



Tacoma/Olympia Section Civil Engineer THE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

September Meeting

ASCE/SEAW Dinner
Wednesday, Sept. 17th

La Quinta Inn, Tacoma
off I5, downtown Tacoma

Social: 5:30pm

Dinner: 6:00pm

Program: 6:30pm

Cost: \$25/person;
students half/price

RSVP: Contact **Kay Hoke** at
khoke@cityoftacoma.org
or 253.591.5760 by
Monday, Sept. 14th

Lincoln Avenue Grade Separation Project

Existing Conditions



The Tacoma Tideflats is a very active area which includes a variety of port-related intermodal transportation-related facilities, as well as many non-port related industrial operations. Conflicts between rail and vehicular traffic adversely and severely impact the movement of freight and goods along Lincoln Avenue, in the vicinity of Milwaukee Way, where four support tracks currently cross Lincoln Avenue.

Proposed Project

The Lincoln Avenue Grade Separation Project provides for a grade separation structure along Lincoln Avenue, in the vicinity of Milwaukee Way, to allow for the

unimpeded flow of vehicular traffic by eliminating the present conflicts with railroad traffic at existing at-grade crossings at this location.

There are several new at-grade roads which have to be constructed prior to construction of the grade separation, due to changes in the traffic flow. The project was broken up into separate construction contracts to encourage completion and open the bidding up to smaller local firms, prior to the large grade separation project.

Unique features of the grade separation itself consist of tied-back sheet pile walls along the Lincoln Avenue ditch, supporting EPS light weight fill approaches to the bridge structure, and an 1170 foot long bridge supported on large diameter deep drilled shafts. ■

Speakers

Speakers: **Mr. Trevor Thornsley, P.E.**, Senior Project Manager, Port of Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington
Mr. Chuck Spry, PE, SE, Senior Project Manager, BERGER/ABAM Engineers Inc.

Mr. Thornsley has over 21 years of design and construction experience working on land development and public works improvements in Washington and California. He has been a Port of Tacoma employee for nearly 9 years working as a Project Manager overseeing multiple capital improvement projects from initial planning, thru design and construction. His projects range from wharf extensions, container crane modifications, dredging and building, site and bridge improvements. Acting as a Sr. PM for the past 2 years he now oversees a staff of project managers in the completion of capital improvement projects in and around the

Port of Tacoma tideflats.

Mr. Spry has nearly 30 years of professional experience in the design and construction of bridges and transportation facilities, all with BERGER/ABAM. His background has focused on planning, structural engineering, and construction administration.

His more notable projects include: the SR 509/I-705 elevated single-point urban interchange (SPUI) bridge for WSDOT in Tacoma; the concrete spliced girder Don E. Wickstrom Bridge for the City of Kent; and the South 180th Street grade separation and underpass project for the City of Tukwila.

Chuck graduated from the University of Washington and is a registered civil and structural engineer in the states of Washington and Oregon. He is a member of SEAW, PCI and ACI. ■



Bernie Hargrave P.E., PMP

Well, summer recess is over. My gage is less about the back-to-school advertisements and more about e-mail traffic on local civil engineering “stuff”; committees reconvening, schedules being compared to see who has what date open, people writing to say “hello” to ask “what’s happening?”

A lot is happening in western Washington civil engineering. The bustle we hear from national ASCE seems non-stop yet here in the Tacoma/Olympia Section it seems more coincident with the school year.

This month renews our traditional annual meetings with the region’s many engineering associations when we have dinner with the **Structural Engineering Association of Washington (SEAW)** on Wednesday, September 17th at the La Quinta Inn in downtown Tacoma. The program will be the Tacoma’s Lincoln Bridge Project. In December we meet with the Seattle Section, in February at St. Martin University’s Engineering Week gala, and then in March with the Society of Military Engineers (SAME).

Portland Cement Association is offering a local seminar which they tell me only occasionally happens in our section. Be sure to check out their info and link in this newsletter. Also, ASCE’s Transportation and Development Institute is encouraging new section-level institutes. *Are you interested in spearheading a new affiliation with the national institute here in the Tacoma/Olympia Section?* Check out their message in the newsletter.

ASCE Region 8 Governor, **Dale Nelson** with Alaska Section, plans to join us next month at our dinner meeting. He will talk about ASCE Region 8 and national initiatives. More about that in next month’s newsletter.

