

MdQI Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the 2006 Fall/Winter issue of Partners in Quality! It has been an exciting year and 2007 is fast approaching. The Maryland Quality Initiative Steering Committee is actively planning for the 14th Annual Conference and Workshop. The theme of the 2007 Conference is "Quality and Safety through Innovation" and once again this two day event will be held in Baltimore City at the Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center on January 17 and 18.



The Annual Conference is the culmination of a tremendous amount of work by the Steering Committee and Conference Subcommittee which are committed to providing a forum for all industry partners to join together to work on and listen to topics that impact the entire highway community. Last year's conference was the largest to date and we expect to exceed that in 2007. The Conference will culminate on Day Two with a banquet and presentation of awards to recognize the exemplary work of the industry. I look forward to seeing you at the 14th Annual Conference in January.

This year has been an extremely busy one. Earlier this spring the Training and Recruitment Subcommittee hosted our 3rd Highway Construction and Engineering Career Day at Timonium Fairgrounds. This year's event was well attended and more focused than prior events as many of the high school students attending were screened on their interest in an engineering or construction career. Thus, these students were more engaged and interested in what was offered.

Maryland Department of Transportation is busy working on three (3) mega projects. In May, the first span of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project was opened in a gala ceremony on the new span. The event had over 2,000 participants including Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine, Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich and Washington, DC Mayor Anthony Williams. Numerous members of congress were in attendance and offered congratulatory remarks on the tremendous work done by all in building this wonderful bridge. The \$2.5 billion project is on time and on budget!

Work is also underway on the I-95 Section 100 mega project under the leadership of the Maryland Transportation Authority. This massive project is just beginning with some bridge widening projects underway and numerous projects including the I-95/I-695 Interchange out for construction advertisement at this time - stay tuned.

The other mega project is the Inter County Connector or ICC. The ICC Study Team received the final record of decision by the Federal Highway Administration earlier this year and is working hard to secure all essential environmental permits for this \$2.4 billion highway that will link I-270 in Montgomery County with US 1 in Prince George's County. This 18.8 mile toll road will carry six lanes of traffic across most of its expanse and will feature variable toll rates, nine interchanges and seventy-five bridges.

As you can see a lot is happening in Maryland. With the top level and national support and the continued cross-sectional industry-wide participation, MdQI will continue to play an important role in continuing to improve our transportation system in Maryland.

Doug Rose

MdQI Chairman, SHA Deputy Administrator, Chief Engineer for Operations

Industry News Updates and Schedule of Upcoming Industry Events

Need Information? go to www.mdqi.org

Check out **MdQI's website** for information on last year's conference, plans for the 2007 conference, and updates on other current news and events.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2007 Concrete Conference

The Maryland Concrete Conference Committee has begun planning their seventh annual Concrete Conference. The conference will be held on March 14, 2007 at the Sheraton Baltimore North in Towson, Maryland.

Registration information will be broadcast through the various industry associations (ACEC, FHWA, MD SHA, MHCA, MRMCA, ACPA, etc.).

The 2007 conference agenda will include a morning program with an extended general session and an afternoon program with 2 concurrent sessions (not repeated) on concrete structures and concrete paving. Once again, vendors will be exhibiting their products and services during the conference.

The conference is appropriate for consultants, specifiers and contractors involved in the design, construction, or maintenance of concrete assets.

The conference is sponsored by the Maryland State Highway Administration, along with Federal Highway Administration, the Maryland Ready Mix Concrete Association and the American Concrete Pavement Association.

For more information, contact Tom Evans at 301-694-4899, Sam Miller at 301-471-4305 or visit www.marylandconcrete.com.

MdQI Achieves National Recognition from NPHQ

I am proud to announce that MdQI has received National Accreditation at the Tier 2 Accreditation Level from the National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) as a top State Quality Partnership.

NPHQ developed the accreditation program to recognize State Quality Partnerships like MdQI that are structured and have matured to the point that they are contributing to the overall improvement of the transportation industry. MdQI received Tier 1 recognition last year and is only the second State Quality Partnership to achieve the coveted Tier 2 level accreditation according to Bob Templeton, Executive Director, NPHQ.

I appreciate the support and commitment of all MdQI's sponsors who have worked so hard to achieve this recognition.

Doug Rose
MdQI Chairman

GET INVOLVED - Suggestions or Ideas? Interested in joining an MdQI Subcommittee? Contact SHA at 410-545-0361.

Quality Assurance Workshop Turns Forty

The FHWA Region 2 QAW which comprised the States of MD, VA, WV, DE, PA, DC, Ohio and the FHWA had its first meeting 40 years ago in Baltimore, Maryland at the Lord Baltimore Hotel with an attendance of 72 materials representatives from State DOT's and FHWA. Since then the FHWA Region has become known as Region 3 with Ohio dropping out and New Jersey becoming a workshop member and the name has changed to The Mid-Atlantic Region QAW with an annual attendance of 450 individuals from Industry, Consultants, State DOT's and FHWA. Each year the workshop is hosted by one of the participating States.

