$2 billion in additional funding for improvements to Virginia Interstate 81 could yield more than double the return on investment.

If $2 billion of crucially needed highway improvements are made to Virginia’s Interstate 81, the surrounding region could benefit from more than $4.3 billion in business output, wages and tax revenues, according to a study released November 29. Additionally, this investment would support more than 15,000 local jobs across all economic sectors.

The Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance, in conjunction with economists at the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) has released a new report showing how a $2 billion investment in transportation improvements for I-81 would stimulate business activity in the cities, counties and rural areas immediately surrounding the interstate corridor.

I-81 is the longest Interstate in Virginia, running 326 miles in length along the western part of the state and was originally designed to accommodate a fraction of the current volume of vehicles traveling the highway daily. Moreover, the current travel volume of freight trucks is nearly double the original capacity the highway was designed to support. The largely two-lane road is the site of more than 2,000 crashes per year due to a lack of capacity and terrain hazards.

According to the study, construction activity from a $2 billion investment along the I-81 corridor will yield the following benefits:

- Sales and output by I-81 corridor businesses in all sectors will increase by $3.4 billion each year;
- These investments will contribute $1.8 billion to the state gross domestic product;
- State and local tax revenues will grow by $119.8 million;
- An additional 15,243 jobs would be supported or created throughout the economy, with 51 percent of the employment being outside of the construction industry;
- Those workers will earn an average of $768.2 million per year.

The importance of a robust transportation network including highways like I-81 has been well documented by business analysts, economists and the research community. Benefits of highway improvements would also include staying competitive in the overall business environment, better access to labor, increased market share leading to more customers for I-81 businesses and more.

To review the full I-81 research study, click here.
Please Renew Your Membership – You’ll Receive A Positive Return On Your Investment

Each fall we write to confirm your continuing membership in VTCA, the state’s largest association dedicated solely to advancing the interests of the transportation construction and aggregates industries. We accompany this letter with a summary of what we have accomplished on your behalf – you can review it here.

VTCA’s forward-thinking Board of Directors and dedicated staff have represented the Alliance and the industry well this past year. None of this would have been possible without your support. This is your Alliance. Our goal is to make sure that you get a positive return on your investment. As a respected partner of state regulatory agencies, and your strongest voice on industry issues, we are pleased to announce that we will continue to effectively serve you in 2019 without an increase in dues and fees.

If you have not already done so, please take the time now to return your confidential Member Volume Report. These are due back on December 7 as the data is critical to the development of our 2019 operating budget. Again, we appreciate your support and look forward to a successful 2019 as we work on your behalf.

Ken Randolph  
Rockydale Quarries Corporation  
2018-2019 VTCA President

Northern Virginia District Dialogue – December 12

Join your industry colleagues, senior VDOT professionals and locality representatives on December 12 for the Northern Virginia District Dialogue at the Fairfax Marriott at Fair Oaks.

At this unique event, you’ll have a chance to hear from District Engineer Helen Cuervo who will provide a strategic overview of the VDOT program. Additionally, VDOT and industry leaders will discuss specific project details, including the Route 7 Corridor Improvements Project and Transform I-66 Project. VTCA’s Jeff Southard will also offer a legislative update to attendees. And finally, conversation will continue at lunch round tables where VDOT and industry professionals will lead discussions around various topics of interest to include:

• Alternative Project Delivery  
• Construction  
• Maintenance  
• Mega Projects  
• CEI  
• Locally Administered Projects  
• Materials  
• Preliminary Engineering

Register online or fill out the printable registration form and email it to Stephanie Rusnak. Please contact Stephanie (stephanie@vtca.org or 804-330-3312) with any questions.
“Charting Your Course for 2019”
Winter Meeting in Naples Starts February 7

Join your colleagues, customers and friends for the VTCA Winter Meeting, February 7 – 10 at the lovely and laid-back Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club, [www.naplesbeachhotel.com](http://www.naplesbeachhotel.com).

You’ll return to your office with the latest intel that will benefit your company in 2019. You will also have the opportunity to make valuable new contacts and strengthen the working relationships you already value. The stellar lineup of presenters includes:

- *The 2019 VDOT Program: Issues and Answers*, with Garrett Moore, P.E., VDOT Chief Engineer
- *The 2018 Tax Law Changes and What It Means for your Business*, with Scott Clarke, CPA, CCIFP, Brown, Edwards & Company
- *2018 Election Results and the Political Landscape*, with Dr. Bob Holsworth
- *General Assembly and VTCA Issues Update*, with VTCA Executive Vice President Jeff Southard, Esq.

