

NACE News



THE VOICE OF COUNTY ROAD OFFICIALS

MONTHLY PUBLICATION - WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 2012

VOLUME 12 NUMBER 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Richie Beyer, P.E., County Engineer, Elmore County, Alabama

It's hard to believe that as you are reading this newsletter, the first quarter of my year as your president is already complete. It has been a busy and fruitful first three months as the Executive Committee members along with the four task forces and your NACE staff have been working hard serving the membership. We also recently welcomed a new member to our Executive Committee as Brian Stacy of Washington was selected by the Western Region state directors to fill the vacant regional vice president position (see page 2).

One of the great aspects of being in the NACE leadership is getting opportunities to visit with our state affiliates and gauge the pulse of the organization. With our budgetary constraints in mind, a strategic travel plan was developed by the Executive Committee to focus our limited resources while still trying to emphasize our presence at our state affiliate functions. To date, Executive Committee members have already touched five state affiliates and one of NACE's partners. All of these visits have been accomplished at minimal cost to the organization thanks to the state affiliates stepping up and assisting NACE. Many thanks to those state affiliates and the ones' who have already made commitments for future meetings!

During my opportunities to visit the mem-

bership, two things continue to resonate with me. First, communication to and with the members is critical to NACE's success. Second, only about 25% of our members attend our annual conference each year though our budget is heavily dependent on the outcome of our conference presently. Both of these items reinforce the work that our four task forces are currently engulfed in.

From the standpoint of communications you should be receiving two transmissions from our Washington office. This newsletter, *NACE News*, reaches you near the end of each month and provides valuable info, updates, commentary from your leadership, and information from our corporate members. In addition, our Executive Director, Brian Roberts, has retooled the "bi-weekly" newsletter and created the new *NACE E-news* to provide a mid month update on the latest happenings and opportunities from the transportation industry. With these two transmissions basically alternating every two weeks, it is our hope and desire that the membership will be up to date with the most current happenings affecting county roads and bridges. Interim communications will supplement these two base communications to make the membership aware of any critical news when appropriate.

Our annual technical conference is cur-

rently and has traditionally been the primary way technical presentations and information are disseminated to the membership. With approximately 25% of our members normally attending the annual conference, we have to identify ways to increase participation at the annual conference and/or utilize technology to deliver this information to the remainder of the membership. Both of these items are being explored by the task forces simultaneously. I do encourage you to visit the NACE website to see some of Brian's posts of video clips of the recent NACE 2012 conference in Lexington, KY. It's one idea on how to deliver content online to the masses and has some promise with Brian's leadership.

In closing, I wanted to encourage you all to stay engaged with your state DOT's and FHWA offices over the next several months as FHWA rolls out the "Federal Aid Essentials" program and as the EDC II Initiatives are released. We have been given the opportunity to dial up the dialog at both the state and federal level to provide some meaningful outcomes. From a NACE standpoint, your staff and leadership continue every day to pursue not only continued inclusion but also ways to produce positive impacts on issues affecting county road officials.

PROGRESS BEING MADE ON SURFACE TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

Contact: Bob Fogel 202/942-4217

A meeting earlier this week between House Speaker Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) seems to have motivated the Senate-House Conference Committee on the surface transportation legislation to try to find the necessary compromises to get the bill done. There is no assurance that a final bill will get done but there seems to be more pressure to do so. While it is unlikely that it will be completed by the June 30, when the current short term extension expires, if enough progress is made over the next week it seem possible that Congress will pass another extension, the 10th, into July to make sure there is enough time to complete the legislation. An agreement must be reached on the highway program but also on the mass transit program,

financing for both programs, freight programs, the coal ash issue, the Restore Act, PILT funding and, perhaps most importantly, the House provision that mandates the approval of the Keystone Pipeline.

As the Senate and House conferees try to finish up the surface transportation bill before the current extension expires on June 30, NACo continues to have concerns about keeping the off-system system bridge program language that is in the Senate bill. The language in the Senate bill maintains the off-system bridge program in its current form. Efforts to retain the program received a boost last week when 42 House members sent a letter to all the conferees urging the Senate language be retained. Additionally, several members of the

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors personally delivered a letter to Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), who chairs the Senate-House Conference Committee expressing support for the off-system bridge program.

