Reflecting On 2018

As the advocate for the transportation construction industries in Virginia, VTCA has achieved many successes. But we should always be sure we remain focused on that advocacy goal. To that end, it is important that we stop periodically and reflect on mission successes.

In looking back on 2018, VTCA undertook many initiatives on behalf of its members. In addition to our many successes on the legislative front, we are proud of our other 2018 advocacy accomplishments. VTCA:

- Developed and implemented the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program in cooperation with the Virginia Community College System, DMME and the Department of Labor;
- Worked with VDOT to implement electronic bidding of H-Orders;
- Continued the successes of the aggregates industry Community Outreach Program with more than 6,700 community members reached since 2017;
- Worked successfully on DEQ and DMME mining permit requirement updates;
- Engaged VDOT on consultant engineering rate negotiations;
- Worked with VDOT’s Assurance and Compliance Office to develop and implement audit review guidelines;
- Reviewed and commented on more than 50 VDOT draft specifications;
- Worked with VDOT to develop and refine the Department’s design-build alternative technical concepts policy;
- Stopped implementation of overreaching temporary rumble strip requirement and rewrote new, practical requirements;
- Worked to revamp VDOT’s change order management procedures;
- Developed a technical working group to implement process improvement in the construction inspector certification program;
- Participated in a utility relocation working group to improve the utility risks on design-build projects;
- Provided more than 25 professional development programs;
- Continued our public awareness and advocacy program - Virginians for Better Transportation;
- Developed a dedicated funding awareness campaign for I-81;
- Worked with VDOT to provide more consistency in the administration and delivery of locally administered projects.

Our commitment to our members is clear - to continue to work on your behalf to identify and implement initiatives that improve the business climate for your company. We always welcome your suggestions and assistance. Contact any member of the staff or Board at any time. Thank you for your support.

Dedicated to Advancing the Interests of the Transportation Construction Industries
The Biggest Transportation Construction Industry Event Is Coming In April!

Virginia’s annual Spring Transportation Construction Conference and Trade Show is coming to NORFOLK April 10 – 12. With emphasis on the future of transportation and the delivery of the program, the conference includes multiple technical and business development sessions led by the industry’s most experienced leadership. Join us and over 900 of your industry peers during the conference’s trade show where representatives will be displaying the latest tools, materials and services available to facilitate your success.

This year’s conference kicks off with author, business leader and Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross Recipient Lt. Colonel Kevin Sweeney. The agenda will include the traditional appearances by Virginia’s top transportation leadership and VDOT experts delivering the latest news, program policies and new technology initiatives.

Returning to the VTCA stage after his 2018 dynamic and entertaining presentation on the status of our economy, Dr. Elliot Eisenberg will close out the Conference with an update deciphering and predicting our economic future. He was a huge hit last year – you don’t want to miss out.

This year’s conference will be at a new location, Hilton Norfolk The Main! Conference details will be on the street February 12. The broad conference schedule is as follows:

**Wednesday, April 10**
- All Day: Committee Meetings
- 10:30 a.m.: VTCA Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament, Riverfront Golf Club, Suffolk – a new location.
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: Kickoff Reception and Trade Show

**Thursday, April 11**
- All Day: Trade Show
- 8:00 a.m. – Noon: Opening and General Session
- Noon: Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Concurrent Breakout Sessions
- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Reception in the Exhibit Hall. Dinner on your own.

**Friday, April 12**
- 8:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.: Trade Show
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: Breakout Sessions
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.: Closing Session

Additional Asphalt Field Classes Scheduled For Roanoke

As part of VTCA’s continued commitment to improving Materials Certification Schools (MCS) programs with VDOT and the Virginia Community College System, and due to high demand, two additional Asphalt Field Level I and II classes have been scheduled for March. Both will be held on campus at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke. Details are available on the [Germanna CC website](http://www.germanna.edu).

**Asphalt Field Level I:** 3/12/19 - 3/13/19  
**Asphalt Field Level II:** 3/13/19 - 3/14/19
In hopes to better the learning experience for students in the Construction Inspector Certification Program and the Materials Certification Schools, all Virginia Commonwealth College System schools will be switching software platforms from “Blackboard” to “Canvas” on July 1, 2019.

