a \$35 million rehabilitation. This is significant, because serious repairs are necessary on the bridge as it has not seen substantial improvements due to insufficient funding. The photo with the folding ruler shows some of the current deterioration to be repaired. 21,000 drive over this bridge seen in the photo, daily.



A small maintenance expense, like routine bridge cleaning as one might routinely vacuum their floors, can prevent major expenses. Unfortunately, with the past lack of funding provided by legislators, improvements beyond basic maintenance are challenging. As the adage goes: 'A stitch in time saves nine'.

The lack of maintenance in this case led to a dramatic failure in 2008 in which normal debris stopped a rocker bearing from returning to its normal position with normal expansion and contraction, and it fell over, dropping the bridge deck about 8 inches and making it unusable for a month. See photo of the failed bearing,

now repaired at a cost many times that of routine maintenance.

PennDOT District Engineer Dan Cessna said "Many lessons are being learned through this (Birmingham Bridge) incident, here and across the nation, that will allow bridge engineers and inspectors to take steps to ensure this does not happen elsewhere. Preventive bridge maintenance was not always our focus due to limited funding but, fortunately, that philosophy has shifted."

This one \$35 Million project alone will provide safe transportation, alleviate business-stunting traffic jams and provide about 1000 construction jobs and sustain more jobs with area employers.





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Continuing Education Made Easy

Part 2:

Continuing Education Requirements for Pennsylvania Professional Engineers

Sam Shamsi, PE, F.ASCE

This is a multi-part series of short articles on Continuing Education. Part 1: Continuing Education Basics was published in the December 2013 issue. In this second part, we will explore the continuing education requirements for professional engineers licensed in Pennsylvania. The entire series can also be accessed from the Continuing Education page of the Pittsburgh Section



Web site: <http://www.asce-pgh.org/continuingeducation>



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State Registration Board

Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs provides administrative and legal support to 29 professional and occupational licensing boards and commissions including State Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists. Professional licensing protects the health, safety and welfare of the public from fraudulent and unethical practitioners. Professionals range from Engineers and Physicians to Cosmetologists and Funeral Directors.

In order to help safeguard life, health and property and to promote the public welfare, the practice of professional engineering, professional land surveying and professional geology in the Commonwealth requires continuing professional competency. Section 4.5(b) of the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law requires that each licensee shall be required to meet the continuing professional competency requirements as a condition for licensure renewal. The Board neither maintains a listing of continuing professional competency activities nor provides preapproval for any continuing professional competency activities, courses or providers. The following information is based on the content from Board's Web site shown above (Pennsylvania State Board, 2013).

Pennsylvania Registration Board Definitions

- **Activity:** any qualifying activity with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to a licensee's professional practice.
- **College or unit semester hour or unit quarter hour:** credit for courses in programs approved by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology or other related college courses.
- **Continuing education unit:** a unit of credit customarily used for continuing education courses.
- **Course:** any qualifying course with a clear purpose and objective which will maintain, improve or expand the skills and knowledge relevant to a licensee's professional practice.
- **Professional development hour or PDH:** 50 minutes of instruction or presentation relevant to professional practice or any equivalent.



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Pennsylvania Continuing Professional Competency Requirements

Each licensee is required to meet the continuing professional competency requirements as a condition for licensure renewal. Continuing professional competency obtained by a licensee should maintain, improve or expand skills and knowledge obtained prior to initial licensure, including law and ethics applicable to the profession, or develop new and relevant skills and knowledge. No credit is given for a course in practice building or office management.

If you cannot break away from your schedule to a classroom or conference course and you prefer reading a book and using a pencil, the good old fashioned correspondence course may be just the thing for you. See Author's Web site www.GIS-Training.com for PA DEP approved 8 PDH GIS and GPS correspondence courses which offers 10% discount to Section members.

Each licensee is required to obtain 24 PDH units during the biennial renewal period. If a licensee exceeds the requirement in any renewal period, a maximum of twelve PDH units may be carried forward into the subsequent renewal period. PDH units may be earned as follows:

1. Successful completion of college courses relevant to professional practice.
2. Completion of continuing education courses relevant to professional practice.
3. Completion of correspondence, televised, videotaped and other short courses or tutorials relevant to professional practice.
4. Completion of seminars, employer-sponsored courses, workshops or professional or technical presentations made at meetings, conventions or conferences relevant to professional practice.
5. Teaching, presenting or instructing in any of the activities listed in clauses (1), (2), (3) and (4).
6. Authoring published papers, articles or books relevant to professional practice.
7. Obtaining patents relevant to professional practice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. If I hold more than one type of license, must I take separate courses for each (e.g. 24 PDHs for engineering and an additional 24 PDHs for land surveying)?

A. No, as long as a course relates to your professional practice in both fields, the PDH may apply to both license renewals.

