

THE

INFORMANT



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINE SECTION ASCE

December 2024



From the Editor:

Happy Holidays from the Maine Section!

As you will notice from our write-ups this month, we had a very busy week discussing Maine’s infrastructure and safety in transportation at one of my favorite events of the year, the Maine Transportation Conference! It doesn’t stop there; the Report Card is released as a tool to help explain to your family and friends where infrastructure investment should be focused. So, let’s make sure we use it! We look forward to the new year and hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

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Heather

Maine Section ASCE - Save the Date(s)

December 2024						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 MBTA Holiday Meeting	11 AGC All Industry Meeting	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas & Happy Hanukkah	26	27	28
29	30	31	Jan 1 2025!	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4



President's Message

Hello Maine Section, Phew! What a few weeks it has been!

We successfully released our 2024 Report Card last Tuesday, which was a great experience. I felt some pressure to represent our section well, when presenting the Report Card findings for about 45 minutes. The overall 41 committee members (including the authors and those that assisted) put many, many hours over the last year into their sections. Thank you all for your efforts, that is what made this release a success. Some of the news coverage can be seen in the reports at the links below. This Report Card would not have been possible without the leadership, guidance and persistence of Peter Merfeld, our Chair of the Report Card committee. Also, although you may not always see Heather Hayes in the foreground, she is instrumental to our success. The amount of time and effort Heather gives our Section is remarkable. Please take the time to review and share our Section's Report Card for Maine's Infrastructure, more info can be found on Page 3.

Two days after the Report Card release, we had a great presence alongside members of the UMaine Student Chapter at the 73rd Annual Maine Transportation Conference. This was a great opportunity to further explain and discuss the Report Card with the nearly 800 transportation professionals in attendance, while further connecting with the next generation of UMaine civil engineers. Overall, it was a great day with many presentations focused around improving the safety and reliability of transportation in Maine.



As we enter the second week of December, the Holiday season is well upon us. In my conversations with many civil engineers in our State, the workload is busy! I hope you all take advantage of the Holiday season and have ample time to spend with family and friends.

I hope you all have a great Holiday season and hopefully we'll see you at our next ASCE event in 2025!

Nate Strout, P.E.

Maine Section ASCE President

News Report Links:

[Maine scores 'fair' on infrastructure report card, its highest grade yet](#) – Maine Morning Star

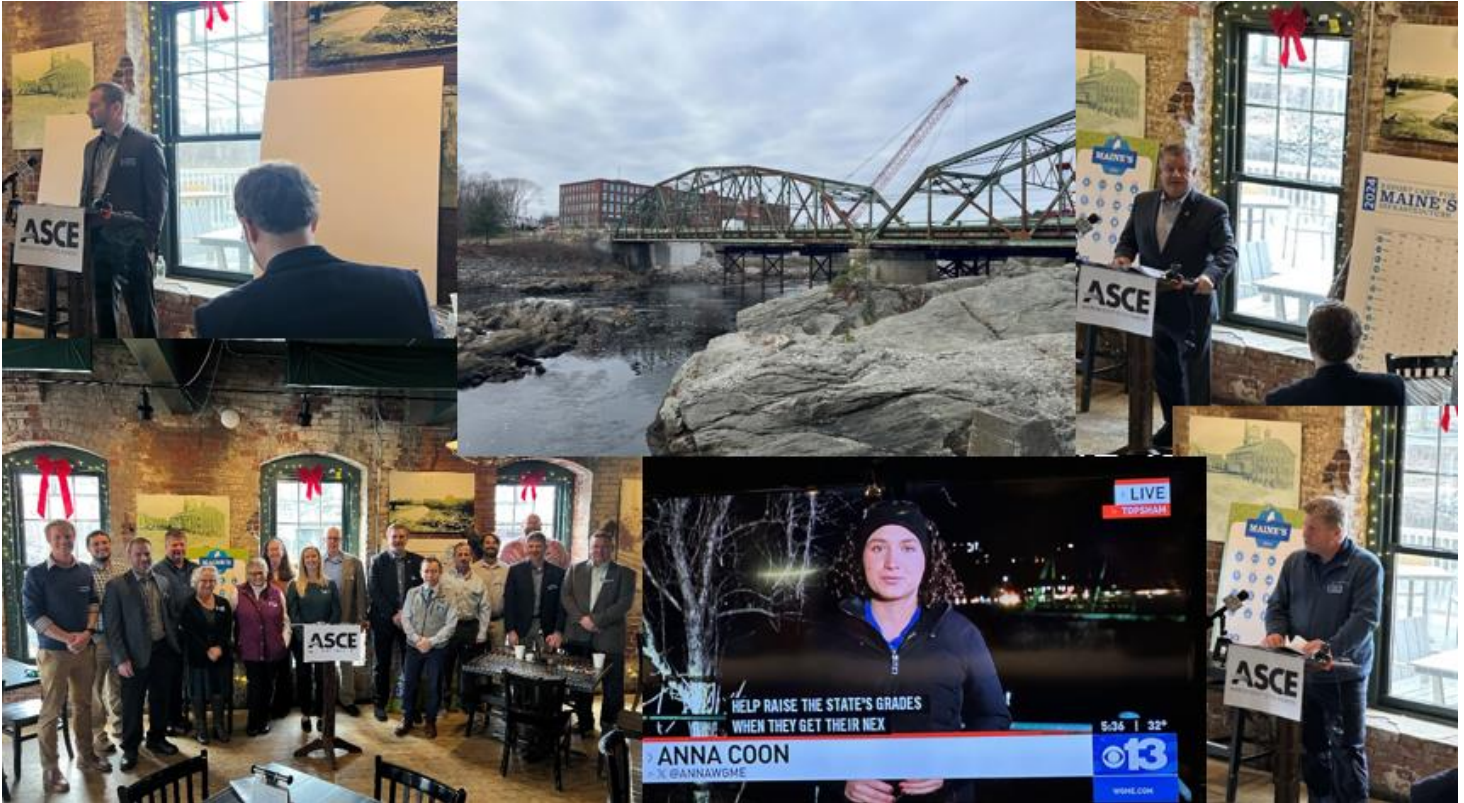
[Maine's report card for infrastructure gets mediocre grade at best](#) – News Center Maine