Of course also coincident with back-to-school are those familiar twinges of changing times we grew to expect when starting a new school year. My tenure as section president is nearly complete. Next month, **Jason Moline** will have the pleasure to serve as Section President. **Lyle Stone** will join your board as a section director and **Kawika Kaulukukui** as our St. Martin student president. Yet despite the wonderful additions that these promising engineers bring to our section’s leadership, more people willing to serve in key section roles are needed. As we look to the future of our section, we must ask, “*What new roles are there for our section? How do we remain relevant to civil engineers? Why should the Tacoma/Olympia Section persist into the future?*”

While these are questions we can discuss together, they are more pointed if we each ask ourselves: “*What new role for me is there in our local engineering affiliation? How do I remain relevant as a civil engineering professional? What can I do to help Tacoma/Olympia Section serve the civil engineering profession in our region?*”

I encourage you to push yourself a little to grow your talents beyond a technically capable engineer. For ex-

ample, in addition to taking university or industry courses, diversify your growth in public speaking (OK, many of us dread speaking in public yet I find this talent to be one of the most critical for a leader). Recognize that your profession needs you to be more than technically competent. Establish your professional affiliations with engineers beyond your day-job. Civil engineering employers should encourage engineers to diversify their growth beyond what the next project requires from them. The local ASCE section can play an inspiring and career-changing role in the lives of individual civil engineers. Seek out ways to become involved with your section. I am convinced you and we will be the better for it.

All the best, hope to see you at our September 17th meeting with the Structural Engineering Association of Washington.

Bernie Hargrave, P.E., PMP
2007-2008 Section President
ASCE Tacoma/Olympia

City of Tacoma Land Use Permitting Services Survey in the Works

The City of Tacoma is committed to improving their building and land use permitting services. The City values stakeholder (defined as those who have a stake in the processes and its outcomes) opinion and involvement in accomplishing this goal. We are preparing to conduct an on-line interview of stakeholders to assist us in prioritizing and focusing our efforts.

If you have comments or questions or would like to participate in the survey, please contact **Sue Coffman**, Assistant Division Manager, Building and Land Use Services, City of Tacoma: phone (253) 594-7905 or email sue.coffman@cityoftacoma.org

To view some interesting photos taken by Richard Swanson at the May 2008 section field trip to Gog-le-hi-te Wetland go to <http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/tacoly.htm>



The Board of Governors of the Transportation and Development Institute of ASCE (T&DI) has a new initiative to encourage Sections and Branches to start local institute chapters. Sections and Branches can either start a T&DI chapter or can convert an existing transportation technical committee/group to a T&DI chapter. To encourage sections and branches to consider the formation of a T&DI chapter in your section or branch T&DI's Board is offering a \$1,000 grant to the first 5 sections or branches that have a T&DI chapter approved by both the section and T&DI by September 30, 2008.

To view a file containing an invitation from T&DI's president to consider starting a new T&DI chapter or converting an existing transportation committee into a T&DI chapter along with some simple instructions to facilitate starting a chapter and a form T&DI created to help you go through the approval process—go to the ASCE national website asce.org.

We hope you'll consider initiating a T&DI chapter in your section or branch. If you have any questions concerning the formation of a T&DI local chapter, please contact me.

Sincerely

Jonathan C. (Jon) Esslinger, P.E., F.ASCE
Director, Transportation & Development Institute
American Society of Civil Engineers
1801 Alexander Bell Drive
Reston, VA 20191
703.295.6420 (Voice)

Honor Young, Inspiring 'New Faces' of Engineering



If you work with or otherwise know a talented engineer who's 30 or under and has shown the aptitude and potential to be a star in the profession, nominate him or her to be named one of 2009's New Faces

of Civil Engineering. ASCE is seeking out young, diverse engineers who are making a positive impact on society through their work. The award is open to young engineers from any civil engineering discipline. The National Engineers Week Foundation will select one of ASCE's nominees to represent the Society as civil engineering's "new face." Among the honors, the winners will be featured in a full-page ad in USA Today during Engineers Week next February. Nominations will be welcome through September 29. For more information about the award, go to the asce.org website.

PCA Regional Seminar Explores Concrete Floors on Ground

SKOKIE, Ill.— The Portland Cement Association (PCA) manual Concrete Floors on Ground is explored in depth during the association's newest regional seminar: Troubleshooting Concrete Floors on Ground.

The one-day program, that will be initially offered in the Northwest, will cover the design, construction, and repair of concrete floors on ground for residential, light industrial, commercial, warehouse, and heavy industrial buildings. Emphasis will be on attaining the best possible balance among service requirements, costs, and maintenance.