Q. Can I take courses online?

A. Yes.

References and Resources

Pennsylvania State Board of Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists (December 2013). Continuing Education Information, Web Page, http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_registration_board_for_professional_engineers_land_surveyors_and_geologists/12510/continuing_education_information/804656

In the Next issue, we will continue with additional information on Continuing Education Requirements for Pennsylvania Professional Engineers.

For more information, contact Continuing Education Committee Chair **Sam Shamsi**, at sam.shamsi@gmail.com



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January 16, 2014, Thursday, YMF Engineers' Structural Tour

1. First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh
2. 6 – 8 pm
3. \$10 at the door
4. RSVP to Jaime-Lynn Widows, Jaime-Lynn.widows@hatchmott.com

January 17, 2014 YMF Resume Book deadline

January 22, 2014

5. ACE mentoring
6. 4 – 6 pm
7. Structural Session on Wind Design
8. Mascaro Corp
9. Contact **Linda Kaplan**, [412-922-5575](tel:412-922-5575), lkaplan@gfnet.com

January 23, 2014 Thursday, SEI Dinner

1. Joint w/ABCD
2. Sheraton Cranberry
3. 6:00 pm.
4. Ken Wright of HDR presenting on the Cleveland Inner Belt project
5. Contact **Linda Kaplan**, [412-922-5575](tel:412-922-5575), lkaplan@gfnet.com

January 23, 2014 Thursday, G-I Dinner

1. Gaetano's Restaurant
2. 6:00 pm.
3. \$25
4. Mark D Mayle, PG, presenting on Geotechnical Design Services in the Marcellus Shale Gas industry
5. Reservations REQUIRED. Deadline January 17, 2014.
6. Contact **Kent Lindamood**, [724-746-0730](tel:724-746-0730), Ken.Lindamood@gmail.com

February 3, 2014, Monday, STEM Career Symposium

1. Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Waterfront
2. Contact **Leanne McConnell**, lfm5023@gmail.com

February 7, 2014, Friday, EWRI luncheon – Water Quality Impacts from Leaking Sewers

1. ESWP
2. \$20
3. Contact **Jonathan Shimko**, [412-829-3609](tel:412-829-3609), Jonathan.Shimko@tetrattech.com

February 22, 2014, Saturday, Engineers Week Awards Banquet

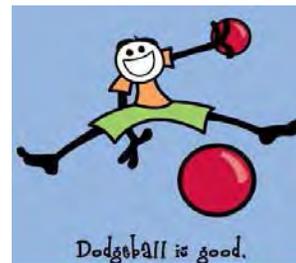
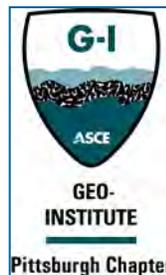
1. Guest Speaker: Brian O'Neill, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette columnist
2. Contact **Pat Sullivan**, [412-249-1574](tel:412-249-1574), psullivan@cecinc.com
3. Register on line at www.asce-pgh.org
4. ESWP
5. 6:00 pm.
6. \$55 for members



February 27, 2014, Thursday, G-I dinner with Pittsburgh Geological Society

March 01, Saturday, Dodgeball

1. Team-building fun!
2. CMU University Center Gym
3. 10:00 AM
4. \$10/ person, \$60/team
5. To register, email Lous.Gualtieri@cdrmaguire.com



YMF December Dinner

On Thursday, December 5, 2013, the ASCE Pittsburgh's Younger Member Forum (YMF) hosted its annual December Dinner at the Pittsburgh Zoo's PPG Aquarium. Its success is due in part to the many sponsors that contributed: **AECOM**, UC Synergetic, KU Resources, **Gannett Fleming, L.R. Kimball**, The Lewis Consulting Group, **Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.**, **D'Appolonia**, and **Rhea Engineers and Consultants, Inc.**



During the event, guests networked and viewed the various exhibits at the aquarium. Exhibits included a variety of fish, sharks, penguins and sting rays, which attendees were able to touch. Dinner was provided by "The Taste of the Wild Catering," and cookies and drinks provided by the YMF.

The evening's presentation was given by Harold McCutcheon of KU Resources and George Boehm of Noralco Corporation regarding the 'Demolition of the Civic Arena'. The pair shared fascinating details about the demolition process. They also discussed what they learned about the construction of the arena and the various methods of demolition used throughout the job. Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Boehm showed several videos to enable the attendees to gain a better understanding of the magnitude of this project and careful, controlled demolition in general. A copy of the original 1957 plans of the arena were available for guests to view.



The YMF continued its tradition of collecting toys at the dinner and donating them to the Brasher Association Toy Drive.