[Maine earns 'C' grade on infrastructure report card](#) – WGME 13

[Maine earns a C grade in latest infrastructure report card](#) – Bangor Daily News



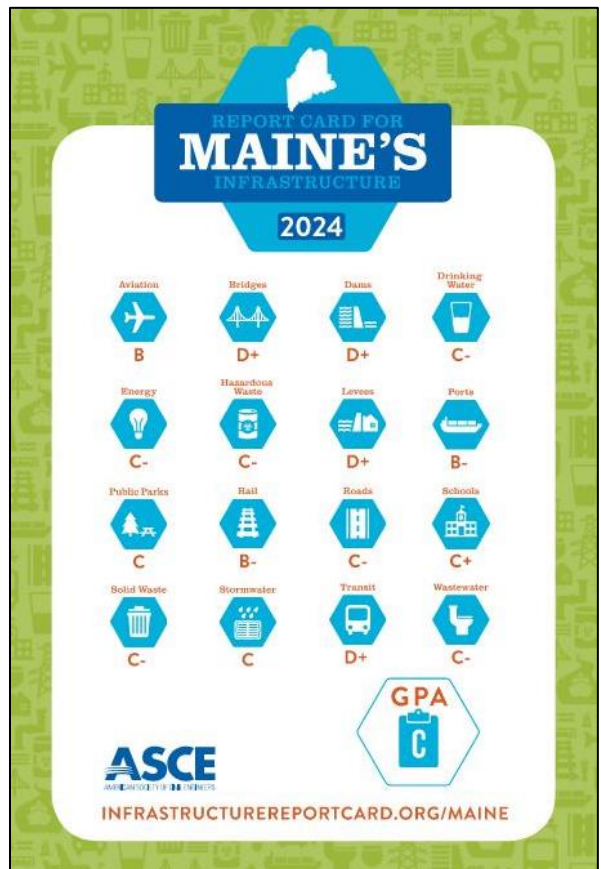
Report Card for Maine's Infrastructure



I want to thank the 41 volunteers who worked all year to complete a 140-page report on Maine's Infrastructure. Wow!! Congratulations on a successful media event as well. We had most every news outlet in attendance and wide coverage (News links can be found on Page 2). Thanks to Heather for organizing the event and our President, Nate Strout who was fantastic (Photo Top Left). Our 2 guest speakers, Bruce Van Note, Commissioner of MaineDOT (Photo Top Right) and Craig Douglas General Manager of Brunswick-Topsham Water District (Photo Bottom Right), really brought it home. I am very proud to be a part of such a great group, many who have been with me since that first meeting in 2007! Special thanks to ASCE, including Gordon Chaffin who provided guidance and assistance through the whole process. The next thing on agenda is getting the word out. Please share the links with your friends, family and local elected officials.

