General Assembly Convenes January 9  
VTCA Legislative Priority Is Funding For I-81

Nearly nine in 10 voters from the I-81 corridor support a $2 billion investment in the highway for needed improvements a new poll finds. More than two-thirds, or 69 percent, of respondents say those improvements should be approved in 2019. Securing funding for those improvements is VTCA’s legislative priority.

In conjunction with researchers at the nationally recognized public opinion and research firm, Public Opinion Strategies, VTCA released key findings from a survey of 500 registered voters living along the I-81 corridor in Virginia. The polling results were released on December 17.

Nearly half of those interviewed gave the highway a grade of D or F while a majority of respondents said they would support improvements to I-81 even if it meant they had to pay higher taxes.

“The people have spoken and they want I-81 fixed now,” said VTCA Executive Vice President Jeff Southard. “Traffic on I-81 exceeds the capacity for which it was built. When more than half of your respondents say they don’t feel safe on the highway and a strong majority, both Democrat and Republican, supports a fix, it’s clear that action is needed from our elected leaders.”

The study also found that three-quarters or 75 percent of voters interviewed say they would be more likely to back a state legislator who supports a funding solution.

In late November, VTCA along with the American Road & Transportation Builders Association released a report showing how a $2 billion investment in transportation improvements for I-81 would stimulate $4.3 billion in business activity in the cities, counties and rural areas immediately surrounding the interstate corridor.

The poll summary memo and the poll results are available online.

The General Assembly convenes on January 9. Every VTCA member is encouraged to reach out to their respective legislators. Find yours here: www.virginia.gov/services/whos-my-legislator/.

Please Renew Your Membership!

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.

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 were 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.

Dedicated to Advancing the Interests of the Transportation Construction Industries
In November, VTCA was extremely pleased to announce the creation of a brand new apprenticeship program for the aggregates industry – the Open Pit Miner Apprenticeship Program. The program was developed in response to your need for an innovative way to attract, train and retain skilled miners. We worked closely with the Division of Mineral Mining and Virginia's Community College System to create a fully customizable program for you.

On January 15 we will hold an informational seminar at our office in Richmond. The seminar is geared toward human resources managers, operations managers, and quarry executives who are interested in learning more and/or who would be responsible for administering the program for their company. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude by 1:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

You will leave with the knowledge and tools you need to begin this program at your company. Presenters include:

- Trish Morrison, Director, Division of Registered Apprenticeship, Virginia Department of Labor & Industry
- Ben Sherman, Business & Career Coordinator, Germanna Community College
- Vickie Ratliff, Ed.D., Vice President, Academic Affairs/Workforce Solutions, Mountain Empire Community College
- Phil Skorupa, Director, DMME, Division of Mineral Mining
- Rob Lanham, Aggregates Program Manager, VTCA

Additional background information on the program can be found online:

**Apprenticeship Overview**

**Apprenticeship Sample Course Studies**

If your organization plans to attend, please RSVP to rob@VTCA.org with the number of participants attending.
On December 11, 2018 the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corp of Engineers released the proposed Revised Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) Rule defining the scope of waters federally regulated under the Clean Water Act. This release follows a U.S. District Court decision that struck down the Trump administration’s rule delaying the implementation of the 2015 Obama WOTUS Rules. This decision was instrumental in Virginia as Virginia was one of 22 states where the 2015 WOTUS Rule had been reinstated.

The EPA and the Corps of Engineers will take comments on the proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register. Additionally, the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association is formulating comments to the Agencies and is requesting input from the industry. Please contact Rob Lanham at VTCA (rob@vtca.org) if you would like to have more information on NSSGA’s efforts.


MSHA Assistant Secretary David Zatezalo Attends VTCA Safety Seminars

VTCA’s Safety & Health Committee conducted its annual Safety Seminars on December 4 in Roanoke and December 5 in Fredericksburg. Over 100 people attended. MSHA officials, including Joe Boseley, Staunton Field Office Supervisor, and Kevin Abel, Assistant Director, Northeastern District, attended the Roanoke Seminar where Abel gave a presentation on MSHA activities and initiatives.

Several MSHA and U.S. Department of Labor officials attended the Fredericksburg program. Kevin Abel and Ed Elliott, U.S. DOL/MSHA, both gave presentations. Brian Goepfert, MSHA Deputy Administrator, attended for the full day and Secretary Zatezalo joined the Seminar for the afternoon, addressing the group and fielding questions. It was mutually beneficial to have this level of involvement from MSHA at the Safety Seminars.

Other Safety Seminar presentations included:

- Safety Glass Systems from Tim Nickodemus of Fleet Glass;
- Fall Protection from Jim Owens with Jireh International;
- DMME Update with Phil Skorupa, Director, Division of Mineral Mining;
- Blasting Safety from Luke Provencher of Austin Powder; and

Attendees at the Roanoke Seminar also heard from Laura Eichenlaub, LPC, with Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, and Samara Lott, MPH, with the Roanoke City & Alleghany Health Districts, who discussed how to recognize workers that may be under the influence of substances and gave information on how to help employees with addictions get help.

All presentations (except for the substance abuse presentation) are available on the VTCA web site. Participation in the Safety Seminars counts towards required Annual Refresher training.

Troy Austin of Luck Stone welcomes Secretary Zatezalo
VDOT Announces Indirect Cost Rate Process

On January 1, 2019, VDOT published policy and guidance on its Indirect Cost Rate Submission and Review Process, which is effective immediately. 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. VTCA staff is appreciative of its members’ input and involvement through drafting, review, and coordination with VDOT in developing this policy.

