

# The Maintenance Manager

A quarterly newsletter of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Maintenance Volume 3, No. 2

## Message from the Chair:

*The other day I received a message from Celso asking if I would have some time to be able to put something together for this newsletter, and I was once again reminded of all of the work that Celso and Jim Sorenson do to keep the Committee moving forward. I know that we can never say it enough, but thank you guys for all of the passion you bring.*

*I hope that you all had a chance to read the latest AASHTO Journal, where AASHTO President Pete Rahn, Director of the Missouri DOT, and Vice President Allen Biehler, Secretary of the Pennsylvania DOT, outlined the immense need state DOT's face in maintaining and preserving their highways. They were calling attention to the challenges you all face on a daily basis. I remember when our committee was frustrated that maintenance wasn't getting the attention it needed. I think we have turned a corner and more and more people are recognizing that maintaining our nation's infrastructure is critical and it is going to take a lot more resources than we presently have. It is our responsibility to provide to the policymakers the best and most objective information possible, and that is what I believe one of our goals as a committee should be.*

*It is really amazing how fast time flies by, and I am sure that Steve Takigawa and his great team at Caltrans, who are working hard to make sure our summer meeting be a success, would echo that as well. Speaking of the summer meeting, I guarantee that you are all in for a great experience. I am not aware of any other AASHTO event where they tried to pull off such rare tri-committee meeting, the Standing Committee on Environment, the Subcommittee on Asset Management, and us. It will be unlike any of our other meetings, but I am sure that you will learn something new, meet new people, and have a great time. Thanks again to Steve, Sherry, and the rest of the Caltrans team, and I will see you all soon in sunny California.*

----- Carlos

*(Carlos Braceras, UT DOT Deputy Director, is the current Chairman of the Subcommittee on Maintenance)*

## Subcommittee Activities

### Roadsides & Environment

The Roadsides and Environment Task Force developed and transmitted a brief questionnaire on the use of native vegetation species on the right of way and policies that states use to allow the baling of hay on the right of way. As of the writing of this article, 29 states have responded. If you have not submitted a completed survey, please send it to Mark McConnell at [mmcconnell@mdot.state.ms.us](mailto:mmcconnell@mdot.state.ms.us). The results will be put together and handed out to the Task Force in Monterey. It will also be sent to all who responded to the survey.

### Equipment Focus Group

The Association of Equipment Management Professionals (AEMP) presented the 2008 AEMP Fleet Masters Award for the public sector to Erle Potter, State Equipment Manager for the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and current chair of the Equipment Focus Group. The first public-fleet winner of a Fleet Masters Award in 2004, VDOT is now the first-ever two-time winner of a Fleet Master Award, be it a public or private fleet.

### TRB Updates

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) announces the 10th International Bridge and Structure Management Conference to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo, New York on October 20-22, 2008. The conference was developed to aid bridge practitioners, managers and researchers in taking advantage of the characteristics of existing systems from around the world, and identifying new and anticipated enhancements. It provides a 2½ day program

with presentations on future directions and challenges in structures management; design and implementation of bridge management systems; application of bridge management in transportation agencies; bridge preservation, maintenance and deterioration rates; application of prioritization and optimization routines; structural performance, monitoring and remaining life; bridge modeling and NBI translator; structure vulnerability and weigh-in-motion; bridge inspection; local, frequency and thermal imaging; bridge decks and stay cable; and, accelerated construction, fiber-reinforced polymers and corrosion evaluation.

For details on the preliminary program, conference and hotel reservation information, visit the conference website at <http://TRB.org/Conferences/2008/Bridge>

## NCHRP News

- NCHRP Project 13-02, *Guidelines for Selection and Application of Warning Lights on Roadway-Operations Equipment*, is now complete. The report will be published in the NCHRP report series. In the meantime, copies of the agency have been sent to Program sponsors. The report contains guidelines for selection and application of warning lights to improve the conspicuity and recognizability of roadway-operations equipment used for construction, maintenance, utility work, and other similar activities.

- A 24 months contract was recently awarded for NCHRP Project 14-18, *Determining Highway Maintenance Costs*. The research will develop a process for determining an agency's costs associated with performing highway maintenance and providing guidance for estimating not readily available data. The process is expected to be flexible enough that it can be applied to any specific maintenance activity.

- An NCHRP project is underway on updating the AASHTO Guide for Snow and Ice Control. The update will focus on the chapters dealing with equipment, snow and ice control materials, and weather information systems. This update is expected to be completed in early 2009.

For further information, contact Amir N. Hanna, [ahanna@nas.edu](mailto:ahanna@nas.edu), ph. (202) 334-1892

## Moving On

- Congratulations to **John Lorentson**, ALDOT, for his recent promotion to Division Engineer. John has been an active member of the Subcommittee. He served as the Chair of the Roadside & Environment Task Force (2001-04)
- Congratulations to the recent promotion of **Keith Swearingen**, Deputy Director for Division of Highway Operations.
- Welcome to the following new members: **Dave Ray**, Maintenance Administrator, Ohio DOT; **George Conner**, State Maintenance Engineer, ALDOT; **John Williams**, State Maintenance Engineer, HI DOT; and **Anwar Ahmad**, Asst. State Structures & Bridge Engineer, VDOT
- **Tom Raught**, NM DOT, retired recently. He's been an active member of the subcommittee and last served as panel member of TSP2.

## Calendar of Events

- **Joint Subcommittees on Maintenance, Asset Management and Standing Committee on Environment Meeting** – July 13-17, 2008, Monterey, CA. Contact Laura Lynch-Rafferty, ph. (916) 653-2044, e-mail [laura\\_lynch-rafferty@dot.ca.gov](mailto:laura_lynch-rafferty@dot.ca.gov), website <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/AASHTO/index.htm>
- **2<sup>nd</sup> National MQA Peer Exchange** – September 23-24, 2008, Raleigh, NC. Contact Jennifer Brandenburg, NC (919) 733-3725, <http://www.mrutc.org/outreach/mqa/Flyer.pdf>
- **National Workshop on Highway Asset Inventory & Data Collection Expo** – September 24-26, 2008, Raleigh, NC. Contact Terry Canales, NC (919)-733-2210, website <http://www.itre.ncsu.edu/NCassetMgmtConf/location.html>
- **2008 National Safety Rest Area Conference** – October 1-3, 2008, Seattle, WA. Contact Mark McConnell, MS (601) 359-7111, website <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/nsrac2008/>

Please e-mail any news articles/events that you would like to share with the Subcommittee members to Celso Gatchalian: [celso.gatchalian@dot.gov](mailto:celso.gatchalian@dot.gov)

Also make sure to visit our Subcommittee website: <http://maintenance.transportation.org/?siteid=76>