Bart Thrasher, P.E. Selected As Chief Engineer For VDOT

Following an extensive national search, Barton A. Thrasher, P.E. has been selected as VDOT’s new Chief Engineer effective July 10. Garrett Moore, P.E., who plans to retire from VDOT in the fall of 2019, will work closely with the VDOT leadership team during the transition.

In making the announcement, VDOT Commissioner Stephen Brich, P.E., said “Bart brings a variety of extensive, specialized experiences to the chief engineer role. Since joining VDOT as a transportation engineer trainee in 1997, Bart has served in multiple leadership positions in both the public and private sectors. VDOT has greatly benefited from his executive leadership in Central Office as the state location and design engineer and in the field as the Richmond District engineer. As state location and design engineer, Bart was responsible for statewide project management and preconstruction activities of VDOT’s $2 billion construction program.”

Thrasher holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering technology and a master’s degree in business administration from Old Dominion University, as well as a bachelor’s degree from Emory and Henry College. He is a graduate of the Virginia Executive Institute and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ National Transportation Management Institute.

Stephanie Rusnak Named Professional Development Manager For VTCA

Stephanie L. L. Rusnak has accepted the position of Professional Development Manager with VTCA. She replaces Lisha Reynolds who resigned in April to pursue her career in the yoga industry.

Stephanie has a degree from James Madison University in Office Systems Management and has, for the past 22 years, served as VTCA’s Administrative Operations Manager. In that role, she was actively involved in helping develop and implement many of VTCA’s schools, conferences and workshops.

Please welcome Stephanie into her new position, especially if you are attending the Annual Meeting in July!

CLC Welcomes New Members

VTCA’s Contractor Leadership Committee (CLC) is pleased to welcome two returning and one new member to the Committee. Tom Heil of Allan Myers and Ryan Terry of The Lane Construction Corporation have been re-elected to new three-year terms after completing abbreviated terms. Jerry Whitlock, Wagman Heavy Civil, was elected as a first-time member. We extend our thanks to Brian Evans, Branch Civil who served with distinction for three years.

The CLC advances the interests of VTCA Contractor members. The CLC regularly meets with VDOT representatives to discuss current issues, challenges and overall improvements to procurement and contracting policies and procedures. VTCA members are welcome to attend committee meetings which are typically the fourth Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Tom Witt.

The 2019-2020 Contractor Leadership Committee is:

Chairman: Doug Jackson, Bryant Contracting, Inc.; Vice Chairman: Babur Mian, Terra Site Constructors, LLC; Gene McGillin, Tavares, Inc.; Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company;

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The Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved the Fiscal Year 2020 budgets for the Commonwealth Transportation Fund and the FY VDOT and DRPT 2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Programs (SYIP). The plan allocates a record $22.9 billion to highway, rail, and public transportation projects over the next six fiscal years.

The FY 2020-2025 SYIP provides funding to more than 3,800 transportation projects, including highway, road, bridge, rail, transit, bicycle/pedestrian paths, and other improvements. Projects selected from the third round of SMART SCALE were also included, bringing $859.4 million to 134 highway and public transportation and transportation demand management projects statewide.

FY 2020-2025 Six-Year Improvement Program Breakdown

$18.3 billion – Highway Construction (VDOT):
- $1.5 billion – State of Good Repair
- $1.3 billion – High Priority Projects
- 1.3 billion – District Grant Program
- $271 million – Legacy Construction Formula Programs, which include work funded by a formula that pre-dates SMART SCALE and sunsets this fiscal year
- $4 billion – Specialized Programs, which includes $886 million for the Interstate 81 Corridor Improvement Program and $584 million for other interstate improvements
- $1.2 billion – Revenue Sharing
- $1.7 billion – Maintenance
- $104 million – Research and Planning
- $6.9 billion – Local and Regional Funding
- $4.6 billion – Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)
- $803 million – Rail Initiatives
- $3.8 billion – Public Transportation
- $22.9 billion – Total VDOT and DRPT SYIP

VDOT’s annual budget for FY 2020 is $6.4 billion, representing a 17% increase from the FY 2019 budget. The increase is primarily driven by the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission’s contribution to the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project. The annual budget is based on the most recent official state revenue forecast from December 2018 and estimated federal funding.

- $402.4 million – Debt service
- $2.2 billion – Road maintenance and operations (includes city and county street payments)
- $589.3 million – Support to other agencies, tolls, administration and other programs
- $2.7 billion – Construction
- $485.1 million – Funding dedicated to Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads for regional transportation projects
- $6.4 billion – Total VDOT annual budget

Details of projects and funding allocations in VDOT’s approved six-year plan are available online at http://syip.virginiadot.org/Pages/allProjects.aspx. DRPT’s six-year plan is available at www.drpt.virginia.gov/about/six-year-improvement-program/.