In addition to these excellent technical sessions, you will have ample opportunity to spend time with your colleagues outside of the meeting room walls! Here are the highlights of optional activities:

- **Backwater Fishing** - Enjoy fabulous scenery and great fishing on our excursion into the beautiful backwaters of the Gulf of Mexico. Each vessel will carry four folks through the waters of the mangrove forests fishing for mangrove snapper, trout, redfish, sheephead, snook and the “Silver King” tarpon, which is in high season in February. This excursion includes a professional captain on each vessel, bait, tackle, boxed lunch and all varieties of beverages! Reservations must be made by **no later than January 4** to ensure availability of boats during peak season.

- **Jet Boat Eco-Thrill Tour** - Get ready for an eco-thrill ride on Southwest Florida’s most exhilarating attraction. We’ll explore the waterways with a professional guide narrating the sights and the ecology. See dolphin and more aboard a 20-passenger jet boat that’s fun for all ages. You’ll feel the thrill of the 360-degree adrenaline rush turns and reach speeds in excess of 35 miles per hour. Reservations must be made by **no later than January 4** to ensure availability of boats during peak season.

- **Golf** - The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club boasts its very own on-site golf course. Built in the late 1920s, the course was redesigned in 2016 by golf icon Jack Nicklaus. The cost includes range balls, lunch, and beverages. Equipment rental is available. You may wish to take advantage of optional one-hour golf clinics offered most days for a nominal fee.

All the details for the Winter Meeting are on our web site [www.vtca.org/event/2019-vtca-winter-meeting/](http://www.vtca.org/event/2019-vtca-winter-meeting/).

Questions? Call Lisha, Stephanie or Jan at the VTCA office, 804-330-3312. We look forward to seeing YOU in Naples.

Thanks to our Winter Meeting Sponsors!
FHWA Seeks To Increase Flexibility To Use Proprietary Or Patented Materials – Seeking Public Comment

The Federal Highway Administration is seeking comments on two alternate co-proposals to help advance the objective to provide greater flexibility to states to use proprietary or patented materials in Federal-aid projects. First, FHWA is proposing to amend and replace the requirements relating to patented and proprietary product approvals with a more flexible general requirement that enhances fairness, open competition, and transparency in the product selection process. Alternatively, the agency proposes rescinding the requirements, thereby encouraging further innovation in the development of new highway transportation technology and methods, as well as potentially reducing costs.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Promoting Innovation in Use of Patented and Proprietary Products is online and recipients and partners are encouraged to provide comments on the NPRM through the Federal eRulemaking Portal (www.regulations.gov/document?D=FHWA-2018-0036-0001). The closing date for comments is January 14, 2019.

2019 Transportation Construction Management Institute – Registration Open

Registration is now open for TCMI 2019, marking over three decades of training Virginia’s transportation industry’s emerging leaders. The 10-day immersive program focuses on enhancing the skills and knowledge of Virginia’s transportation construction industry leaders and is unlike any other leadership development program in Virginia.

Offered on Virginia Tech’s campus in Blacksburg, TCMI leads participants through a comprehensive developmental program tailored for individuals on a leadership track in the industry. Participants in the program come from private industry construction and engineering companies as well as VDOT staff from across the state. The diversity represented by the participants provides an unprecedented opportunity for participants to gain greater understanding of their ability to solve problems and effectively communicate the solutions.

The value and contributions to Virginia’s transportation program is reflected in VDOT’s and VTCA’s continuous support and participation since its inception. VTCA will once again offer students of VTCA members a $500 tuition rebate.

The 31st Transportation Construction Management Institute is set to train another class of industry and VDOT leaders beginning February 20 and concluding March 1, 2019. Mark your calendar now to attend. Class space is limited. Details and registration for the 2019 program are available online - www.cpe.vt.edu/tcmi/index.html.

Notice On Paper Plans And Contract Documents

Effective December 31, 2018, VDOT’s Construction Division Plan Room will no longer sell paper plans and contract documents. If a recent advertisement did not include the applicable order forms, paper plans and contract documents will not be available for the subject project.

Digital plans and contract documents will be available through CABB and ProjectWise. For complete details about ProjectWise access, please click here. The 2016 Road and Bridge Specification Book will still be available from the Plan Room until further notice.

VDOT Materials Division Rolls Out Updates

VDOT has released two updates to the Material Division’s Manual of Instructions. MD 420-18 outlines editorial revisions to Section 206 of the VDOT Materials Division’s Manual of Instructions regarding VDOT’s Independent Assurance Program. The revisions are editorial for clarity and do not technically change VDOT’s Independent Assurance Program requirements. MD 421-18 outlines revisions to Section 204 of the VDOT Materials Division’s Manual of Instructions regarding VDOT’s quality assurance program for High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) and Polypropylene (PP) pipe.

