

PARTNERS IN QUALITY

A PUBLICATION OF THE MARYLAND QUALITY INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE (MdQI)

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"Customer Driven, Now More Than Ever"

100th Anniversary Message to Emphasize SHA, Industry Partners' Focus on Safety and Satisfaction

Throughout 2008, the Maryland State Highway Administration will be celebrating its founding 100 years ago as the State Roads Commission. While the various festivities and other events planned will offer plenty of opportunities for reminiscing, the focus of the agency's message to the driving public, the business community and the State's legislative bodies will rest squarely on the present and future service that SHA, MdTA, MdQI, highway associations and other partners bring to our customers.

Bill Hellmann, former Maryland Transportation Secretary and current Executive Committee member for the Centennial Celebration, said, "I am pleased that the goal remains to educate the public about the economic and lifestyle benefits of highway development. It also makes sense to accent the industry's emphasis on customer service, safety and satisfaction at every turn."

Specific events and activities that are planned will cover the gamut, from a website that's set to launch by year's end, to a commemorative book that will be formally released in April, 2008, as well as a documentary production that will air on Maryland Public Television in the fourth quarter of next year.

There are a variety of other activities planned to take place at various times throughout the year, including the following:

- ♦ Three-dimensional displays with SHA historical artifacts at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

- ♦ Displays at rest areas throughout the State
- ♦ Engineer Week outreach activities in February, utilizing SHA engineers to interest students in a career in civil engineering
- ♦ A "Homecoming" event to honor SHA employees, retirees, alumni and their families
- ♦ A Motorcycle Ride to raise awareness in May, during Motorcycle Safety Month
- ♦ Soapbox Derby Sponsorship
- ♦ Open houses at District Offices

Lots of other events and commemorative keepsake items are being developed now, so stay tuned. There's much more to come!



STAND OUT AS A SPONSOR

The 100th Anniversary Celebration is a great opportunity for MdQI members like you to gain recognition for your organization. Sponsorship is available at all levels. From a simple listing and logo on the Anniversary Website, to full recognition on the television documentary and hundreds of other state-wide venues all year long, your sponsorship can introduce you to (or reinforce your name with) a wide range of people you'd like to know better. To sign on as a sponsor, or for more information, contact MdQI consultant Cathy Gillen at 443-463-4449 or cathy@cathygillen.com. Contributions are tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to "Maryland Public Television Foundation," with "MD Highway Centennial Project" in the memo line.

"Celebrating Maryland's Highway Centennial"

2008 MdQI Conference to be Held on January 30th and 31st

MdQI's annual Conference will be held January 30 and 31, 2008 at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street (formerly known as the Wyndham Hotel or Omni Hotel). In 2008, the conference schedule will change with the Annual MdQI Awards of Excellence presentation and banquet on Day One of the conference (January 30th).

Each year, breakout topics of interest to the Maryland highway industry are identified by the MdQI Steering Committee and discussed during the conference. Each

breakout topic is presented by a panel comprised of public/private personalities considered to be experts in the topic area. The panel presentations on breakout topics are followed by team discussions and brainstorming sessions. The conference attendees participate in the breakout topics of their choice.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments regarding the conference in general, please contact Ray Moravec.

More Conference Information on Page 4

MdQI Chairman's Letter



Welcome to the 2007 Fall/Winter issue of Partners in Quality! It has been an exciting year and 2008 is fast approaching. The Maryland Quality Initiative Steering Committee is actively planning for the 15th Annual Conference and Workshop. The theme of the 2008 Conference is "Celebrating Maryland's Highway Centennial" and once again this two day event will be held in Baltimore City at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel on January 30 and 31. Next year is a monumental year for SHA as it marks the 100th Anniversary as a State Agency.

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. The 2008 conference theme, entitled "Celebrating Maryland's Highway Centennial", will include technical sessions and presentations on topics affecting the transportation industry along with some presentations on the past, present and future of the highway industry. The Conference will begin its activities and host a banquet and presentation of awards to recognize the exemplary work of the industry on Day One. I look forward to seeing you at the 15th Annual Conference in January which will be the kick off to Maryland's Centennial Activities as well. Don't forget to mark you calendar for January 30 & 31, 2008 for this 15 year celebration.