NACo requests that any county official who has Senator or House member on the conference committee to directly communicate with that member's office asking that the Senate provision on the off-system bridge program be kept in the final bill. The best way to communicate your views is to call the Washington office of your Senator or House member and ask to directly speak with the staff members working on transportation issues. Letters and e-mails are less effective and may not get to the right person.

NEW WESTERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

First, we want to take a moment to thank George Johnson for his service to NACE and most recently as our Western Region Vice President. For those who haven't heard, George accepted the Assistant County Executive Officer position at his County and relinquished his duties as County Engineer. We wish George great success in his new position and will certainly miss him and his wife, Luann, at the NACE events.

Our new Western Region Vice President is Brian Stacy from Pierce County Washington. Many of you know Brian from his current role as State Director for Washington. Brian has been the County Engineer for Pierce County Public Works and Utilities since April of 2004. Pierce County is one of the larger counties in the State of Washington located on the west side of the State situated between Tacoma and Seattle. In his current position he is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, and controlling the activities of the Office of the County Engineer, which includes construction, maintenance, and repair of county roads and bridges. Pierce County is a diverse organization with oversight in not only roadways, but waste water treatment plants, sanitary sewer systems, stormwater systems, solid waste facilities, airports, ferries, water systems, equipment services, and much more. For the golf enthusiasts out there, Pierce County PW&U is the owner of the golf course (Chambers Bay) hosting the 2015 US Open.

Brian began his career at Pierce County in 1990 with the Sewer Utility where he would ultimately serve as the Wastewater Utility Manager from 1998 until taking the County Engineer position in 2004. Prior to his time in Pierce County, Brian spent several years in private practice with a small firm where he was one of two licensed engineers and was afforded the opportunity to do all aspects of civil design for development including water, sewer, storm, road, grading and even structural design.

Washington is a state affiliate of NACE and Brian went through the chairs of the Washington State Association of County Engineers serving as their president in 2009/2010. He is also the current Vice Chair of the County Road Administration Board which provides accountability through standards of good practices, funding programs as well as technical and professional assistance to the 39 Washington State County Road Departments.

Brian has been married to his wife, Colleen, for 27 years and they have a grown daughter and son. He enjoys all types of outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, camping and tending to his cattle and horses.

Please welcome Brian Stacy to the NACE Executive Committee. To contact Brian, email: bstacy@co.pierce.wa.us or phone: 253-798-2117.



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TEEN TEXTING AND SUMMER DRIVING ARE THE FOCUS OF NEW AASHTO VIDEO

Summer is the deadliest time of year for teen drivers and, as Americans hit the road for summer vacation, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), is launching a new video, *Teen Driving in America: A Look Behind the Wheel*, to raise awareness about the increased risks teen drivers face each summer.

"State departments of transportation are in the business of building and maintaining the nation's transportation infrastructure," said John Horsley, AASHTO executive director. "It's up to each individual driver to use these systems safely, however. Hopefully, videos like this one can help young drivers and their parents learn the facts and locate resources to keep everyone safe."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 422 teens die in traffic crashes during each of the summer months between Memorial Day and Labor Day, as compared to a monthly average of 363 teen deaths during the non-summer months.

One factor behind the statistics is the desire of teens to stay connected by texting. A new survey, released this month by AT&T as part of the "It Can Wait" campaign, indicates that 97 percent of teens know texting while driving is dangerous, 43 percent of them admit to sending a text while driving, and 75 percent say the practice is common among their friends.

In the AASHTO video, the parents of 16-year-old Virginia native Hunter Garner discuss his death in the summer of 2007. Garner was a passenger in a car driven by another teen. National Organizations for Youth Safety Executive Director Sandy Spavone explains how her organization is empowering youth to reduce fatal teen crashes and Robert Sumwalt, National Transportation Safety Board member, tells viewers why teen driving is on the NTSB's "Top Ten Most Wanted List."