MD420-18 Independent Assurance Program

MD421-18 Quality Assurance Program for HDPE and PP Pipe
Announcing The Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship

VTCA is excited to announce the creation of the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship. This apprenticeship has been created in response to your need to create innovative ways to attract, train and retain skilled miners.

We teamed with Germanna Community College, Mountain Empire Community College, and the Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) to create the program. Upon completion, the apprentice will receive Journeyworker credentials and can qualify to be a Virginia Certified Mine Foreman.

Key points:

1. In Virginia, apprenticeship programs are managed by the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry’s Division of Registered Apprenticeship, or DOLI.
2. Working with DOLI, each employer who wishes to offer the program becomes a Sponsor.
3. The Sponsor has flexibility in building the course of study they desire for their own apprentices.
4. This apprenticeship will fall under the Miner I occupation title established by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. In Virginia, this apprenticeable occupation will be called the Open Pit Miner.

We at VTCA have worked closely with DMM and the community colleges to create a general template for the curriculum and work experience. While it is fully customizable, this will give you an idea of what a typical program might look like. Click here to see the template.

VTCA is planning an Apprenticeship Information Seminar in January. We will gear the presentation for human resources managers, plant managers, and quarry executives who are interested in learning more and/or who would be responsible for administering the program for their company. The Seminar will include representatives from DMM, the Virginia Department of Labor & Industry, and the community colleges. We will provide detailed information on how the Open Pit Miner and other registered apprenticeships work – what is involved in becoming a Sponsor, who is eligible to be an apprentice, what the course of study might look like, how the work experience requirements are defined, what the costs are, and much more.

Stay tuned, or contact VTCA’s Rob Lanham for more information, rob@vtca.org.

I-81 Quarry Tours Finish Up

VTCA and Virginians for Better Transportation have been working to raise awareness about the critical need for new dedicated funding to improve I-81. The final I-81 Quarry Tour was held on November 1 at Carmeuse’s Winchester Quarry.

More than 20 community, business and local government leaders were in attendance, including Delegate Chris Collins (R-29th). Presentations by Carmeuse, VTCA, and EMS representatives were well received. Delegate Collins added details about VDOT’s study of the needs and shared his concerns and thoughts about a funding solution.

Guests were treated to a great lunch and had ample time to talk with each other about the region’s needs. The message remained consistent - “It’s Time to Fix I-81.”

This fall over 225 influential leaders attended the five Quarry Tours VTCA and VBT hosted. This outreach was a huge success and certainly helped moved the bar of understanding about the critical need to improve the entire I-81 corridor.

Many thanks to the VTCA Aggregate Producer members that hosted the I-81 Tours:

- The Frazier Quarry
- Rockydale Quarries
- Salem Stone
- Blue Water Industries
- Carmeuse Lime and Stone
VTCA Hosts Booth At VAST Conference

VTCA again proudly hosted a booth at the annual conference of the Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST). Held November 15 - 17 in Williamsburg, over 800 educators were in attendance. Coordinated by the VTCA Aggregate Producer Marketing Committee, VTCA members and DMME representatives staffed the booth and distributed our wildly popular Rock Kits.

Rock Kits are compartmentalized boxes filled with 10 aggregate samples from across Virginia. This year, VTCA made the Rock Kits “interactive” - teachers filled their own kits. This worked great as it initiated conversations between the teachers and VTCA representatives. Included in the Rock Kits were aggregates from Acres Sand & Gravel, Aggregate Industries, C.W. Barger & Son, Boxley, Carmeuse Lime and Stone, Cedar Mountain Stone, Luck Stone, Virginia Kyanite, Virginia Vermiculite and Vulcan Materials. Accompanying the Rock Kits was geologic information and uses for each aggregate as well as a map identifying where each mineral is mined. DMME also provided geologic information pertaining to Virginia.

Tote bags were provided by Vulcan Materials. Luck Stone provided the Rock Kit boxes. We would like to give a special shout out to Katie Kosloski of Luck Stone and her small team who spent an entire Saturday assembling 1,000 Rock Kits. Dave Caldwell of Rockydale Quarries and Rob Lanham of VTCA enjoyed meeting Virginia’s First Lady Pamela Northam who stopped by to learn about our industry!

Spring Smoke Schools Scheduled

Mark your calendars for the Spring Smoke Schools. Registration information will be coming soon.