In order to make this conversion and to allow VCCS the necessary time to retrieve and transmit grades to VDOT, access to data in Blackboard will be terminated in mid-May. In turn, students are encouraged to schedule their exams to be taken before May 1, 2019, especially for those classes that were registered for between January 1, 2019 and May 1, 2019. Classes that start on or after July 1, 2019 will be in Canvas.

As a reminder, on January 1, 2019, VDOT published its policy and guidance on its Indirect Cost Rate Submission and Review Process. The guidance provides for VDOT’s responsibility in ensuring consultant costs are allowable and reimbursable and includes Industry’s duties to supply adequate information upon submittal.

The guidance is now located online at http://bit.ly/2Mp6NBF.

VDOT has published their 2019 Hourly Pay Rate Limitations and Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Consultant Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services (http://bit.ly/2sCsl55).

For all CEI RFPs advertised after January 1, 2019, the hourly rates will be in effect until December 31, 2019, or further notice. The mileage rates were derived from the IRS Notice 2019-02, and at its discretion, the Department may periodically evaluate and adjust these rates for consistency with industry standards.

As a reminder, on January 1, 2019, VDOT published its policy and guidance on its Indirect Cost Rate Submission and Review Process. The guidance provides for VDOT’s responsibility in ensuring consultant costs are allowable and reimbursable and includes Industry’s duties to supply adequate information upon submittal.

The guidance is now located online at http://bit.ly/2Mp6NBF.

VDOT CEI Capped Rates And Mileage Reimbursement

VDOT has published their 2019 Hourly Pay Rate Limitations and Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Consultant Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services (http://bit.ly/2sCsl55).

For all CEI RFPs advertised after January 1, 2019, the hourly rates will be in effect until December 31, 2019, or further notice. The mileage rates were derived from the IRS Notice 2019-02, and at its discretion, the Department may periodically evaluate and adjust these rates for consistency with industry standards.

The guidance is now located online at http://bit.ly/2Mp6NBF.

In order to make this conversion and to allow VCCS the necessary time to retrieve and transmit grades to VDOT, access to data in Blackboard will be terminated in mid-May. In turn, students are encouraged to schedule their exams to be taken before May 1, 2019, especially for those classes that were registered for between January 1, 2019 and May 1, 2019. Classes that start on or after July 1, 2019 will be in Canvas.

Call For 2019 TPMI Applications

The University of Virginia Center for Transportation Studies, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance, is preparing to offer the eleventh annual Transportation Project Management Institute (TPMI) from May 14 – 23, 2019 in Charlottesville. The Institute is designed for a cohort of 35 midcareer, emerging leaders from state and local government, and industry. Past participants have commented that the Institute provided them with a unique opportunity to develop their skills while also establishing strong relationships that have benefitted their professional careers. To learn more about the Institute, please visit https://at.virginia.edu/2FGrtKW.

A particular benefit for private sector participants is the opportunity to gain direct experience with the VDOT project management process. In addition, you will work side-by-side with emerging leaders in the Department and the industry. We have already received many strong applications for the 2019 program; however, there are a limited number of spots remaining.

Students who are employees of VTCA members are eligible for a $500 rebate for participation in the program. Please contact VTCA’s Jeff Bragdon for details.

International Conference On Transportation & Development

Please consider attending ASCE’s Flagship Conference in Transportation & Development (T&D) June 9-12, 2019 in Alexandria, Virginia. The conference will explore how society needs to adapt to the engineering and development challenges facing the transportation needs of cities of today and the future. Join other planners, researchers, and policy makers as they discuss innovative and necessary solutions to these needs and how our cities must appropriately adapt. Details are online at http://bit.ly/2RjegU.
Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Informational Seminar

On January 15 VTCA held an informational seminar on the new Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program. Held at the VTCA office, twenty members representing nine aggregate producers attended. The seminar included presentations from the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI), Germanna Community College, Mountain Empire Community College, and the Virginia Department of Mineral Mining (DMM).

The Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship was created in response to your need to create innovative ways to attract, train and retain skilled miners. This Apprenticeship is a three-year program consisting of a minimum of 144 hours of course study and 2,000 hours of work experience annually. Upon completion of the requirements, the apprentice will receive a Journeyperson Card and the Virginia Surface Mine Foreman Certification.

