



ASCE
PHILADELPHIA SECTION

THE

NEWS

Vol 98-4

Our 113th Year

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

December 2025



ASCE Vision

Civil Engineers are global leaders building a better quality of life.



ASCE Mission

Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance Civil Engineering, and serve the public good.



<http://www.asce-philly.org>

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NON OMNIA POSSUMUS OMNES (WE CANNOT ALL DO EVERYTHING)

SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE 2025-26

The Section Meeting program for the upcoming season is in its formative stages and our meeting program committee is busy lining up speakers and topics for what we hope will be an interesting and informative series of meetings. The information we have at this point is provided below for your planning purposes. We would suggest that you use this to mark your calendar at this time and hold the dates.

In coming issues of *THE NEWS*, this information will be "fine-tuned" to provide updates as they are available. We also suggest you visit the Section website for the latest changes in our meeting program. As we have done, each month's edition of *THE NEWS* will feature detailed information on that month's meeting along with as much information as is available for the following month's meeting, and the "look-ahead" schedule will show details that are available at that time for your advance awareness. E-mail blasts will be sent out on a regular basis to advise and remind of upcoming events and registration deadlines.

We also note the advantage of joint meetings with other societies and will continue to schedule these as we can.

Also, our Technical Groups and Institutes will have their usual programs of meetings and events which will be noted in e-blasts.

The remaining meetings, all in the 2026 "half" of the season, will include these:

February – to be determined

March 12 – Maggiano's Center City, topic to be determined

April 14 – Breakout sessions, Inn at Swarthmore topics to be determined

May 14 – Spring Social, The Lucy, Center City



REGISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

2025 ECP MULTI-SOCIETY MEETING



Photo Courtesy of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Topic: I-95 Emergency Construction (Cottman Avenue) – Detours and Community Impacts

Join us as our panel of speakers reviews the intricate and complicated maintenance of traffic, detours, and handling of impacts of the addition of the over 100,000 vehicles that would normally be using I-95 during the emergency construction in June 2023 following the incident and fire that required I-95 to be temporarily closed.

Panelists:

Francis J. Hanney
Senior Assistant District Executive – Operations
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, District 6-0

Richard J. Montanez, PE
First Deputy Commissioner – Transportation
Philadelphia Department of Streets

Sandi K. Yeakley, PE
Senior Project Manager/Principal Associate
Benesh

Moderator:

Jaclyn Whelan, PE
Project Manager – Design
Conrail
(2025 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year)

We will continue our tradition of conducting a Toys for Tots collection at this meeting. Please bring unwrapped toys that will be collected by the Marines at the event.



Date & Time
Tuesday, December 9, 2025

11:30 AM registration/networking, 12:00 Noon lunch, session following lunch

Location
Maggiano's Little Italy
12th & Filbert Streets, Center City, Philadelphia, PA

Cost
\$70 ECP members and members of co-sponsoring societies

\$80 Others
Late fee (after December 1st)

Registration
www.enrclub.org/2025MultiSocietyMtg
Reservation deadline: **December 1**

Co-Sponsoring Societies



Call for 2026 PA Infrastructure Report Card Champions

Category Champions are responsible for leading the volunteer effort of grading and writing their chosen Report Card category. The following categories are in need of champions:

- Broadband
- Dams
- Solid Waste

For more information and to volunteer, please email our co-chairs **Paul Ackerman** at packerman@yep.edu and **Justin Komp** at jkomp@langan.com.

JANUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Delaware Valley Section, American Society of Highway Engineers

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel Philadelphia-Valley Forge, 260 Mall Boulevard (across from King of Prussia Plaza), King of Prussia, PA

Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner 6:45 PM, Meeting Presentation Follows (approx. 7:30 PM)

SUBJECT: US 422 Reconstruction/Pottstown

The currently-underway roadway and bridge reconstruction program on US 422 in the Sanatoga/Pottstown area will be featured and highlighted.

RESERVATIONS FOR THIS MEETING MUST BE MADE THROUGH THE DELAWARE VALLEY SECTION, ASHE. The reservation process will be provided in the January edition of *THE NEWS*, as well as in upcoming e-blasts, along with more information on the topic and speaker.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all,

As we enter the holiday season, it's a good time to take a moment and remember why we do what we do. Our code of ethics says that, above all else, Civil Engineers protect and advance the health, safety, and welfare of the public. For me, this serves as a reminder to put people—all people—first.