The workshop started as a result of the Cement Industry questioning why all the States were testing every silo of cement for chemical analysis and not sharing those results before allowing shipment to the Concrete Producers. As a result of this workshop States in the Mid-Atlantic Region began accepting cement based on certified test results.

Since its inception 40 years ago, the QAW has expanded from basically a Materials focused workshop (Soils and Aggregates, Concrete, Hot Mix Asphalt, Metals) to include a Maintenance ses-

sion. Breakout sessions provide for States and Industry to share new state-of-the-art technology, experiences and address problems from a Regional perspective.

There are several working committees within the workshop structure; these are the Structural Committee for Economic Fabrication (SCEF), Prestressed Committee for Economic Fabrication (PCEF), Structural Coatings and the Mid-Atlantic Region Technician Certification Program (MARTCP).

All of these committees have been working to standardize State requirements in the design, details and coatings used in fabricating steel and concrete structures. The MARTCP has developed certification and training programs for Technicians that are core knowledge based and promote reciprocity between States.

The 2007 QAW will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 6-8 at the Tropicana Hotel. To find out more information on the upcoming workshop visit their website at <http://www.midatlanticqaw.com>.

MDQI Partners look at... Work Zone Safety



MHCA, the Maryland Asphalt Association, and SHA worked together in the 2005 legislative session in Annapolis on a bill to improve the safety of highway workers in Maryland. In 2006, these partners, and others we hope, will again try to get a work zone safety bill passed.



Last year's bill actually parallels some of the work being done by the MDQI Safety Committee and was the product of meetings of the MHCA Safety Forum, which includes many SHA members.



The aim of the bill is to (1) consider work zone safety issues at the planning and development stages, and (2) devise a work zone safety policy that will protect those who work on our roads and bridges.



On the first point, these efforts have been aided by the new FHWA work zone safety regulation, which places consideration of work zone safety issues on a more systematic footing.



On the second point, the policy consists of a tiered set of highway work zone safety preferences. The first preference is to have no adjacent traffic in locations where work is to be performed. Working in the absence of adjacent traffic can be used in something as dramatic as a strategic shutdown to telescope the time it takes to build a project to its absolute minimum or to the more common detour or diverting traffic onto shoulders scenarios.



If the first preference cannot be made to work, the second preference requires work to be done behind barriers instead of barrels and cones. Everyone knows that the average speeds of vehicles passing through our work zones are too high, but it's not average drivers who kill workers. Instead, workers are killed by aberrant drivers, whose extreme speed, impairment, or lack of consciousness or conscience causes them to drive into our work zones and kill and injure us. These people have to be kept out of our work zones by barriers that will prevent them from entering.

If the second preference cannot be implemented, the third preference calls for increased signage (including "your speed is" and warnings of active enforcement of work zone speed violations), conspicuous lighting, and the presence of at least two police officers-one to be a stationary warning and the other to perform enforcement duties.

Detailed consideration of work zone safety at the start of a project makes for projects that end safely-whether it be by building them without nearby traffic, building them behind the safety of barriers, or building them with active enforcement in work zones designed to accommodate enforcement activities.



Building Our Workforce Annual Construction and Engineering Career Day



The Industry Recruitment & Training Subcommittee, chaired by Barry Catterton (SHA), and Joe Makar (Whitman, Requardt & Associates) is working hard to show Maryland's high school and middle school students that exciting careers await them in the highway construction and engineering industry. The focus of the subcommittee has been to produce the annual Construction and Engineering Career Day (the next event will take place on March 29, 2007 at Chaney Enterprises in Waldorf), and the Engineering Outreach program which is presented at local high schools. Even though Chaney is hosting the next career day event, other contractors, producers, and suppliers will have the opportunity to provide equipment, presenters, and financial support.

The Engineering Outreach program has been in place for four years, and has visited a number of high schools and middle schools throughout the state. This year, we

plan to visit Centennial High, St. Paul's School for Girls, Chesapeake High, Howard High, Parkville Middle, and maybe one or two more! Engineers from SHA and a number of local engineering firms serve as the workshop presenters. The workshops are very well received and have helped to plant the seed for a civil engineering career in the minds of students, their teachers, and their school counselors. Additional presenters are needed from local firms, FHWA, and MdTA. Please contact Joe Makar via e-mail at jmakar@wrallp.com to see how you or your organization can get involved. The time commitment is as little as three, ½ days per school year per presenter. This program will also be a part of the Career Day as well.

The subcommittee is working with Charles County Schools on a structured Career Day event with Charles County high school students, as we did with Baltimore County last year. Neighboring counties may be invited, depending on the number of students that participate from Charles County.