VDOT Making Improvements To ProjectWise User Experience

In response to industry feedback, VDOT is implementing changes to the user account system to improve the user experience for user account setup and maintenance in ProjectWise. The information below addresses changes to the initial ProjectWise account setup/creation and then describes the impact on existing accounts.

VDOT’s internal CADD Support section now has the ability to create new ProjectWise logical accounts and reset passwords on expired or locked logical accounts rather than depend on outside resources. Contractors are no longer required to have a COV (Commonwealth of Virginia) Domain account or contact VCCC (VITA Customer Care Center).

**FOR NEW ACCOUNTS** - To Request a new ProjectWise Contractor Account: You are required to provide completed ITD36E and LD899 forms for each user and email to CADDsupport@vdot.virginia.gov. Once VDOT receives the forms they will contact you by phone to establish your account.

**EXISTING ACCOUNTS** - Password Reset on Locked or Expired ProjectWise Contractor accounts: If you already had a COV account created, VDOT’s CADD Support personnel can now unlock your account and reset your password. This allows you to create your own password. Contact the CADD Support Helpdesk at 804-786-1280 or CADDsupport@VDOT.Virginia.gov and provide them your current login. They will reset your account and call you with a temporary password. While on the phone, they will get you to login with the temporary password to make sure you have access. Once successfully in ProjectWise, click on Tools and scroll down to Change Password. Change your password and a dialog box will pop up showing a successful change. The images found at this link will show how to reset your password at any time.

2019 ESCCCC Class Registration Is Open!

Do you implement Erosion and Sediment Control Plans on VDOT projects and rights-of-way? Sign up today to earn or renew your ESCCCC certification. Visit www.vtca.org/events to register.

Spring District Dialogue Announced In Fredericksburg

Join your fellow VTCA members for this annual opportunity to meet Fredericksburg/Culpeper VDOT leaders and discuss the important issues that affect you as you do business within the District. Members will particularly enjoy the new Project Showcase highlighting the Districts’ most impressive transportation construction projects. Registration coming soon.

Fredericksburg/Culpeper
March 19
**Member News**

**WSP** has completed its acquisition of Louis Berger, adding 5,000 people to its workforce and strengthening itself in the Transportation & Infrastructure and Environmental & Water sectors, as well as in the Master Planning sector.

“I am pleased with this transaction which brings together two complementary organizations with aligned strategic ambitions and a resolute emphasis on clients and employees. As we focus on integration in the next few months, we will bring to the combined entity our experience of building a global consultancy with the added benefit of providing professional and personal development opportunities to our employees, while delivering long-term value to our shareholders,” commented Alexandre L’Heureux, WSP’s President and Chief Executive Officer.

“We are proud and excited to join the WSP family,” said Jim Stamatis, Louis Berger’s Chief Executive Officer. “Our complementary technical expertise and expanded geographic reach bring incredible resources to our clients and exciting new opportunities for our employees. The completion of this transaction opens the door to a bright and transformative future.”

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**Welcome To Our New Members**

**Phillips & Jordan** is a 64 year old, privately held corporation that specializes in heavy civil construction. Our core values and priorities—Integrity, Safety, Quality, and Production—guide our business practices. P&J is a national contractor registered to do business in all 50 states. With over 1,000 employees in regional and project offices across the U.S. we pursue challenging projects that involve complex problems, difficult conditions, and aggressive schedules. Our team shares a common sense of urgency and desire to win. We like to have fun. We have a pioneering spirit, value long-term relationships, and treat our partners the way we expect to be treated. We are unique. Give us a try.

10201 Parkside Drive, Suite 300
Knoxville, TN 37922
865-392-3044
Fax: 865-228-3784
www.pandj.com

VTCA Contact: David W. Lyle, Senior Manager
dlyle@pandj.com
Chairman of the Board: Avis Phillips
Chief Executive Officer: Ted Phillips, Jr.
President: Patrick McMullen

**Flatiron Constructors** develops innovative solutions to build critical infrastructure and landmark projects. Flatiron builds roads, bridges, rail, airports, dams, industrial, water and underground projects from common to complex, large-scale jobs. Delivering successful projects under a variety of contracting methods, Flatiron has unparalleled design-build and public-private partnership experience and expertise. Founded in Boulder, Colorado in 1947, and named for the unique rock formations there, Flatiron now operates across the U.S. and Canada.

860 Aviation Parkway, Suite 1000
Morrisville, NC 27560
214-906-7669
www.flatironcorp.com

VTCA Contact: Joe Iniguez, Director, Business Development
jiniguez@flatironcorp.com
Senior Vice President: Kevin Powell

**Hanson Aggregates** is one of the largest producers of crushed stone, sand and gravel in the U.S. With its robust network of plants and ability to transport materials by water and rail, Hanson Aggregates has the capability to supply construction projects in major markets across the country.

1111 Riverton Road
Front Royal, VA 22630
540-631-3240
www.lehighhanson.com

VTCA Contact: Mark Georgiana, Sales Manager/Plant Manager
mark.georgiana@lehighhanson.com
The Winter Meeting is set for February 7-10 in Naples. While the host hotel is sold out, several nearby hotels may be available. Registration with VTCA is open until February 1. Call Lisha, Stephanie or Jan if you need assistance at 804-330-3312.

Health Care Corner

The IRS has announced the 2019 contribution limits for Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs). Employers are permitted to establish lower FSA contribution limits for their employees. The outline below summarizes the differences between the 2018 and 2019 FSA contribution limits. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

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

Thank You Winter Meeting Sponsors

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