After all, the people in our lives are the most important part of our existence. They help us accomplish our goals and find happiness and fulfillment. They might be family, friends, colleagues, or even one-time acquaintances who held a door or gave a smile—no matter the case, if you appreciate them, I urge you to take a moment to tell them so.



In that vein, I'd like to offer some thanks of my own. First, to my family (pictured here) for supporting all my ASCE efforts and harebrained schemes—but even more so for just bringing so much joy to each day!

And second, to each and every one of you for the hard work you're doing for the good of the public, as well as for your

participation with ASCE. Remember to be good to one another and all your other people this season. We look forward to seeing you at another event soon.

Best Regards,
Jesse Gormley
President, ASCE Philadelphia Section

HOLD THESE DATES

ENGINEERS WEEK EVENTS SCHEDULED

The Engineers' Club of Philadelphia, through its Delaware Valley Engineers Week Committee, will cite **Engineers Week 2026 (February 19-28)**. We have traditionally extended our local celebration beyond that recognized by National Engineers Week to include our kickoff event.

Engineers Week in the Delaware Valley will officially begin with the **Engineers Week Opening Dinner on Thursday, February 19** (two days before National E Week begins). At this event, we will introduce and formally induct the **Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year** and **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**, as well as highlight the various contributions of engineers and engineering students. All Engineers Week award and scholarship recipients will be cited at the Dinner. This will take place at the **Hilton Hotel on Penns Landing**.

The **Young Engineers Social** is a networking and social event to cite the newly-inducted **Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year**. Venues and schedule are still being considered and will be provided in future updates.

Please note this information in your calendar and plan to participate. More details on venues and pricing will be included in future updates.

Also, please check on the various Engineers Week awards and scholarships that are available and will be awarded at the Opening Dinner. This information, along with other updates on Engineers Week, can be found at the Engineers' Club website, www.engrclub.org.

**Ambition is a dream
with a V8 engine.**

— Elvis Presley

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Joseph Natale, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Mohamed Elghawy, TPD

In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, only the immediate Past President will serve on the Board, and only for a one-year term. We show the most recent three Past Presidents as has become our tradition.

We thank these folks for their service and wish them well in their spots.

Contact Us:

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Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

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Jesse Gormley, Dennis Wilson

SEND COPY TO:

ASCE, c/o Urban Engineers, Inc.,
530 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

**COPY DEADLINE FOR JANUARY EDITION 2026 ISSUE
DECEMBER 5, 2025**

NEWS FROM REGION 2

Opening for Governor

ASCE's Region 2 Nominating Committee is seeking candidates to fill one open position for Region 2 Governor.

The candidate for the vacant Region 2 Governor position shall be an ASCE member in good standing from any Section in Region 2, have served as a Section or Branch officer, as a member of a Section or Branch committee, or as a member of a Standing Board or Society committee.

Individuals who wish to be considered for Region Governor must submit a Letter of Intent, Biographical Statement, Vision Statement, and high-resolution color photograph (in a professional setting) of the head and shoulders only to **Joseph Platt PE**, Nominations Chair (and Past Section President) (jplatt@trafficpd.com), with a copy to **Wendy Dinwiddie** (wdinwiddie@asce.org) by **December 1**.

The Biographical Statement MUST follow the template approved by the ASCE Secretary and is limited to 200 words for Region Governor candidates. The Vision Statement details the Candidate's vision for ASCE and plan for activities during his/her term in office. These Statements must be submitted in Word format, with the photo in .jpg format.

Interviews of candidates are expected to be conducted between January 19 and February 9. The Nominations Committee will provide the names of the selected Official Nominee(s) to the ASCE Secretary by March 1.

Please ensure that you meet the minimum qualifications and can dedicate the time and financial commitment to serve in this important position.

Electronic submissions will ONLY be accepted.

Please contact Joe Platt if you have any questions or need additional information on this.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS –
35 YEARS STRONG!