Richmond – March 6
Roanoke – March 13
Abingdon/Glade Springs – March 16

“What The Democratic House Means For The Aggregates Industry”

Excerpted with permission from the National Sand Stone and Gravel Association

Significant changes are coming to Congress, especially to the House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee. After the midterm election, Democratic candidates won a majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. With a new majority party in control of the House, new committee chairs will be appointed. Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) is first in line to chair the T&I Committee. NSSGA’s ROCKPAC is a longtime supporter of DeFazio and NSSGA has a great working relationship with the new majority committee staff. An advocate of increasing funding for the Highway Trust Fund, DeFazio has vowed that a top priority will be making the Trust Fund solvent. “We’ve got to get back to being No. 1 in the world again, and you’re going to be a key part of that,” DeFazio said to NSSGA members at the 2018 Legislative & Policy Forum.

DeFazio and Democratic leaders are planning to pursue a major U.S. transportation and infrastructure measure in the 116th Congress. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said it may be something Democrats can do with the Republican president. “One of my things is build, build, build,” Pelosi said at an October event hosted by CNN. “Build the infrastructure of America from sea to shining sea.” President Trump said in an October 17 interview on Fox Business News that “infrastructure is going to be starting after the midterms and we think that’s going to be an easy one.” With bipartisan interest in infrastructure, NSSGA will continue to build on advocacy efforts over the past two years.

Read the full NSSGA article here.
ARTBA Names Matt Jeanneret As COO

Matthew J. Jeanneret, CAE, has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer of the American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA), effective November 1.

Jeanneret joined ARTBA in 1998 as director of public affairs. He has been serving as deputy chief operating officer since January. As ARTBA’s senior vice president of communications and marketing over the past decade, he led its award-winning external communications initiatives aimed at building political support for increased transportation infrastructure investment in the past four federal highway and transit program authorization laws.

“Matt’s 20 years of accomplished service have well prepared him for this new role,” ARTBA’s Acting President and CEO William Toohey said. “Over that time, he has been instrumental in the success of the association’s advocacy, safety, education and member services programs. Matt is a proven leader, effective manager and has a deep commitment to the association’s mission, membership, and staff.”

Since 2005, Jeanneret has also served as the ARTBA Transportation Development Foundation’s (TDF) executive director. In this role, he raised more than a half-million dollars for the Lanford Family Highway Worker Memorial Scholarship Program, which helps the children of those killed or permanently injured on the job attend college.

From 1994-1996, Jeanneret served as the chief media spokesman for two state agencies in Massachusetts Governor William Weld’s administration. In 1992, he received a presidential appointment to serve as a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Justice in the administration of George H.W. Bush. He began his career in 1989 as a legislative aide to now retired U.S. Senator Alan K. Simpson (R-Wyo.).

Jeanneret holds the Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives, a credential held only by five percent of those in the field. He earned a B.A. from Boston College and an M.A. from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Rinker Design Associates (RDA), along with The Lane Construction Corporation, are honored to have recently received several awards from the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) for the Virginia Department of Transportation’s I-66 / Route 15 Interchange Reconstruction Design-Build Project. The awards included the 2018 Design-Build National Award of Merit in Transportation, 2018 Design-Build National Award of Excellence in Transportation, and the 2018 Design-Build Project of the Year Award.

This project reconstructed the I-66/Route 15 interchange in Prince William County, Virginia to a diverging diamond interchange – the first of its kind in the Northern Virginia region – to relieve congestion, enhance public safety, improve operations and capacity, and accommodate forecasted traffic demand in the project area.

This is the first time in DBIA’s 25-year history that a transportation project was selected for their top award.
Jeb Burton, Vice President – Asphalt with Boxley, has announced his retirement effective April 1, 2019. A graduate of Virginia Military Institute, Burton has been a leader in the industry for more than 30 years, working for Marvin V. Templeton & Sons and Boxley. Charles Craddock will succeed Burton. Craddock has been with Boxley for more than 15 years, serving in various roles at the quarries and with asphalt operations. We wish Jeb all the best in retirement and congratulate Charles on his promotion.

**Member News**

Jeb Burton, Vice President – Asphalt with Boxley, has announced his retirement effective April 1, 2019. A graduate of Virginia Military Institute, Burton has been a leader in the industry for more than 30 years, working for Marvin V. Templeton & Sons and Boxley. Charles Craddock will succeed Burton. Craddock has been with Boxley for more than 15 years, serving in various roles at the quarries and with asphalt operations. We wish Jeb all the best in retirement and congratulate Charles on his promotion.

**Health Care Corner**

The IRS has established the 2019 Health Savings Account (HSA) contribution limits, increased from 2018. The individual limit has increased to $3,500. The family limit has increased to a total of $7,000. The HSA catch-up contribution limit for people age 55 and older remains at $1,000.

If your health insurance plan is a qualified High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), be certain to open up an HSA. Please contact me with any questions.

Monty D ise, President Asset Protection Group 14021 Charter Park Drive Midlothian, VA 23114 804-423-7700 ext. 309 www.apgroupinc.com