



American Society of Civil Engineers

Our web site: <http://sections.asce.org/columbia/index.html>

Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

Newsletter

December, 2006

Columbia Section Board

Paul Harmsen
President
(509) 374-4248 (B)
pharmsen@mackaysposito.com

Allan Evans
Vice President and President Elect
(509) 546-2060 (B)
allan.evans@hdrinc.com

Secretary/Treasurer-Open

Darral Moore
Past-President
Phone: (509) 783-2144
dsm@jub.com

Theodore W. Pooler
Yakima Branch President
(509) 966-7000(B)
tpooler@hlcivil.com

Bernard (Ben) W. Volk
Director- TriCities
(509) 783-2144 (B)
bvolk@jub.com

Walla Walla Director - Open

Dave Krumbain
Director-Pendleton/LaGrande
(541) 278-5748
DKRUMBEIN@Bluecc.edu

Yakima Director – Open

Julie Nelson
Newsletter Editor and Webmaster
(509) 546-2044(B)
julie.nelson@hdrinc.com

Delbert (Del) L. Ballard
Historian
(509) 946-6401 (H)
delballard@sbcglobal.net

Structural Group Chairman - Open

Donald P. Kurkjian
PNC Director
(509) 371-2218 (B)
Dkurkjian@yahoo.com

Columbia Section Meeting –December 13th, 2006

Date: December 13th, 2006

Place: Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland

Meal: Buffet (Chef's choice) \$15 per person.
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at the meeting.

Topic: **US 395** - Columbia Drive to SR 240 Interchange Improvements (Blue Bridge) and an Update on **SR 240** - Tri-Cities Additional Lanes Project

Speaker: **Moe Davari**, Project Engineer, Washington State Department of Transportation

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentation will begin at Noon.

RSVP: Paul Harmsen, pharmsen@mackaysposito.com or 509-374-4248 by December 12th, 2006.

President's Remarks:

Dear Members:

Thank you for all who attended our last meeting on November 15. Attendees were privileged to hear a presentation from Randy Hayden (Port of Pasco). Through Randy's presentation, the Columbia Section members were able to gain a broader perspective of the global marketplace and how the world economy can even affect the Columbia Basin, Port of Pasco, and regional shipping alternatives. We greatly appreciated Randy's willingness to speak at our November meeting.

This month several projects that are vital to the Columbia Basin will be presented. Moe Davari, Project Engineer with the Washington State Department of Transportation will be presenting on the US 395 - Columbia Drive to SR 240 Interchange Improvements and he will be providing an update on the SR 240 - Tri-Cities Additional Lanes project.

These are important projects for the local economy and for the safety of the citizens that use these facilities. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this month's Columbia Section lunch meeting; I look forward to seeing you there.

Some interest has been expressed by several members of the section to fill the Secretary/Treasurer position, and therefore this position will be filled soon.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with memorable moments with friends and families.

Sincerely,

Paul Harmsen, P.E.
Columbia Section, President

Speaker: Moe Davari, WSDOT Project Engineer

Morteza (Moe) Davari graduated from University of Colorado with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1979. He has been with WSDOT in the Tri-Cities for 26 years and he obtained his professional license in 1990. Moe's job title is Project Engineer and as such has overseen the design and construction of highway structures throughout the lower Columbia basin and Walla Walla area.

US 395 - Columbia Drive to SR 240 Interchange Improvements

Project Description:

This project will reconfigure the US 395 / SR 240 interchange south of the "Blue Bridge" in Kennewick, to improve traffic flow and reduce the risk of collisions.

Project Status:

- The design team has begun using preliminary survey data to design the project based on recommendations from the brainstorming session held in April and recommendations from the Traffic Analysis.
- Traffic counts at the interchange were taken in June. Traffic flow analysis of the proposed design has begun based on existing and projected traffic volumes.

Additional Information:

- Please see attached Project Summary Pages
- Visit the WSDOT project Website at:
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US395/ColumbiaDrivetoSR240/default.htm>

SR 240 - Tri-Cities Additional Lanes

Project Description:

This project constructs additional lanes on SR 240 between Richland and Kennewick, linking Interstate 182 with the US Department of Energy's Hanford site, the Columbia Center commercial areas, and east Kennewick's industrial zones. The project will save travel time for auto and vanpool commuters and expand the bicycle corridor. There are currently four general purpose lanes. When the corridor is completed, there will be three lanes in each direction on SR 240 from Stevens Drive to Columbia Center Boulevard. A new auxiliary lane will be constructed in each direction from I-182, across the new Yakima River Bridges, to the Richland "Y." Improvements at the I-182/SR 240 interchange and the Richland "Y" interchange include ramp widening and construction of a [roundabout](#).

The pedestrian/bicycle corridor will also be lengthened, completing another link in the Columbia River Loop Trail system

Project Status:

- The westbound lanes are complete and all traffic has been switched to the new lanes. Currently, the contractor is constructing the eastbound lanes.
- The Contractor is finished constructing the westbound side of the Animal Crossing, and is working on the eastbound side.
- Work on the irrigation system at the wetland mitigation site continues.

Additional Information:

- Please see attached Project Summary Pages
- Visit the WSDOT project Website at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR240/TriCitiesAddLanes/>