At this early point in our season, we are proud to note that 14 firms have agreed to participate in our Section Sponsor program thus far. We extend our special and collective THANKS to each sponsor for their financial commitment and support.

And, as noted in the title, this is the 35th season that we have been offering our sponsorship program. This effort started in our 1991-92 season with nine firms as the "pioneers" (one remains at present). Thanks to all of you who have participated in this over the years.

Sponsor logos are displayed in a special Sponsors section of our website. Additionally, we provide direct links to sponsors' own websites so prospective employees can review all available and up-to-date positions. We also offer sponsors the opportunity to have a "spotlight" article in an edition of *THE NEWS*. If you have an interest in joining our sponsorship program, please contact **Bob Wright** at newseditor@asce-philly.org for more details.

Additionally, we offer the VIP Title Sponsor level of support, which offers the opportunity to be featured as the exclusive sponsor of one month's editions of our regular e-mail blasts. This is available for an additional fee.

TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES... OR RECRUIT
A NEW MEMBER? OR UPGRADE?

As a reminder, your ASCE dues for 2026 is coming due at the end of the year. You may have seen the e-mail reminders on this and hard-copy invoices are being mailed to those who have requested them.

Please keep in mind that ASCE isn't just for civil engineers. While you may be surprised to learn this, ASCE allows non-engineers to be members as well. With the recent changes and consolidations in membership grade, one can now join as a full Member, which is available to those having "an interest in the advancement of the purposes and objectives of the Society" as well as civil engineering-degreed individuals. Non-CE-degree applicants were previously accepted at the Affiliate Member grade, but this has been folded into the Member grade with the noted recent revisions.

At the other end of the "spectrum", for those of you more senior and experienced members, the Fellow grade of membership is worth consideration. This is the highest level of membership one can attain on one's own and is a laudable and esteemed achievement.

Of the more than 160,000 members in 177 countries that are represented by ASCE, just 3 percent hold the prestigious honor of being an ASCE Fellow. These individuals have made celebrated contributions to the profession and developed creative solutions that have changed lives around the world.

The specific requirements for application for Fellow are listed on [asce.org](https://www.asce.org).

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Schroeder Honored with Edmund
Friedman Young Engineer Award
for Professional Achievement

Section Member **Danielle Schroeder** was recently recognized with the **ASCE Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement**. This prestigious award honors up to five ASCE members from across the society annually who are 35 years old or younger and have demonstrated significant professional achievement in Civil Engineering. Recipients are recognized for their technical competence, leadership in engaging and mentoring younger members, character and integrity, service to the profession, and contributions to public welfare beyond their careers.



This award was presented to Dani for her dedication to Civil Engineering through her work experience and ASCE at the local, regional, and society levels. In addition, this award recognizes Danielle's tireless STEM outreach efforts and her passion for empowering girls globally while promoting engineering as a rewarding and impactful career path for women.

Additionally, Dani spoke at the 2025 Convention in Seattle, moderating the **Student and Emerging Leaders Welcome Breakfast** panel and participating in the "From College to Career – Strategies for Success as You Enter (and Advance In) the Workforce" as a panelist, sharing strategies for success in the Civil Engineering field.

Dani is part of the Philadelphia office staff at Huitt-Zollars. The firm joins us to extend our congratulations to Dani and the rest of the ASCE society-level winners who received this award at the 2025 Convention.

N-ASCE*

THE BOUNDARY STONES OF THE FEDERAL CITY

If you have ever looked at a road map of the Metropolitan Washington, DC area, then it is clear where the boundaries of present day DC and Arlington County lie. But how did these boundaries come to be, and how are they defined today? It may come as a surprise to you that these boundaries are denoted by the first monuments ever commissioned by the United States Government, that 37 of the 40 boundary stones remain, and together as a group the Boundary Stones represent one of the oldest lasting surveys of Colonial America.



In 1791, George Washington appointed the Commissioners for the New Federal City to lay down four experimental lines so as to create the boundaries of the "ten mile square" tract on the upper Potomac River where Pierre L'Enfant's plan for the city would be designed and built.