CLC Welcomes New Members

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Chuck Smith, Shirley Contracting Company; M. Phillip Burleigh, Burleigh Construction Co., Inc.; Derek Patterson, Basic Construction Co.; Chris Rutkai, Corman Kokosing Construction Co.; Tom Heil, Allan Myers; Ryan Terry, The Lane Construction Corporation; Jerry Whitlock, Wagman Heavy Civil. The 2019 CLC Emerging Leader members are Jessica Colbert, Allan Myers, Inc. and Thomas “TJ” Starkey, Jr., Corman Kokosing Construction Co.
DMME Reclamation Permit Fees Set To Increase  
(Correction from May Blue Top)

The amended Reclamation Regulations for Mineral Mining [4 VAC 25-31] has been signed by Governor Northam’s office; the final version was published June 10, 2019 in the Virginia Register and is online at http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss21/v35i21.pdf.

These amended regulations are in the final public comment stage and expected to be effective on July 25, 2019. Additionally, beginning on July 1, 2019, the fees associated with the Reclamation Permits will increase by $2.00 per disturbed acre.

In the May Blue Top it was incorrectly reported the Reclamation Permit fee increase was effective on July 25, 2019. The full regulation can be read at http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+sum+HB1932.

Amended VPDES General Permit Regulation For Nonmetallic Mineral Mining

The final amended VPDES General Permit Regulation for Nonmetallic Mineral Mining will be reissued on July 1, 2019.

The link to the Virginia Town Hall listing the language of the reissued permit is online at http://register.dls.virginia.gov/vol35/iss19/v35i19.pdf.

Central Mix Aggregate Certification (CMA) Proficiency Exams

VTCA Aggregate Producer Members continue to conduct group CMA proficiency exams. Four exam sessions have been conducted this year, providing nearly 30 exams.

The final two group exams are scheduled for July 18 and 25 in Northern Virginia. If anyone at your plant needs to recertify and take the exam, be sure they register for a spot in one of these final two sessions. VDOT is requiring that all proficiency exams be completed by December 1, 2019.

Please register with CCWA for the 2019 proficiency exams. You can do this by visiting VDOT’s “One-Stop-Shop” at www.virginiadot.org/business/matschools.asp.

CCWA Today

The Community College Workforce Alliance and VDOT have collaborated for certification training. Classes will be provided through CCWA. Instruction will comply with VDOT procedures and specifications. Accreditations will also be provided by VDOT. Our VDOT Class Hotline is 804-523-2290. Eligible Virginia residents can receive a 66% discount on specific courses! For more information, please visit http://ccwatraining.org/vdot/.

Workforce Development Update: VTCA Attends Corporate Gray Job Fair

On May 30, VTCA and three members co-hosted a booth at a Corporate Gray Job Fair in Virginia Beach. Corporate Gray is an organization that hosts job fairs designed to connect employers with military veterans seeking employment. More than 400 potential job seekers registered to attend.

The booth was a trial run for VTCA and these members to see if Corporate Gray events could be a good recruitment resource. The member firms all received resumes from potential applicants. VTCA will follow-up with these members to see if they had success in hiring new employees.

To learn more about Corporate Gray, contact Carl Savino at 703-690-6381, Carl@CorporateGray.com

Other employers at the event suggested Camp Lejeune, North Carolina events, indicating that as many as 200 Marines are rotating out of the Corps weekly. To find these events, conduct a web search for Camp Lejeune Hiring Events.
Applications are now being accepted for the VTCA 2019 Transportation Engineering Awards. The program was created by VTCA’s Engineering Consultant Leadership Committee to recognize outstanding achievements in engineering design in Virginia’s transportation construction program. Applications are due by July 15.

Eligible projects meet the following criteria:

• Projects must be related to transportation;
• Projects must be managed and performed in Virginia or must link Virginia to another state;
• Engineering firms must be members of VTCA at the time of entry; and
• Project construction must be completed and open for use by June 30, 2019.

Prizes will be awarded to the overall winner and in the following categories:

• Projects Larger than $10 Million: VDOT and Municipal
• Projects Smaller than $10 Million: VDOT and Municipal
• Design-Build

Winners will be recognized at the VTCA Consultant Forum on October 1. Details and the application are available on VTCA’s website at: http://bit.ly/EngrAwardApp19.

Effective July 1, 2019, VDOT will begin utilizing BidExpress (by InfoTech, Inc.) for the procurement of professional services contracts. After June 30, 2019, VDOT will no longer accept Expressions of Interest (EOIs) via ProjectWise.

Notifications of Requests for Proposals (RFPs) will continue to be advertised on VDOT’s Consultant Procurement website, as well as through eVA, which will direct firms to BidExpress.

Registration for BidExpress is at no cost to consultants and is required in order to view and respond to RFPs.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** If your firm participated in the test procurement, the registration was for the demo/testing site only, not the live production site. In order to view and respond to VDOT Consultant Procurement RFPs, firms must register on the live production site at www.bidexpress.com.