DOLI managers explained what apprenticeships are and how employers can participate in an apprenticeship program. They expanded on the details of the Virginia Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship and the flexibility of the program to tailor training to fit the specific needs of an employer. The community colleges outlined their role in the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program, discussing the required courses and training for apprentices. Phil Skorupa of DMM discussed their role in the program, their support of the new apprenticeship, and the Surface Mine Foreman Certificate.

The seminar was recorded; the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program Informational Seminar Video is available to VTCA members on the VTCA website in the Video Library under the Resources tab or through the below link: www.vtca.org/resources/video-library/

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Rob Lanham at rob@vtca.org or 540-229-9662.

CMA Certification

The VDOT Central Mix Aggregate Certification (CMA) is now fully under the administration of the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA), including course instruction and proficiency exams. The CMA class instruction will continue to be conducted by industry representatives and offered in the spring in Richmond and Roanoke. Check the CCWA and VDOT University websites for class schedules.

Recertifications are also conducted by CCWA via a study guide or by attending the class. Both the written and proficiency exams are required for recertifications. The recertification study guide will be available in April. If your certification has expired and you need to be recertified right away, please contact Duane Sayre at VDOT at rd.sayre@vdot.virginia.gov or 804-328-3150

CCWA is in need of CMA-certified people to proctor the proficiency exams. At this point CCWA is not clear on what they will do about proficiency exam proctors. They are actively seeking proctor personnel. VTCA and Technical Committee members are meeting with VDOT in February to discuss the proficiency proctor concern.

VDOT Stone & Sand Bids

As you may be aware, several months ago VDOT employed electronic bidding for the stone and sand bids (H-Orders). Despite a few minor issues this has mostly been successful. Now VDOT is looking to further streamline the stone and sand bid process and has asked the industry for input.

In the very near future VTCA’s Rob Lanham and members of the Aggregate Producer Leadership Committee and the Marketing Committee will have an initial meeting with VDOT Procurement to discuss their objectives.
Minimum Age Of Miners

Through VTCA’s development of the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program and companion efforts on workforce development, we have learned that at the Federal level there are certain permitted occupations for people between the ages of 16 and 18 years old in non-coal mine operations. Virginia law, however, does not permit any workers under the age of 18 to work in a mineral mine.

Below are links to both the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (this is what MSHA defers to), defining the permitted occupations within non-coal mining operations for people between the ages of 16 and 18 years old, and from the Virginia Mineral Mine Safety Laws, clearly defining that no one under the age of 18 is permitted to work in a mineral mine.

U.S. CFR – www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9a64e781b4029c586d9d62dd5109979d&mc=true&node=pt29.3.570&rgn=div5#se29.3.570_160


Over the next year, VTCA will work with DMM and the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry to discuss amending the Virginia Mining laws to mirror what the U.S. DOL permits. In preliminary discussions with DMM, we may be able to accomplish our objectives through regulatory action not requiring a change in the law.

If our industry can offer internships, summer jobs, job shadowing and part-time work to high school students between the ages of 16 and 18, it could enlighten many young people about the excellent career opportunities in our industry. Coupling this exposure with career advancement programs like the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship and Heavy Equipment Operator schools, we can help attract additional talent to our industry.

Smoke Schools

The visual emissions certification classes, or Smoke Schools, are scheduled for March 6 in Richmond, March 13 in Roanoke and on March 16 in Glade Springs/Abingdon.

Please note the location for the Richmond Smoke School has changed to Luck Stone’s Rockville Plant located at 1950 Rockville Industrial Way, Goochland, VA 23146.

Please visit the VTCA website for more details and to register.

ESCCC Schedule

VTCA has released the 2019 Erosion & Sediment Control Contractor Certification class schedule. Visit www.vtca.org for more information, to register or to print a form.