It was agreed that the area of 100 square miles would embrace approximately 64 square miles of Maryland soil and approximately 36 square miles of Virginia soil. The City Commissioners contracted Major Andrew Ellicott who set the first stone, the South Cornerstone, at Jones' Point in Alexandria, VA on April 15, 1791 during a ceremony that included the sentiment "May the stone which we are about to place in the ground remain an immovable monument of the wisdom and unanimity of North America."

The layout called for establishing a northwest line 10 miles toward Falls Church, where the West Cornerstone would be placed. Along the route, there are a total of nine 2' high by 12" square sandstone mile markers. Ellicott then turned northeast and completed the survey on the Virginia side of the Potomac before halting a brief hiatus during the winter months. In the spring of 1792, work resumed on the Maryland side of the Potomac, continued toward present day Silver Spring and the North Cornerstone was placed. From there, Ellicott's party headed southeast toward present day Seat Pleasant, located the East Cornerstone, and closed the square by turning

southwest back toward Alexandria and the Potomac River. The teams cleared a path 40' wide and over 38 miles long, which included three river crossings. All did not go smoothly for the members of the survey team, as several died from illness and one man was killed by a falling tree.

On January 1, 1793, Major Ellicott returned to Philadelphia with news of his accomplishment. He reported that the stones were inscribed with the sides of the stones facing the Territory, 'Jurisdiction of the United States' and included Maryland or Virginia depending on the location as well as the year in which the stone was set up and the conditions of the Magnetic Needle at that place.

To know the stones today, is to understand the development and growth of the DC area. Of the 26 stones placed in Maryland, 22 continue to define this boundary and remain at or near their original locations adjacent to Bethesda,

Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, Mt. Rainier, Brentwood, Capitol Heights, Temple Hills, Suitland, and Oxon Hill. Of the missing 4 Maryland stones, 2 stones were destroyed/lost in the 1950's and the individual sites are marked by a plaque (NE#1) and a replica stone (SE#8) respectively. Original stone (SE#4) now resides in the Capitol Visitors Center behind a glass case after a mid-1980's traffic accident, and a replica stone was placed in 2015 near the original location. The final missing stone (SE#7) is in temporary storage following a traffic accident in 2024 and is currently awaiting rededication in the vicinity of its original location in the near future.

On the Virginia side the land was retroceded back to that state in 1846 due to the inability to build Federal Buildings west of the Potomac River, a pressing need to concentrate on the development east of the Potomac, and to address the issue of



slavery which was legal in Virginia but illegal in DC and Maryland at the time. There are 14 stones on the this boundary, 10 of which currently define the Arlington County boundary adjacent to McLean, Falls Church, Bailey's Crossroads, and Alexandria. The remaining 4 stones are located in the City of Alexandria and no longer define a boundary. 13 of these stones are original stones. Only one (SW#2) has been lost (presumably since the Civil War), and the Old Town Alexandria site is marked by a commemorative stone.

The preservation of these stones came about in the late 1890's through the 1960's when Fred E. Woodward, brother of the owner of the Woodward & Lothrop's department stores, and the Washington DC Local Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution began a campaign to save the stones by educating the public to their existence and erecting iron fences around as many as possible. That campaign has been championed by the Nation's Capitol Boundary Stones Committee, a group dedicated toward the preservation of the stones/sites and on which ASCE National Capitol Section's History & Heritage Committee currently has representation. Among the many goals of this committee is to promote the Stones/Sites for designation as a National Historic Landmark. To that end, ASCE has an effort underway to nominate the Ellicott Survey represented by the Boundary Stones/Sites for National Historical Landmark designation. The National Capitol Section was instrumental in rehabilitation of 22 of the fences by leading painting efforts with over 185 volunteers between 2010 and 2015 as well as installing 2 new fences at SE#4 & #8 and reinstalling the historic original fence at the East Cornerstone.

Hopefully this article has sparked your curiosity enough to visit a stone or two. Certainly, if you have ever crossed into the District from Maryland or into Arlington from Fairfax County or Falls Church you have been within a half mile of at least one of the stones if not closer. ASCE Boundary Stones Committee is planning to resume the fence rehabilitation effort as many of the fences are now in need of repainting. If you are interested in joining the Boundary Stones Committee and helping ASCE continue to preserve these important monuments of American history, please contact Stephen Powers at stephen@designpowers.com. For more information on the location and history of the stones, please visit www.boundarystones.org or www.dcestones.org.