"We hope school officials, drivers education instructors, and parents will use this video to increase awareness about the consequences of risky behavior behind the wheel," said Horsley. "As we see from the statistics, summer is an especially dangerous time; however, we need to keep repeating this message, over and over again, throughout the year."

Watch *Teen Driving in America: A Look Behind the Wheel* (click the link below):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HdFcgiEW0SM&feature=youtu.be>
Please share and help keep our teens safe this summer and all year long.

LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE

By Dennis Woodward, Director of Public Works/Engineer, Rapides Parish Police Jury, LA and NACE state director

Lagniappe is a Creole or Cajun French term that means something a little bit extra or an unexpected benefit. The term originally referred to something extra that a shopkeeper might give to a customer that had made a purchase. The thirteenth item in a baker's dozen would be considered lagniappe. Mark Twain wrote in his book Life on the Mississippi that it was "a word worth traveling to New Orleans to get." The Louisiana Parish Engineers and Supervisors Association (LPESA) thinks that you will find it worth traveling to Baton Rouge for lagniappe at the NACE 2014 Conference.

The LPESA Spring Conference was held in Opelousas, LA on May 2-3, 2012 at Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino Hotel. The Spring Conference was one of the most well attended conferences that LPESA has had with well over 100 attendees. NACE 2014 Committee Meetings and the LPESA Board Meeting were held on May 2nd followed by a welcome reception sponsored by some of our associate members featuring horse racing at Evangeline Downs.

The technical sessions began on May 3rd with a report from Roland Darte, Executive Director of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana on the 2012 Louisiana Legislative Session. Roland's report was mostly positive for local government because he did not expect any major impacts to local government. After Roland, I updated the attendees on the planning efforts for the NACE 2014 Convention in

Baton Rouge. Presentations were then made by Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (LDOTD) employees on the new asphalt specifications for LDOTD, attempts to update the LDOTD inventory of local roads, and the LDOTD Off-System Bridge Program. Mary Stringfellow with FHWA then made a presentation on the Every Day Counts Initiative.

Dr. Eric Kalivoda made a presentation on a LDOTD effort to transfer State roads with no Federal funding to local governments in exchange for construction credits that could be used on other roads. I wrote an article about this initiative for NACE News, August-September 2011 issue (see website), but at that time the LDOTD was trying to get legislation to mandate the transfer of roads, now the program is voluntary.

In the afternoon attendees were made aware of the Louisiana Local Public Agency Manual prepared to guide local government agencies through the programs administered by LDOTD. A presentation was also made on the new MS4 and Construction Storm Water General Permit requirements. Nick Verret with LTAP outlined a pilot project to evaluate Transportation Asset Management Programs in a Tangipahoa Parish and the City of Sulphur. The conference ended with a presentation from one of our associate members on products they offer and the grand prize drawing.

Attending conferences and meeting face-to-face with your peers always gives you little something more than you expected; that's what we in Louisiana call lagniappe.

GRAVEL ROAD MAINTENANCE AND DESIGN - ONLINE COURSE

This online distance-learning course, the first offered by Minnesota LTAP, was created in an effort to help local agencies provide training for their staff in a more cost-effective manner. The online curriculum is similar to our traditional classroom training, but perfect for students who are unable to travel or prefer a "work at your own pace" environment. Students are free to access the course anytime and anywhere within a three-month timeframe.

This course helps supervisory personnel and operators better understand the materials, techniques, and equipment needed for maintaining gravel roads. It will also review new techniques and ideas in gravel road maintenance. The course is made up of 10 lessons, each containing a narrated presentation, video clips, reading assignments, a quiz, time to reflect on what has been learned, and time to develop an action plan.

The course was designed to help students succeed by allowing students to take the quizzes and final test as many times as necessary until they understand the curriculum. Students may repeat the lesson or parts of the lesson and then test themselves again. Test questions change with each attempt.