This year has been an extremely busy one for MdQI and all the subcommittees. More about the activities of MdQI's subcommittees can be found throughout this newsletter, including the Awards Recognition Committee which embarked on updating the criteria for the Annual Awards, and worked on developing ways to ensure that attendee's can obtain Professional Development Hours for attending the technical sessions. Also, earlier this year the Training and Recruitment Subcommittee hosted MdQI's 4th Highway Construction & Engineering Career Day event on March 29 at Chaney Enterprises' Waldorf Plant & Training Center. This year's event was well attended with an attendance of nearly 500 Charles County students, teachers, counselors, and other adult chaperones. All participants had an opportunity to participate in the interactive Maglev model, which is part of the TRAC program. Thus, these students were more engaged and interested in what was offered. This event improves every year thanks to the dedicated efforts of our subcommittees.

Work is underway on the I-95 Electronic Toll Lane (ETL) mega project under the leadership of the Maryland Transportation Authority. This massive project has begun with some bridge widening projects underway and numerous projects including the I-95/I-695 Interchange, which is under construction. The entire project is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2011.

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. The first Contract "A" out of five has been awarded to a joint venture of Granite, Corman and Wagman in the amount of \$478 million, and full Notice To Proceed was given on November 13, 2007.

Finally the Woodrow Wilson Bridge is scheduled to be completely finished in Maryland by Mid 2009. Project is on time and on budget after seven years of construction. This project is a model for all mega projects!

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

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of the transportation stake holders, particularly MdQI sponsors, who help make Maryland the leader in the nation in innovation and quality. I look forward to seeing you and working closely with you next year as we celebrate 15 years of MdQI along with Maryland's 100 years.

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 2008 conference, and updates on other current news and events.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2008 Concrete Conference

The Maryland Concrete Conference Committee has begun planning their eighth annual Concrete Conference. The conference will be held on March 25, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Select in Timonium, Maryland.

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

The Concrete 2008 conference agenda will include a morning and an afternoon agenda with several different informative programs about concrete structures and concrete paving.

Once again, vendors will be exhibiting concrete products and services during the conference.

Concrete 2008 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, the Federal Highway Administration, the Maryland Ready Mix Concrete Association and the American Concrete Pavement Association.

For more information, contact Mindy Green at 301-694-4899, or visit www.marylandconcrete.com.

GET INVOLVED - Suggestions or Ideas?

Interested in joining an MdQI Subcommittee?

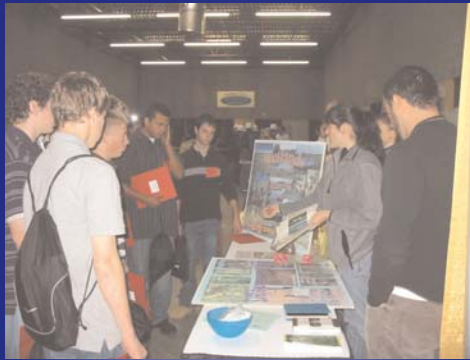
Contact SHA at 410-545-0361.

MdQI Subcommittee Continues to Build Our Workforce

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 April 10, 2008 at Aggregate Industries in Prince George's County), and the Engineering Outreach program which is presented at local high schools. Even though Aggregate Industries is hosting the next career day event, other contractors, producers, and suppliers will have the opportunity to provide support.

The Engineering Outreach program has been in place for five years, and has visited a number of high schools and middle schools throughout the state. 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 program also was presented at Michael's 8th Avenue in Glen Burnie on October 18th. Approximately two-hundred Anne Arundel County high school students, teachers, counselors, and other school officials participated.

In the future, we will consider hosting an event in other counties and



Baltimore City. LaFarge North America has already expressed interest in hosting an event at their Texas, MD facility. 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 "clearing-house" 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.

Finally, the subcommittee is working with the Baltimore County Office of Employment and Training on a targeted recruitment effort for Construction Inspectors. The goal is to attract current job seekers! The Office of Employment and Training will advertise these events, and offer one of the training centers where we will offer an abbreviated Work Zone Safety class and test to evaluate the job candidates. Information on the successful candidates will be provided to industry, via the MdQI sponsoring organizations/associations (MHCA, ACEC, etc). Additional employment screening will be the responsibility of the individual companies. We expect to host the first event in November or December.

“Celebrating Maryland's Highway Centennial”

JANUARY 30-31

MdQI 2008 Conference

Full Registration

\$295 Early Bird (by December 28, 2007)

\$320 by January 23, 2008

Awards Banquet Only (on Day One - January 30)

\$85 Early Bird (by December 28, 2007)

\$100 by January 23, 2008

Hotel - Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel, Downtown Baltimore

\$119 room per night by January 21, 2008

Full Conference registration fee includes 2-day program, meals and awards banquet.

Conference Registration and Vendor Information, please contact Shelly Baquol at 410-760-9505. SHA Employees please contact Barbara Smith at 410-545-0360.



