As an industry professional, you are consistently faced with the challenge of doing more with less, while producing the highest quality deliverables for your clients. At this year’s Consultant Forum, presentations and discussion topics will encompass ways that we can make our systems not only more streamlined and efficient, but also safer for workers and the traveling public.

This year’s Forum will bring together hundreds of professionals from VDOT, FHWA, industry and localities to explore innovative solutions to meet today’s challenges in delivering viable transportation systems to the Commonwealth.

Forum Sponsorships Available

Be sure to secure reduced registration costs by September 6th and consider showing your firm’s support by choosing one of four sponsorship levels at www.vtca.org/event/2019-vtca-vdot-consultant-forum/.

Locality representatives engaged in transportation initiatives across the Commonwealth are encouraged to attend the many VTCA annual events! Whether it’s the Consultant Forum, one of the five District Dialogues, or the Spring Transportation Construction Conference, VTCA members would love for you to join in discussions with other like-minded industry professionals.

For more information about how VTCA can support your work, go to http://bit.ly/VTCAlocalityFlyer19.
I-81 Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting

An overflow crowd was present in Lexington on August 13 for the first Interstate 81 Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee was established as directed in Senate Bill 1716 to provide advice and make recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) on the development and updating of the I-81 Corridor Improvement program.

This first meeting was primarily housekeeping. Delegate Terry Austin (District 19) and Senator Bill Carrico (District 40) were elected as chairman and co-chairman respectively.

Deputy Secretary of Transportation John Lawson presented the anticipated timing of funds availability as well as the potential to leverage the regional fuel tax revenue through bonds. According to current revenue forecasts the revenue sources would contribute $2.2 billion to the corridor.

VDOT Chief Engineer Bart Thrasher, PE outlined 63 projects identified in the CTB plan adopted in December 2018. Of those projects 16 are “operational” in nature with the remaining being capital improvement projects. VDOT is currently evaluating the readiness of each project and will provide the information to the Advisory Committee to determine priority recommendations to the CTB.

The committee is expected to have their second meeting later this fall once VDOT has completed the project readiness evaluation.

VTCA And VBT Unveil “Respect the Zone” Safety Initiative

With support from VTCA, Virginians for Better Transportation (VBT) has launched a new social media campaign for work zone safety. “Respect the Zone” will keep the public informed about work zone hazards, driver tips, work zone crash statistics, and the laws that are designed to protect workers and motorists.

In just a few weeks, more than 286,015 people have visited our page. Check it out at https://vbtva.com/work-zone-safety.aspx.
VDOT's Right To Enter Policy

Effective July 1, 2019, Section 33.2-1011 of the Code of Virginia (Right to Enter) requires VDOT and those representing VDOT (localities, consultants, etc.) to request permission to enter property from property owners not less than 15 days prior to entering the property. When responsive property owners confirm dates for property entry, no further contact is necessary. However, when property owners are either non-responsive or deny permission, those property owners shall be contacted a second time with an “Intent to Enter” letter not less than 15 days prior to the date of intended entry.

Property entry includes access to properties to perform project-related activities. If additional time is required beyond the stated period identified in the letter, the process must be repeated. VTCA encourages everyone to review the referenced code, and to attend upcoming informational workshops offered by VDOT.

VDOT is offering three workshops across the state to provide an overview of the code changes, VDOT policy revisions, and the new process that VDOT, localities, and industry should follow in seeking right to enter. The workshops are scheduled as follows.

September 18 – 10:00 a.m. at the VDOT Salem District Office, 2022 East Lynchburg Salem Turnpike, Lowry. The meeting will be held in the Bedford Conference Room

September 24 – 10:00 a.m. at the VDOT Hampton Roads District Office, 7511 Burbage Drive, Suffolk. The meeting will be in the James River Auditorium

September 25 – 10:00 a.m. at the VDOT Central Office Materials Office, 6200 Elko Tract Road, Sandston

September 26 – 10:00 a.m. at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax. The meeting will be held in the Neabsco Conference Room

Industry and locality representatives are encouraged to RSVP by email to Carla. Wilkerson@vdot.virginia.gov, with their name, company, and the workshop location they wish to attend. RSVP’s should be emailed at least one week prior to the event. Depending on demand, additional sessions may be offered at 1:00 p.m. for the above dates and locations.