For more information about YMF activities, contact **Linda Kaplan**, at **Gannett Fleming**, **412-922-5575**, lkaplan@gfnet.com

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March 27, 2014, Thursday. Annual Sustainability Conference – all day seminar

1. Phipps Conservatory
2. Co-sponsored by Sustainable Pittsburgh

March 29, 2014, Saturday Annual Geotechnical Institute Short course

May 8, 2014, Thursday. Post-Disaster Engineering – all day seminar

Learn or brush up on the skills and procedures for effective response when your town calls on your expertise to restore basic infrastructure after a disaster emergency.

May 16, 2014, Friday, EE for CEs – all day seminar

1. Refresh your knowledge of the basic electrical engineering civil engineers use every day.
2. Circuits, Devices, Systems, Motors, Lighting, Controls, etc.
3. Hilton Doubletree in Green Tree

July 21 - 23, SEEC (Shale Energy Engineering Conference)

1. Lawrence Convention Center
2. Share knowledge of how to enjoy the economic benefits and solve the problems to the environment and health



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National Engineers' Week @ the Carnegie Science Center

The time is here again! ASCE-Pittsburgh Section is once again hosting our Civil Engineering Display at the Carnegie Science Centers for their E-Week festivities. E-Week is a great opportunity for us to provide insight into our profession to the future students of engineering. Please take a few hours and help ASCE show these school age children why we practice Civil Engineering.

When: Friday & Saturday, February 14-15, 2014 (2 or 4 hour time slots)

Where: Carnegie Science Center, North Shore (next to Heinz Field)

Why: To bring the knowledge and experience to show kids K-12 the numerous opportunities our profession can offer. (Who knows, you may be inspiring a future employee.)

Volunteers will demonstrate a variety of Civil Engineering principle using hands-on displays and models of real-life civil engineering challenges. Also, we will be answering questions and providing information to schools and other community organizations. This year we will be adding some new displays! We would like to have 3 to 4 people per time slot.

College Students this is an excellent networking opportunity! And don't forget your free T-Shirt!

Please check the Pittsburgh Section website for a list of available time slots. The list will be updated every weekday.

To sign up or obtain more information, contact Don Splitstone, P.E., at Donald.Splitstone@HDRinc.com or by phone at **(412) 965-0257**.



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TMDL PART 6

In the last newsletter articles the basics of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) were introduced, why one should be interested, what they are, how they are developed, and formulating a TMDL to address sources of water pollution.

TMDLs on water bodies were compared to the total load applied to a bridge.

Background information is collected in an Aquatic Life Use survey (ALU survey). Some of the sources of pollution might be livestock grazing, acid mine drainage (AMD), fertilizer runoff, and water reclamation plant discharges. The effect on different organisms is measured. A new TMDL in a new watershed is compared to known performance and conditions in other similar watersheds with available TMDL data.

This information is based on a presentation made to members of the Environmental and Water Resources Institute in the Pittsburgh Section of ASCE by Bill Brown, Chief of the TMDL Development Section in the Division of Watershed Protection of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

TMDL Implementation

1. Nonpoint Sources – LAs (Load allocations – the background or ‘dead’ load.)
 - Non-regulatory framework driven by stakeholder/citizen efforts
2. Point Source Discharges – WLAs (Waste Load Allocations – the applied or ‘live’ load)
 - Implemented directly into dischargers NPDES permit
 - Permits issued in TMDL watersheds must be “consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the TMDL...”
 - Explicit WLAs for individual dischargers are translated by the permit engineer to effluent limits (NPDES permit contains numeric limits for the pollutants of concern addressed by the TMDL)
 - Explicit WLAs that may also be addressed through TMDL percent reduction and design efficiencies for BMP-based permits
 - Bulk allocations sometimes used for classes of dischargers/permits where:
 - i. Permits are non-numeric (BMP-based)
 - ii. Individual loads are de minimus
 - iii. Permitted discharges are temporary and transient
 - Reductions usually assigned by land use on a watershed/subwatershed basis
3. Implementation success based on aggressive CDs (Consent Decrees) and other stakeholder groups pursuing grants
4. TMDL watersheds get high priority for DEP Growing Greener grants



How's it workin' out for ya?



What if one doesn't agree with the TMDL assessment?

The watershed can be reassessed, but -

- An assessment of equal or greater rigor is required to delist a water body
- Progress must be demonstrated in achieving downstream water quality
- Interim assessments could entail surveys other than, or in addition to, macroinvertebrates

For more information, contact **Bill Brown**, at PADEP, **717-783-2951**, willbrown@state.pa.us

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IN THIS ISSUE

Transportation Act Brings Needed Repairs & Construction Jobs	1
Continuing Education Made Easy (Pt.2) ..	2-3
Pittsburgh Section Opportunities to Learn & Network	4-5
YMF December Dinner	5
National Engineers Week at the Carnegie Science Center	6
TMDL Part 6	7