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

Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for MdQI Sessions

The Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) 2008 Conference Technical Sessions are eligible for 1 PDH per session. Therefore, a total of 4 PDH's are available for attendance at the Conference. Copies of the presentations and attendee sheets for each session will be provided electronically following the conference for those professional in which PDH's are needed to maintain certification/licensing. This is part of our continuing effort to help educate and meet the needs of the Highway Industry.

Day One - Technical Sessions (Wednesday, January 30, 2008)

	<u>Carroll Room</u>	<u>International E</u>	<u>Pratt Room</u>	<u>Poe Room</u>	<u>Mencken Room</u>
2:00-3:15	How to Build a Project ADA Compliant	Construction 101 for Dummies/Designers	Performance Based Maintenance Contracts	Transportation Management Plan for Work Zones	A Renewed Commitment to Partnering in the Highway Industry
3:45-5:00	ADA Compliance during Construction	Accelerated Construction Technology Transfer (ACTT) for Highways	Congestion Pricing on Toll Roads	OOTS Bicycle and Pedestrian Guidelines Manual Review	Environmental Compliance at SHA Facilities

Day Two - Technical Sessions (Thursday, January 31, 2008)

	<u>Carroll Room</u>	<u>International E</u>	<u>Pratt Room</u>	<u>Poe Room</u>	<u>Mencken Room</u>
10:45-12:00	How to Succeed in Getting an MDE Permit in 5 Easy Steps	State of Maryland's Highway and Bridge Infrastructure	Pavement Incentive Disincentive	Real Time Travel Time Predictions - I-70: MD 27 to I-695	Partnering beyond Maryland
2:30-3:45	Design, Build, Operate, and Maintain (DBOM) Pilot Program for SWM	Utilities and Design Build	Great Projects/Great Leadership. Seen any lately?	A Simulation/Optimization System for Emergency Evacuation & Traffic Monitoring for D.C.	The Office of Materials Technology (OMT) into the Future

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

REGISTER ON-LINE AT www.mdqi.org

Changes Made to MdQI Awards of Excellence

On May 14, 1990 the SHA, in cooperation with the Maryland Highway Contractor's Association, and the Maryland Asphalt Association, initiated the annual Maryland with Pride Awards to recognize quality construction projects. In 1993, the SHA and FHWA approached highway industry leaders in Maryland to transform the annual Maryland with Pride dinner into the Maryland Quality Initiative. The first MdQI conference was held in 1994 and brought together a partnership of SHA, FHWA, MD Asphalt Association and ACEC Maryland. Since that time, the partnership has added the MdTA, Maryland Ready Mix Concrete Association, North East chapter of the Concrete Pavement Association, Maryland Aggregate Association and The County Engineers Association of Maryland.

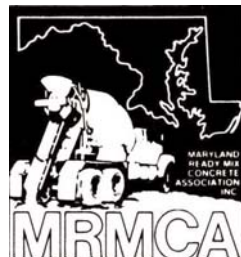
In 1998 the Maryland with Pride Awards Program was changed to the MdQI Awards of Excellence which recognizes projects in two categories, Engineering and Construction. In order to evaluate and improve this program, the MdQI Steering Committee appointed a subcommittee this year with the goals of reducing the number of award categories, introducing some suspense into the awards program at the annual conference, increasing participation of the sponsoring agencies in nominating and evaluating projects for awards, and reduce the time necessary for evaluating projects in the field.

The Awards Subcommittee moved quickly to revise the existing program and has successfully implemented the following changes for the 2007 project awards:

- The Awards Subcommittee has representation from each sponsoring agency wishing to participate.
- Each sponsoring agency is able to nominate projects for award.
- The Awards Subcommittee shortlists project nominations to three finalists per award category which are subsequently evaluated to determine the winner.
- The winner for each award will be announced at the annual conference award ceremony and not before.
- Runners up will also be recognized.
- The number of award categories has been reduced from 28 to 19.
- The awards ceremony at the annual conference will be shorter in length and will be more entertaining in format.

While the Steering Committee fully anticipate a significant improvement in this year's Awards Program, the Awards Subcommittee will continue to reevaluate the program each year for further improvement.

The MdQI Steering Committee is jointly sponsored by representatives of the following agencies



The MdQI Mission - "To provide the Maryland Highway Industry a forum that fosters Coordinated and Continuous Quality Improvement in order to ensure Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sensitive Highways which meet the needs of all Transportation Stakeholders"

Maryland Quality Initiative



Please visit our [website at www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org)