Students who have already taken the classroom version of this workshop can test and refresh their knowledge, become familiar and comfortable with computer-based training, and earn an additional credit by taking the online training.

Who Should Take This Course

Supervisors, operators, and local officials

See "Gravel Road Maint." continued page 5.

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COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND HOLDS SPRING CONFERENCE

By James D. Wilson P.E., Chief, Highways and Bridges Division, Prince Georges County, MD and NACE State Director

The County Engineers Association of Maryland (CEAM) held its Spring Conference May 1st, 2012 at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Maryland. This conference was hosted by and held in a facility owned by Montgomery County.

Three years ago, in recognition of the financial constraints placed on all local jurisdictions for both training and travel expenses, the Board of Directors of CEAM restructured the Spring Conference from a two and a half day conference to predominately a one day/no stay event. CEAM also worked hard to reduce costs by using county facilities, donations of services and financial support of our Associate Members. As a result we are able to get the conference fee down to \$30 per person, a cost many members were willing to pay out of their own pockets when employers could not. There is still an optional golf outing in support of the CEAM Scholarship Program on the day before the conference, but this can be easily separated from the logistics of the conference and does not require an overnight stay.

A positive, but not totally unexpected outcome of the revised conference format is that we are getting better participation. For the very low conference fee, attendees were able to get out of the office for a single day, network with their peers including continental breakfast and a catered buffet lunch, attend professional trainings and get qualifying PDH's which are required for Maryland Professional Engineers.

Attendees were welcomed by Montgomery County Executive, Isaiah Leggett, and received a legislative update from Andrea Mansfield, Associate Director, Maryland Association of Counties. The most significant legislative issues, related to CEAM are the influence of the state budget on county budgets, the collection and distribution of Highway User Revenues (HUR) to the Counties and the impact of state legislation, most typically environmental regulations, on local agencies.

Other presentations at the conference included; an overview of MDOT's CIP program, the introduction of a new effort to mitigate underground utility impacts through the Maryland Damage Prevention Authority, an update on ADA Guidelines from the US Access Board and Maryland SHA and Tim Cupples, P.E. with FHWA presented information on the Accelerated Bridge Program. Mr. Cupples, a former County Engineer with the host county, Montgomery County, had given a similar presentation on this topic at the NACE 2012 Conference in Lexington, Kentucky in April.

In accordance with the By Laws of CEAM, the Spring Conference is also when new officers are sworn in and the outgoing officers thanked for their service. The CEAM President starting July 1st, 2012 will be Paul F. Kahl of Allegany County.

As part of the conference business meeting updates were provided on the Scholarship Program and members were encouraged to submit candidate projects and individuals for the CEAM Awards program.

The Fall Conference will be held in Ocean City, Maryland, September 20-22 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center.

For additional information about the County Engineers Association of Maryland, please visit our updated web page at: www.countyengineers-md.org

NATIONAL LTAP/TTAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD DEADLINE APPROACHING

The National LTAP/TTAP annual conference, Blazing Trails "Celebrating 30 Years of Innovative Excellence" will be held at the Gaylord Texan, Grapvine, Texas from July 30 - August 2, 2012. Early Bird Conference Registration Deadline and Hotel Conference Rate Expires **next Thursday, June 28**.

This NACE partner will provide technical training and information on many Safety Topics, Design and Maintenance of Unpaved Roads, Training/Technology and Communication topics, FHWA and NLTAPA partners updates, and more (see draft agenda).

For more information and registration: <http://www.grapevine2012.com/>

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IACHES SUMMER CONFERENCE

By Bill Williams, Monroe County Public Works Director / Indiana State Director

The Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors held their Annual Summer Conference in Indianapolis, IN on June 6th and 7th with over 80 County, State and Federal Road Officials in attendance.

The conference opened with the Indiana LTAP recognizing nine members who recently completed the *Road Scholar Program*, a training program developed in 2004 to provide specific and direct training in twelve key areas in the transportation field to local officials throughout the state. The awards were presented by Dr. John Haddock, Director, and John Habermann, Program Manager. These individuals join the previous 86 Road Builders and 15 Master Road Builders from 54 different agencies across Indiana.