The course is ideal for concrete contractors, cement suppliers, ready-mix concrete producers, engineers, architects, and specifiers. Participants discover practical solutions to correcting existing problems and understand poor construction practices lead to concrete defects.

Dates:

- * September 11 — Boise, Idaho
- * September 23 — Seattle, Wash.

Registration: By phone: 847.972.9032; Online: at www.cement.org/learn

Cost: Cost is \$245 for PCA members and \$295 for non-members. All attendees will receive Concrete Floors on Ground with additional course notes.

The seminar is co-sponsored by the Northwest Cement Producers Group and the Idaho chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America.

Civil Engineers Push for Historic Education and Licensure Changes



Next fall's class of civil engineering freshmen will witness historic changes in education and licensure during their careers. Guided by the Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge for the 21st Century, changes already underway in accreditation, curricula and licensure will better prepare them to be leaders and innovators. ASCE has released the

second edition of the Body of Knowledge. In this new report, many of the original concepts and ideas have been clarified and sharpened, and their implementation will lead to the revision of current undergraduate and post-undergraduate education.

Visit your national ASCE website regularly for up to date information!

SECTION CALENDAR and ENGINEERING RESOURCES



Section Calendar

**Tacoma/Olympia
ASCE Section
Meetings/Activities**

WELCOME BACK!

September 17th - Lincoln Street Bridge;
Joint meeting with Structural Engineering
Society (SEAW)

*DATE/TIMES/LOCATIONS TO BE
ANNOUNCED/VERIFIED

Tacoma/Olympia ASCE Board Meetings:

Local Board Meetings are open and generally
held the **first Monday of the month** at 5:30pm.
Locations vary. **Please check the WEB site,
this calendar, or contact the president for
confirmation.**

[http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/
tacoly.htm](http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/tacoly.htm)

Younger Member Forum Activities And Update

Younger Member Newsletter
www.asce.org/inside/cym_pubs.cfm

**For more information on Upcoming
Events & Activities for Younger Member
programs, contact: Brook Maples at**
brookm@gmail.com

Continuing Ed

For scheduled seminars in your geographic
area are available on ASCE's website at
www.asce.org/conted/seminars.

These in-depth, practice-oriented programs
are produced by ASCE's Continuing Educa-
tion Department and may be of interest to
many ASCE members in your Sections and
Branches. We would greatly appreciate if
you would consider positing information on
these seminars in your newsletters and on
your websites.

If you have questions or need assistance,
please contact:

**Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education
Registrar at kjarvis@asce.org or**

Michael Cook at mcook@asce.org.

TRANSPEED Courses

For a complete list of courses, visit the
website at [http://www.engr.washington.edu/
epp/Transpeed/index.html](http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/Transpeed/index.html) for specific course
**descriptions and dates. Click on the spe-
cific course link to view the course outline.**
or contact:

Julie Smith
Engineering Professional Programs
Phone: 206-543-5539
Toll-Free: 1-866-791-1275

2008 Professional Development Short Courses

For a complete description of the course and
registration information visit our website
**<http://www.engr.washington.edu> or call
us at: Engineering Professional Programs,
University of Washington, phone:**
206.543.5539
(fax) 206-543-2352 or
(toll free) 1.866.791.1275

Stephanie Strom, Program Mgr:
ssstrom@u.washington.edu
(direct) 206-685-9682

Positions Wanted/ Positions Open

Job Announcement Number 204608

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER, ASSOCIATE
City of Tacoma, Washington**

Open Continuous

Hourly Pay Range: \$27.64 to \$33.61

The City of Tacoma's Public Works De-
partment is seeking Associate Construc-
tion Managers that are team players and
are able to communicate and work with

the various stakeholders of a project,
including construction inspectors, de-
sign engineers, and citizens of the City.

How to Apply

Apply online or send your completed
application, cover letter and resume to
the City of Tacoma, Human Resources
Department, 747 Market Street, Room
1336, Tacoma, WA 98402-3764.

Application materials can also be ob-
tained by calling the Human Resources
Department at 253.591.5400.

See Your AD Here!

Advertise in our newsletter!

Post a business card sized ad in our newsletter
for \$200 per year. **Interested?**

Contact:

Bernie Hargrave...

Bernard.L.Hargrave.Jr@nws02.usace.army.mil



Tacoma/Olympia Section Board 2007 - 2008

<http://sections.asce.org/tacoly/html/board.htm>

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“Engineers Make the *Difference*...
They Provide the *Quality* of Life!”