We are purposely limiting the attendance again this year in order to host an event with timed, hands-on activities, with limited groups of students at a time. After our great success last year, we know that this format will be informative for the students and other attendees. In the future, we will consider hosting an event in other counties and

Baltimore City. More details on how you can participate in these events will be provided in upcoming, industry newsletters (MHCA, MAA, MRMCA, ACEC, etc.).

The subcommittee has also added an industry training objective as well. Our role is to serve as a "clearinghouse" for all training and certification activities that our industry is involved in. We do not deliver training, we help to publicize training and solicit training and certification needs from all industry partners. The MdQI website is now a valuable tool for promoting training activities. If you are hosting or aware of a training event that would be of interest to members of our industry, please e-mail the details to Barry Catterton at bcatterton@sha.state.md.us. You can also suggest additional training or certification program needs that our industry should develop by contacting Barry.



An MdQI Subcommittee Profile "Partnering Subcommittee"

Co-chairs: Bridgid Seering (SHA), Steve Whitecotton (P. Flanagan & Sons, Inc.)
Members: Stephanie Pratt (SHA), Joseph Manning (Wallace, Montgomery & Assoc.), John Zanetti (SHA), John Hayter (URS Corp.), Carol Rainey (Alpha Corporation), Scott Kiebler (Daisy Concrete, Inc.), William Hoff (SHA), Ken Sines (Corman Construction, Inc.), Bob Ziernski (SHA), Fred Valente (Joseph B. Fay Company), Dennis March (RK&K)
Mission: To develop, initiate, and promote partnering which offers opportunities to improve communication, provide structured issue resolution and timely follow-up throughout the highway industry.

Goal: Improve/Enhance Partnering Process
Objectives:

- Review Partnering Measurements.
- Increase participation of all members throughout the process.
- Review Partnering Database process and data for improvements.
- Revise Partnering Field Guide

Strategies:

- Visit Partnering projects.
- Provide quarterly reports to SHA & Contractor representatives.
- Re-evaluate current criteria measured.
- Review & update Partnering process and tools

Goal: Promote Partnering
Objective:

- Keep Partnering Website up-to-date
- Present Partnering Overview to Graduate Engineer Class annually.
- Participate at 2007 Construction EXPO
- Participate at the 2007 MdQI Conference.

Goal: Involvement in the National Partnering Efforts
Objective:

- Continue Partnering Outreach for surrounding DOT's.
- Provide support to AASHTO SCoQ efforts/initiatives

"Quality and Safety through Innovation" JANUARY 17-18

MdQI 2007 Conference

Full Registration
\$275 Early Bird (by December 20, 2006)
\$295 by January 12, 2007

Awards Banquet Only
\$85 Dinner (by December 20, 2006)
\$90 by December 21, 2006

Hotel - Wyndham Hotel, Downtown Baltimore
\$119 room per night by January 9, 2007

Vendor Booths Available
\$525 Vendor (member)
\$625 Vendor (non-member)

Vendors please contact MHCA at 410-760-9505
SHA Employees please contact Barbara Smith at 410-545-0361

This year offers everything you've come to expect from the MdQI Conference and more:

- Annual Awards Banquet
- Stimulating Workshops and Discussions
- Timely and Informative Presentations
- Networking Opportunities
- Technology and Vendor Exhibits
- Vendor Contest



Day One - Technical Sessions (Wednesday, January 17, 2007)

	Pratt Room	International E	Carroll Room	Mencken Room	Poe Room
2:00-3:15	Thinking Beyond the Pond	Innovative Contracts/ Streamlining of Construction	Pavement Incentive/Disincentive	MUTCD and the Maryland Supplement	Partnering Communications Part 1
3:45-5:00	Pedestrian Accessible MOT	CMCI and CQCM	Performance Specifications	Workzone Safety Work Session-Traffic Analysis	Partnering Communications Part 2

Day Two - Technical Sessions (Thursday, January 18, 2007)

	Poe Room	Mencken Room	Carroll Room	Hopkins Room	Pratt Room	International E	Peale Room
10:45-12:00	Attitude and Goal Setting for Effective Time Management	SHA Safety Strategic Plan	Trenchless Technologies	Partnering Study and Results	SHA Roadside Barrier Design	Managed Lane Facilities	Employee Retention and Recruitment
1:45-3:15	Finance for Transportation Projects - Special Full Session - Hal Kassoff, Moderator						
3:45-5:00	Material Pricing	Federal Rule on Workzone Safety	Enhancing Environmental Compliance at SHA Facilities	Partnering on the WWB	Design-Build/ Competitive Sealed Proposals	Accelerated Bridge and Highway Construction	Employee Retention and Recruitment

More detailed information for all conference presentations can be found on-line at www.mdqi.org

REGISTER ON-LINE AT www.mdqi.org