Ronald Seitz, Kansas Department of Transportation, Chief, Bureau of Local Projects, presented on the Kansas Federal Fund Exchange Program for Local Agencies. Having attended Mr. Seitz's program at the NACE Annual Conference this year, the INLTAP assisted with arranging for him to attend our conference to discuss Kansas' program with IACHES members and the Indiana Department of Transportation officials present at the meeting.

Audra Blasdel, Director of INDOT's LPA, MPO and Grants Administration, followed up with discussion regarding Indiana's federal aid program, reviewing bridge, road, safety and other assistance that the INDOT provides to Counties. The timelines and submittals for the completion of each community's ADA Transition Plan was discussed as well as the latest call for projects and recent modifications to the LPA Guidance Document, used for project development by local officials.

Interesting and informative sessions followed. Several key topics of discussion were emerging technologies in accelerated bridge construction, benefits of planning for vegetation management, base-stabilization of County roads, erosion control and a mix of fixes utilizing concrete.

At the business meeting, scholarships were presented to two worthy young adults, getting ready to further their education to prepare themselves for the future. Two scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each were awarded to James Ridge, Monroe County, and Skylar Lowood, Tippecanoe County. Upcoming LTAP training and a NACE update were also provided at the business meeting. Legislative matters, regarding local road funding, are continued to be pursued by the organization in the upcoming legislative session. As with most states, local road funding in Indiana is severely lacking.

The membership of IACHES and its affiliates appreciate the hard work put into the planning of the conference by President Dwight Smith, IACHES Officers and Cheryl Mencsik, Executive Secretary. We thank them for a very educational and organized conference, as well as our State Affiliate members, who assist in making this conference a reality.

"Gravel Road Maint." from page 3.

responsible for maintaining gravel roads and anyone interested in gravel road maintenance.

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- Distresses in gravel roads
- Drainage
- Adding gravel
- What is good gravel
- Turning poor gravel road into a good one
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- Summary and conclusion

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Cost: \$45 (\$55 to register for a Continuing Education Credit)

Credit

- Students will earn 1.0 required Roads Scholar credit and may also register for 1 Continuing Education Credit.
- To the best of our knowledge, this course meets the continuing education requirements for 12.5 PDHs as outlined in Minnesota Statute 326.107. More information concerning continuing education for professionals is online.

How to Register

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A LITTLE OF THE SAME

By Ramon D. Gavarrete, P.E., County Engineer, Highlands County, FL and NACE Secretary/Treasurer

As I begin typing this, I am attending the Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents' (FACERS) Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. FACERS general membership meets twice a year in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties (FAC). To my delight, or surprise, some of the pressing issues that Florida is currently entertaining are extremely similar to the issues that NACE has had to undertake in the past few years, or, more specifically, months.

A few years ago, during the NACE conference in Peoria, Illinois, NACE's Board had extensive discussions regarding how to be more inclusive. As a result of the Membership Survey that was completed in 2009, NACE considered adding a tag line to the NACE logo and all official correspondence and publications. One thing that could not be avoided was the discussion of NACE's name only mentioning County Engineers. It is amazing how much there is in a name. After much discussion, the Board voted to include the tag line of "The Voice of County Road Officials". Wow! When this passed, you would've thought it was an act of Congress!

Fast forward to FACERS and enter into a similar discussion. A few years ago, FACERS voted to expand its membership by actively seeking members working for the cities and municipalities. FACERS even offers free membership for a period of one (1) year. The goal, obviously, is to expand the membership. However, now FACERS is discussing whether or not somewhere in the name, add a "C" for cities. After a long discussion, no decision was reached. Maybe FACERS need to just include a tag line! Sounds familiar? I believe in being more inclusive. I believe that our organizations must strive to be more inclusive. Should FACERS' tag line be "The Voice of Florida's County and Cities Road Officials"?