February 27 - Richmond
May 30 - Abingdon
December 5 - Richmond
March 27 - Roanoke
November 6 - Roanoke

Additional Amtrak Service To Norfolk Begins March 4

Hampton Roads citizens will soon have more options to avoid traffic and congestion in tunnels and on Interstates 64 and 95 with the March 4th debut of a second Amtrak train service serving Norfolk. In addition to the current 6:10 AM daily departure, the second Norfolk train will depart weekdays around 9:00 AM. Passenger rail service to and from Norfolk is part of Amtrak’s Northeast Regional train service connecting the Commonwealth to the northeast, offering customers a same-seat trip to and from 17 Virginia stations to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston and other destinations.

The addition also comes with the announcement of the completion of major construction work at CSX’s Acca Yard in Richmond. The completion of the $132 million project decreases congestion for passenger and freight trains between Richmond’s Main Street and Staples Mill Stations, increasing reliability for both Amtrak and CSX customers across the Commonwealth. Norfolk Southern was also a key partner in bringing the existing and new Norfolk passenger rail routes online.

The new Hampton Roads passenger rail service also includes optimized schedule changes to and from both Norfolk and Newport News stations. In addition to the second mid-morning departure and early-evening arrival to Norfolk, Newport News customers will also have the benefit of an early-morning departure and early-evening arrival, providing all Hampton Roads customers additional daily options to get Washington, D.C. and back.

Details are at http://drpt.virginia.gov/media/2687/hr-optimization-1102019-w-weekends.pdf.
On January 29, Governor Ralph Northam announced the signing of agreements with private partner Transurban to deliver four critical transportation solutions along Interstate 495 and Interstate 95. These projects will create significant value for citizens and businesses throughout Northern Virginia and Fredericksburg. The projects are:

• A 2.5-mile extension of the 495 Express Lanes north to the American Legion Bridge to reduce congestion.
• The addition of a new, reversible ramp connecting the existing 95 Express Lanes at Opitz Boulevard to provide improved access to Potomac Mills and Sentara Virginia Medical Center.
• Construction of a new southbound Occoquan auxiliary lane on Interstate 95 in Woodbridge to address the traffic bottleneck at the Occoquan Bridge.

VDOT is advancing required environmental studies to support these projects, and the partners will commence extensive engagement with the community and local stakeholders as they develop more detailed design plans. While the timeline for delivery of the improvements will continue to be refined, construction could begin as early as 2020.

• In addition, the proposal for the Fredericksburg Extension Project (Fred Ex), a project consisting of a 10-mile extension of the 95 Express Lanes to Fredericksburg, has been finalized and is on track for commercial close this spring.

“These negotiations have resulted in a more than $1 billion investment in transportation infrastructure in these vital regions of Virginia,” said Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine. “Working collaboratively, we are delivering on our commitment to reduce congestion, improve safety, and increase reliability for those we serve.”

Full release can be found here.
Member News

**Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc.** (a subsidiary of the Davey Tree Expert Company) has acquired Kerr Environmental Services, a Virginia Beach-based firm. With this acquisition, WSSI has four Virginia offices located at all corners of the state, including locations in Maryland, North Carolina and Florida.

WSSI is a recognized leader in natural and cultural resources studies, Clean Water Act permitting, CBPA studies, wetland and stormwater regulatory policy, mitigation design, and mitigation banking. Combining with Kerr’s services, they will be strengthened with general environmental consulting, including wetland and stream delineations and permitting, wetland and stream restoration and mitigation, watershed planning, natural areas management, endangered species, contaminant investigations, and NEPA studies.

The two companies are no strangers to one another, having teamed up on some large projects together. Several people in their organizations know each other and feel that this move will strengthen their geographical presence, while bringing improved service to their clients.

**Shirley Contracting Company, LLC** recently announced the following promotions.

- Greg Smith has been promoted to President. Greg will have full responsibility for overseeing the company’s operations, including project delivery and project development.
- Jon Harman has been promoted to Senior Vice President. Jon will be responsible for project pursuits and will work closely with our project teams and company leadership in the pursuit of new work for the organization.
- Chuck Smith has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Operations. Chuck will oversee the delivery of our projects to ensure they have the necessary resources and support to achieve success.
- Dan Clymore has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Estimating. Dan will be responsible for overseeing the estimating team and will work closely with our business partners and clients to prepare effective estimates and winning bid strategies.