Aggregate Producer Safety Committee To Meet With MSHA District 5 Leadership

MSHA recently announced that the Staunton Field Office, responsible for regulating many Virginia metal/nonmetal mine operations, will no longer be part of the MSHA – Metal/Nonmetal Mines - Northeast District. Effective July 5, the Staunton Field Office reports to the Coal Mine – District 5 Office located in Norton, Virginia. This change is a result of MSHA’s initiative to combine the Coal and Metal/Nonmetal Divisions to improve efficiency by blurring the lines between coal and metal/nonmetal enforcement where it makes geographic sense.

On September 13, VTCA’s Aggregate Producer Safety and Health Committee will meet with the MSHA District 5 leadership. VTCA member E. Dillon & Company will host the meeting at their office in Sword’s Creek, Virginia. This meeting will introduce VTCA and its members to District 5 representatives, laying the groundwork for developing a solid working relationship. We specifically plan to discuss what, if any, changes are planned for the way operations in Virginia are inspected. We are pleased that District 5 has already committed to participate in the Safety Seminar scheduled for December 4 in Roanoke.

Attention Consultants: Did You Know?

The Virginia Department of Transportation Alternative Project Delivery Division posts RFPs for professional services contracts online at www.virginiadot.org/business/rfps.asp. They have also transitioned to an online electronic bidding system called BidExpress.com, which is operated by VTCA member InfoTech, Inc.

For industry to download and respond to RFPs with their Expressions of Interest (EOIs), companies will need to establish an account through BidExpress.com. There is a cost to use the service and to submit EOIs, but there is no cost to set up an account and access the site to review a RFP. Monthly and Per-Submittal subscriptions are available depending on the frequency of use per each firm.

More information about BidExpress.com and VDOT’s Consultant Procurement Program can be found at www.virginiadot.org/business/gpmps.asp.
In August VTCA announced the winners of the 2019 Aggregate Scholarships. The two scholarship recipients were selected as the most qualified applicants by a panel of industry representatives. Candidates must be enrolled in a Virginia college or university majoring in a curriculum that is related to the aggregate industry.

Each year the scholarship recipients are presented with an award certificate which is presented at a member’s facility near the student’s hometown. Additionally, a VTCA Aggregate Producer member is assigned to remain in contact with the scholarship winner throughout the school year. It is hoped that these measures will enhance the likelihood that the students will consider a career with a VTCA member upon graduation. Congratulations to the 2019 Aggregate Scholarship winners! They are:

- Curtis Hardison of Wakefield, Virginia. Curtis is a sophomore at Virginia Military Institute, where he is majoring in Civil Engineering. The award was presented at Branscome, Inc.’s Stoney Creek quarry.
- Camille Do of Glen Allen, Virginia. She is a junior at Virginia Tech majoring in Geosciences. The award was presented at Martin Marietta’s Doswell quarry.

The Aggregates Clay Shoot is scheduled for October 3 at Central Virginia Sporting Clays in Palmyra. This event is limited to Aggregate Producer members and Associate members that serve the aggregates industry. This is a great opportunity for suppliers and aggregate producers to network.

The event will kick off with coffee and conversation with DMM Director Phil Skorupa. Phil will update attendees on new mining regulations. VTCA’s Rob Lanham will discuss MSHA Districts reorganization. The day will conclude with lunch. Registration is open and there are limited spots available. Contact Kayla Singleton ([kayla@vtca.org](mailto:kayla@vtca.org)) to register.

Final Group Testing For CMA Proficiency Exam

VTCA Aggregate Producer members will conduct the final 2019 group proficiency exams on September 24 in Richmond. An overflow date of October 15 is also reserved. If this opportunity is missed there may not be another opportunity to complete the proficiency exams.

If you or any of your employees need to complete the CMA certification or recertification proficiency exam, please contact John McGarry at CCWA (the Community College Workforce Alliance) to register. John’s e-mail is EMcGarry@ccwa.vccs.edu. His phone number is 804-523-2284.