Peter Merfeld, PE
 Chair Report Card committee & ASCE Region 1 Governor

Read the Full Report:
<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/state-item/maine/>





THE WICKED DATA MIN"AH"

#15 LETS CELEBRATE MAINE

December 21

is considered National Maine Day, commemorating the day when Maine became the 23rd state in the United States in 1820.

Source: <https://www.thecollector.com/maine-state-facts/>

99

% of wild blueberries produced for the United States.

Source: <https://www.thecollector.com/maine-state-facts/>

4600

offshore islands included within its statehood.

Source: <https://www.thecollector.com/maine-state-facts/>

3,478

miles in length when one considers all of the islands and inlets

Source: <https://www.thecollector.com/maine-state-facts/>

1st

in the United States to see the Sunrise at Quoddy Head.

Source: <https://www.thecollector.com/maine-state-facts/>

**MBTA Holiday Meeting!****2024 MBTA HOLIDAY/SCHOLARSHIP
MEETING****5 P.M. RECEPTION | 6 P.M. DINNER + PROGRAM**

Celebrate with the MBTA!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024****BUCHANAN ALUMNI HOUSE
160 COLLEGE AVENUE
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE, ORONO**

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE MBTA'S 2024 HOLIDAY MEETING.

Meet our newest scholarship recipients, and enjoy networking with friends, colleagues and community leaders.

The Super Raffle is SOLD OUT - thank you to all who purchased tickets! The proceeds benefit the Educational Foundation and scholarships for Maine students. The Super Raffle winner will be drawn at the meeting, with one lucky person winning \$7,000!

Opportunities to host a scholarship recipient/family member or sponsor the event.

Celebrate the season with your friends at the MBTA!



AGC Maine All Industry Meeting!



All Industry Meeting

December 11, 2024

5:00pm to 8:00pm

Broadway Bowl

725 Broadway, South Portland, ME 04106

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

Join the Design, Construction and Engineering industry for a social evening of networking with bowling, hors d'oeuvres and beverages.

Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy to support WGME's annual Joy of Sharing toy drive.

The ever-popular Ugly Sweater contest will be on-tap and the competition has been fierce!



Maine High School Scholarship

The ASCE Maine Section is seeking applicants for its *Civil Engineering High School Scholarship*. There will be one \$2,000 scholarship awarded to an outstanding high school senior from Maine who plans to major in civil engineering in college. The student selected must show proof of enrollment in a four year ABET accredited Civil Engineering program. This scholarship has been highly successful in past years and typically attracts many students who are in the top 5% of their graduating class. The application and all its attachments must be emailed (preferred) or postmarked by February 28, 2025. If you know anyone who might be interesting in applying, please encourage them to obtain further information and applications from their school counselor or from Leslie L. Corrow, P.E. at: leslie.corrow@kleinschmidtgroup.com



MAINE SECTION
YOUNGER MEMBERS
**HOCKEY NIGHT IN
PORTLAND**



Come watch your Maine Mariners take on the visiting Norfolk Admirals and catch up with your fellow Maine Section ASCE members!

11 January 6:00 PM Start

At the Cross Insurance Arena
1 Civic Center Square, Portland, ME 04101

Please RSVP by January 1st

E-mail Ben Smith at
benjamin.smith@tylin.com

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Installation of low density cellular concrete in a state building courtyard in Connecticut

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Business Cards

Do you run your own consulting firm, or have a business that the Maine engineering community should know about? Advertise with a business card! Business card listings run for 1 year, including 9 issues of the Informant and full time on the website. Cost: \$150.00 Discounts Available: Purchase a 1-year Business Card ad and receive a \$25 discount on a Job advertisement!
Advertise for new employees at any level – students, EITs, and PEs will all see your ad.

Job Listings

Job advertisements are posted in one issue of the Informant and on our Facebook page.
Cost: Quarter Page (3.75"x5") - \$35
Half Page (7.5"x5") - \$75 for 1 month
- \$500 for 1 year (9 issues)
Full Page (7.5"x10") - \$150 for 1 month
- \$1000 for 1 year (9 issues)

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month prior to publication.