**Wallace Montgomery** is proud to announce that David L. Borusiewicz, PE, DBIA, has joined the Wallace Montgomery Partnership. Dave’s joined the firm 19 years ago as a Design Engineer. His technical acumen, ability to communicate with clients and colleagues, and leadership skills, soon earned him promotions to Project Manager, Associate, and Senior Associate within the Structural Engineering Department. As Partner, Dave will continue to oversee the firm’s Structural Engineering Department. “We’re continuing to move the company forward in terms of technical innovation,” he says. “Innovation is about bringing new perspectives and being forward-thinking while holding on to the mission and core values that have made this firm so successful over past 40-plus years.” Dave holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Maryland and a Master of Civil Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. He is a Registered Professional Engineer in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington DC, and Florida.

**Dewberry** has announced the promotion of Jerry Mrykalo, PE, PTOE, to Senior Associate. Mrykalo is a transportation engineer who was named a 2019 Top Young Professional by *ENR MidAtlantic*. He holds a B.S. in civil engineering from the Pennsylvania State University. He currently serves as the Vice Chairman of VTCA’s Design-Build Committee.

New Members Join Associate Leadership Committee

The Associate Leadership Committee has elected four industry professionals to serve new terms. We look forward to working with these leaders as they advance the interests of our valued partners.

Danny Moran of **Associated Asphalt** will represent the Asphalt & Petroleum Suppliers category of Associate members.

Eric Champion of **Hartford Bond** will represent the Bonding & Insurance category.

Scott Crumpler of **Concrete Pipe and Precast** will represent the Concrete Pipe & Precast Products members.

Steve Noel with **Dimensional Products** will represent the Traffic Control Devices category.

A tip of the hard hat to our Associate Members. Remember, when you have a choice, choose to do business with your fellow VTCA members!
Welcome To Our New Members

**Hoyt Wire Cloth** is a premier manufacturer of wire cloth and other screen media panels used in sorting and sizing mining materials. Family-owned, all Hoyt Wire Cloth screening products are proudly manufactured in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, using the finest American-produced materials. Raw material, engineering, manufacturing and the knowledge of screening applications is what distinguishes Hoyt Wire Cloth as a leading supplier in the aggregate screen media industry.

10 Abraso Street
Lancaster, PA 17604
717-419-7722
www.hoytwirecloth.com

VTCA Contact: Adam Ostrowski, Product Manager/Sales Engineer
aostrowski@lumsdencorp.com

**Seyfarth Shaw LLP** provides thoughtful, strategic, and practical legal counsel to the construction and transportation industries. The firm regularly assists clients with contract drafting and negotiation along with all aspects of project development, including procurement, design, construction, and post-completion. Seyfarth’s extensive experience in dispute avoidance is complemented by its long record of success with alternative dispute resolution and litigation. Chuck Wall focuses his practice on construction law, infrastructure development, and alternative project delivery, including design-build and public-private partnerships.

975 F Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004
202-828-3533
www.seyfarth.com

VTCA Contact: Charles E. “Chuck” Wall, Partner, cwall@seyfarth.com

**Virginia Sand & Stone, LLC** provides sand and gravel with construction and specialty sands and soils.

366 Gravel Pit Road
Newtown, VA 23126
804-814-7880
www.virginiasand.com

VTCA Contact: John Dixon, President
jdixon@virginiasand.com

**Position Sought**

Construction industry sales and management professional is seeking a new challenge. Extensive industry experience, including management of high performing sales teams, takeoffs and estimating for sales quotations, building and maintaining excellent relationships with customers, and development of market areas. B.S. in Business and Management/Marketing and Research, MBA, Certified Virginia Real Estate Brokers License.

For a copy of this resume, please contact Stephanie at the VTCA office, stephanie@vtca.org.

**Health Care Corner**

Most health insurance carriers require employers to pay a minimum of 50% of their employees’ health insurance premiums, based on the lowest cost health insurance plan. If an employer pre-taxes the employees’ share of their premium, or their dependents’ premiums, then it is imperative for the employer to have a section 125 Premium Only Plan (POP) in place. This plan document is needed for IRS compliance. Please contact me with any questions.

Monty Dise, President, Asset Protection Group
804-423-7700, ext. 309, mdise@apgroupinc.com

AP Group is a proud VTCA member!