More information regarding FAQs, electronic signatures, account registration, etc. will soon be posted on the VDOT CPO website located at www.virginiadot.org/business/gpmps.asp.
Welcome To Our New Members

McCraw Trucking offers a suite of services to fulfill the needs of commercial, agricultural, and private projects. Serving southwest Virginia, north central North Carolina and surrounding areas, no job is too large or too small. Services include:

- Contract Hauling
- Asphalt Hauling
- Crushed Stone
- Mulch
- Brick Chips
- Fill Dirt
- Decorative Stone
- Sand
- Specialty Hauling
- Truck work by the hour

2108 Brushy Fork Road
Cana, VA 24317
276-755-2159
www.mccrawtrucking.com

VTCA Contact: Cynthia McCraw
President
cynthia@mccrawtrucking.com
Vice President: Ronald McCraw

Stonewall Bridge Construction specializes in bridge construction and bridge replacement. We are focused on the improvement of the Commonwealth’s of Virginia’s infrastructure through professional, timely and efficient project management and delivery, ensuring that every client receives the results they need and deserve.

211 Quarry Road
Pounding Mill, VA 24637
276-979-5964
Email: stonewallbridge@gmail.com

VTCA Contact: Charles “Budge” Hunter

Ramey Kemp & Associates (RKA), founded in 1992, is an employee-owned firm with a mission to offer a professional transportation consulting experience that satisfies our clients and ourselves. Combining a wealth of experience and multi-disciplinary capabilities, RKA specializes in transportation planning, traffic impact studies, traffic signal design, roadway and sidewalk design, traffic control/pavement marking plans, and environmental studies. Our firm has enjoyed steady growth over the last 26 years through our commitment to providing the highest quality traffic engineering, planning, and design services and personalized solutions for our clients. With our dedicated staff, we have the knowledge, manpower, and innovative capability to provide our clients with effective, cost-efficient solutions.

5808 Faringdon Place, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-872-5115
www.rameykemp.com
Email: info@rameykemp.com

VTCA Contact: Stephen Greene
Executive Vice President
sgreene@rameykemp.com
President & CEO: Montel Irvin
Director of Business Development: Ramey Kemp

A Salute To CDM Smith For 25 Years Of Membership

In July of 1994, Wilbur Smith Associates signed on to support the work of the Virginia Road and Transportation Builders Association by becoming a member. Twenty-five years later, CDM Smith, Inc. remains committed to promoting the growth and improvement of Virginia’s transportation program. We are deeply grateful.

Hoffman Southwest Acquires Accumark

Hoffman Southwest, a rapidly growing provider of water flow inspection, repair and cleaning services, has acquired Accumark, Inc. Based in Ashland, Virginia, Accumark provides subsurface utility engineering, underground utility locating, pipe inspection and pipe cleaning services across the Mid-Atlantic U.S.

“The addition of Accumark allows us to further expand our underground infrastructure capabilities nationwide,” said Mark Burel, CEO of HSW. “Accumark is a recognized leader for subsurface utility engineering services and has an outstanding track record of delivering safe and reliable utility locating and pipe inspection services to its customers. We look forward to working with Accumark to further expand its footprint by leveraging our combined capabilities and customer relationships.”

Accumark’s existing management team, including President Craig Martin, will continue to lead daily operations and provide strategic direction alongside HSW. “Joining forces with HSW will allow us to go further than we could alone,” Martin said. “Now, we’ll be able to build upon the relationships HSW has in place in conjunction with our current customers, allowing us to bring our quality services to a broader base.”
In Memoriam

Phillip Paul “Phil” Tarsovich, 61, passed away on June 11 surrounded by his loving family. Phil valiantly and courageously battled ALS. Phil was President of Slurry Pavers, Inc., where he started working on a road crew to support himself while attending Virginia Commonwealth University. His 40-year career was marked with intelligence, integrity and a fierce loyalty to his Slurry Pavers family. He served as VTCA President 2011-2012 after serving with distinction on the Board for many years.

Phil’s obituary is a remarkable and loving summary of his personal and professional accomplishments and we hope you will read it online at www.richmond.com/obituaries/tarsovich-phillip/article_14051d4f-392b-5c39-bffa-2a4dc4b10b85.html.

Pursuing an idea presented to the VTCA Board by Frank Payne of P. D. Brooks Company, VTCA was honored to help create and fund the Phillip P. Tarsovich Scholarship Fund at the VCU School of Business for students majoring in Management and Entrepreneurship. The Fund was created to honor and recognize students who exhibit Phil’s unique qualities – leadership, dedication, professionalism, community service, and strong business acumen.


Down The Road

Smoke Schools  
September 10 – Richmond  
September 11 – Roanoke  
September 14 – Glade Springs

Spring Conference 2020  
April 1 – 3, Hampton

ECCC Classes  
November 6 – Roanoke  
December 5 – Richmond

Annual Meeting 2020  
July 16 – 19, Virginia Beach

Consultant Forum  
October 1 – Richmond

VDOT to Host Mid-Atlantic Quality Assurance Workshop

The Mid-Atlantic Quality Assurance Workshop is dedicated to quality control and quality assurance of highway materials. The workshop includes two main sessions covering a wide range of topics as well as five all-day breakout sessions devoted to the latest information on highway materials including asphalt, concrete, metals, maintenance, soils and aggregates. Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia make up the Mid-Atlantic QAW area. Virginia will be hosting the 2020 Workshop February 11 – 13 at the Williamsburg Lodge in Williamsburg, VA.