Budget....Membership Fees.....FACERS also has to discuss these issues. How much is in our fund reserve? How much are the conferences really costing? Once again, sound familiar? According to some of the "old timers", FACERS has never adopted a budget! We will have one now! Membership fees....A little over ten (10) years ago, FACERS dues were increased from twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) to fifty (\$50.00).... Is it time for another increase? Although the cash flow will not go in the red this year, it will in a few years. However, it is the time to begin our plans for the future.

I was impressed regarding the quality of the presentations. FACERS welcomed Mr. Martin C. Knopp, FHWA Division Administrator and Mr. Duane F. Brautigam, P.E, Director, Office of Design for the Florida Department of Transportation. Mr. Knopp briefed the membership on the Every Day Counts (EDC) initiatives. This is the second year in a row that Mr. Knopp has been present during our meetings. Mr. Brautigam also made a presentation to our attendees regarding the efforts of the Local Agency Program Community of Practice (LapCop) and improvements on the part of FDOT in making the Federal LPA program more user friendly and streamlining as much as possible. FACERS continues to keep streamlining in the forefront of items to be discussed. Once again, sounds familiar?

Although at times it seems like the same discussion different meeting there is still something to be gained on both the state and national level. And bringing your experience and ideas to both is important for all involved to help keep moving forward.

On that note, before I sign off I would like to ask for your help. The NACE membership task force has been tasked to come up with ideas and/or programs, to maintain and increase membership. If you have any ideas, recommendations, please email your suggestion(s) to me at rgavarrete@hcbcc.org. While I was in college, a teacher once told me, "The only stupid question, is the one not asked." Taking this idea, "The only stupid suggestion, is the one not given!"

DON'T MISS - NATIONAL PAVEMENT PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The first National Pavement Preservation Conference "Road Trip: Driving the Message for Change" **will be held August 27-30, 2012** in downtown Nashville, Tennessee at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel.

- Hear from experts in the preservation field through plenary and technical sessions.
- Observe demonstrations of the placements of several types of pavement preservation treatments.
- Gain perspectives from leaders of the preservation industry, government, and academia about the need to protect our roadway investment through preservation.
- Participate in a forum for Regional Pavement Preservation Partnerships underwritten through the AASHTO Transportation System Preservation – Technical Services Program (TSP-2).
- Network and share technology, experiences, addressing today's major preservation issues affecting agencies and industry alike.

The pavement preservation partnerships are regional forums of pavement professionals—from state agencies, contractors, suppliers, consultants, academia, and local and federal government officials—all working together to take advantage of sharing information and identifying common issues for further investigation. The Partnerships each share and publicize information describing improvements in research, design, specifications, materials and construction practices, and promote the benefits of pavement preservation through education and outreach.

For more information and registration see: <http://nationalpavement2012.org/>

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AASHTO TOP LEADERS ANNOUNCE RETIREMENTS

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Executive Director, John Horsley, and Director of Program Finance and Management, Jack Basso, notified the AASHTO Board of Directors at the AASHTO Spring Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan on May 20 that they intend to retire effective February 1, 2013.

Since his appointment as AASHTO Executive Director in 1999, Horsley has sustained AASHTO's reputation as a world-class leader in transportation technology and improved AASHTO's role as an advocate for progressive transportation policies and the interests

of the Association's member Departments of Transportation in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. From 1993 to 1999, he served at the U.S. DOT. As Associate Deputy Secretary, he was an advocate for intermodal policies and quality of life initiatives. He served as a liaison to state and local governments, the U.S. Congress, and transportation constituencies. A native of the Northwest, Horsley was elected to five terms as County Commissioner in Kitsap County, WA (just west of Seattle) and was NACo President in 1986-1987. He is a graduate of Harvard, an Army veteran, and a former Peace

Corps volunteer and Congressional aide.

Basso is a nationally recognized expert on transportation finance. He joined AASHTO in 2001 and oversees the management of the organization's budget. Basso works closely with Congressional staff and other associations who have mutual interests in transportation financing issues. In 1998, President Clinton appointed Basso to serve as Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs and as Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. DOT. Prior Basso also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs.

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