Additionally, the CMA Certification process, including the classroom training and proficiency exams, will be completely administered by CCWA beginning in 2021. VTCA Aggregate Producer members will have reduced involvement in 2020 as the CMA Certification process transitions to CCWA.
VTCA Welcomes Kayla Singleton As Membership Services & Communications Coordinator

VTCA is pleased to welcome Kayla Singleton to the staff. As our new Membership Services & Communications Coordinator, Kayla will provide support to VTCA members, manage the membership database and the communications management system, manage the Alliance’s web site and assist in the production of the Directory of Members.

Kayla comes to VTCA with broad experience providing administrative and logistical support in a variety of environments. She anticipates completion of an Associate’s Degree in Business Administration in 2020. Please take a moment to welcome Kayla next time you call the office, or drop her a note at kayla@vtca.org.

VTCA Online Buyers’ Guide – A Searchable Reference Tool At The Fingertips Of Your Customers

The missing piece to your marketing puzzle may be the VTCA Online Buyers’ Guide. This unique industry resource helps folks find your company’s profile with a few clicks of the mouse. The Guide is the only online searchable directory for those who buy transportation construction products and services.

This dynamic industry resource:

- Directs buyers to a landing page to learn more about your business;
- Enables customized listings and enhanced content;
- Allows users to set the Guide as their default browser, bringing them right to your listing;
- Features Google integration to return richer results.

Check out the Guide and your company’s free listing at http://vtca.officialbuyersguide.net/. To learn more about enhancing your company’s presence in the Guide, contact Troy Woodham at Naylor Association Solutions. His email address is twoodham@naylor.com. His phone number is 352-333-3476.

Annual Business Meeting Minutes Now Available

Each July VTCA conducts its Annual Business Meeting. This meeting offers members an opportunity to hear updates from the Board and staff, and an Annual Report to the Membership from Executive Vice President Jeff Southard.

The Annual Report and the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting are now available by contacting the VTCA office at 804-330-3312, or send an email to Dana Morris, dana@vtca.org.

VTCA Is “On the Map”

After more than 20 years in our current location, VTCA has earned the flagship spot on the sign marking our location in the Moorefield Office Park.

Come see us!
Many readers will have fond memories of Rex and Lois Jones, active in VRTBA for decades. Rex was the owner of Saunders Oil Company for over 50 years, a major distributor of lubricating oil and construction materials. Rex passed away in 2012 and Lois passed away on August 16. We wanted to share a bit from Lois’ obituary. She was buried in Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery on August 31.

**JONES, Lois Weller**, 93, passed away on Friday, August 16, 2019. She was born June 30, 1926, in Athens, PA. After attending Penn State, she met and married William Henry “Rex” Jones Jr. in 1977. They lived happily for 35 years until his death October 1, 2012. Lois and Rex enjoyed dancing, traveling and entertaining family and friends, especially the members of VTCA (formerly the Virginia Road Builders Association).

**Brown Edwards** has been named as one of the nation’s “Top 50 Construction Accounting Firms.” Construction Executive magazine. Brown Edwards is proud to be ranked #35 in this prestigious group of firms. The firm has a history of over 50 years of serving the construction industry, and is one of the Top 100 public accounting firms in the nation. With 10 offices in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee, the staff include nine CCIFPs (Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional). Visit www.BEcpas.com.

**Froehling & Robertson** welcomes Michael W. Matthews, PE as President and Chief Operating Officer. Matthews is an accomplished Professional Engineer with expertise in developing clear team building and revenue growth strategies. He brings to F&R a winning combination of vision, technical acumen and a passion for client care and employee growth. Established in 1881, Froehling & Robertson is a minority-owned business as well as the oldest independent consulting engineering/testing firm in the United States.

**ASGCO** “Complete Conveyor Solutions” is a leading manufacturer of proprietary bulk conveyor components and accessories that enhance material flow performance. Aaron Gibbs is the third-generation family member to lead the company. He is focused on developing the company’s vision by fulfilling its mission to make the handling of bulk materials cleaner, safer, and more productive.

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CEO: George Anthony

“The Hilliard” Set for October 4

Back by popular demand, The Hilliard Charity Fellowship Outing will be held again this fall! Mark your calendar for October 4. The golf tournament will be held at Bowling Green Country Club in Front Royal, Virginia. Shotgun start is at 10:00 a.m., followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. Because of your support, this event has raised over $446,000 to support more than 250 charitable causes and 50 scholarships. All the details are online at http://bit.ly/HilliardFall19.