Thanks to Stephen Powers and the National Capitol Section for this information.

* N-ASCE – not always something concerning engineering...

**I come from a family
where gravy is considered
a beverage.**

— Erma Bombeck

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

Laurel Welch, Forum Editor
Kevin Walsh, Forum President 2025-26
HNTB, jkwalsh@hntb.com

Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant Tour

November 6

YMF sponsored a tour attended by 10 members to explore the evolution of urban wastewater engineering with a guided tour of the Philadelphia Water Department's (PWD) Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant (SWPCP).



Attendees gained perspective on the plant operations and considerations for the design and construction of large-scale projects. We would like to thank PWD for being an excellent host and taking the time to share their work with us!

ASCE Region 2 Assembly

November 8

ASCE's Region 2 (encompassing Sections in DC, DE, MD and PA) conducted its annual Assembly at the University of Delaware. YMF's **Justin Banks** and **Kayla Nelson** attended the Assembly and took this photo with Student Chapter leaders from schools within our Section, Drexel University and Temple University, along with a Younger Member from long ago, Newsletter Editor, **Bob Wright**. The Assembly featured engaging presentations and activities that helped connect Section and National leadership as well as those from other Student Chapters within Region 2.



ACCT Philly Service Event

November 15

Ten members visited ACCT Philly to provide support to the city's only open intake animal shelter. Volunteers passed out treats to dogs and cats, created dog enrichment items, which help to relieve stress, and put together foster packets. The staff mentioned how efficient the enrichment making was, and we filled up their freezers with lots of enrichment and treats for the dogs to enjoy. Thanks to all the volunteers who made it a great event!



MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Walsh Takes on New Role

Section Past President **Jenn Walsh** reports that she is excited to share a change in role at HDR and her transitioning into the Area Business Development Lead for Pennsylvania and Delaware. HDR takes great pride in serving as an extension of our clients, partnering with them to deliver successful projects, solve complex problems, and help them navigate the challenges they face within their agencies and organizations. In this new role, Jenn hopes to build upon the strong relationships already established and continue supporting our clients in addressing the issues that matter most to them. We wish her success in her new endeavor.

Farrell Moves on to Lochner

Section Past President **Cathy Farrell** advises that she is also excited to share that, starting December 1, she will begin a new position with Lochner, an Egis Company, as the firm's Pennsylvania State Lead. Cathy noted that after nearly 11 years with HNTB, her time with the firm has come to an end, and she is leaving with a deep sense of gratitude for the incredible people she has had the privilege to work alongside and immense pride in what they have accomplished together. The experiences, challenges, and friendships from her time at HNTB have shaped her both personally and professionally, and she is truly thankful for that. We congratulate Cathy on her move and pass along our collective good wishes.



ASCE/ASHE JOINT WINTER MIXER





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Join ASCE and ASHE for our festive annual evening of networking and socializing with fellow civil engineers! This is a great opportunity to connect with professionals from both societies, learn about each other's work, and have some fun. We look forward to seeing you there! Must be 21+ to purchase or consume alcohol.



Tuesday, December 2nd
6pm-9pm



Puddler's Kitchen & Tap
3 DeKalb St, Bridgeport, PA 19405

Questions? Contact Gina @
venutogina17@gmail.com

RSVP BY November 25th!



Thanksgiving is a magical time of year when families across the country join together to raise America's obesity statistics. Personally, I love Thanksgiving traditions: watching football, making pumpkin pie, and saying the magic phrase that sends your aunt storming out of the dining room to sit in her car.

— Stephen Colbert

NOVEMBER SECTION MEETING

November 13, 2025

Maggiano's Little Italy, Center City

ALL ABOARD – Transformation of Amtrak's William H. Gray III 30th Street Station

By Robert Wright, Editor

Our second Section dinner meeting of the season was the first following the return to standard time, thus it was starting to get dark when many attendees were arriving at Maggiano's for the event. And a full room (close to 100) did indeed show up to partake of the networking, camaraderie and great food that we have come to expect with these meetings. The attendees would hear an interesting and informative presentation on the currently-underway effort to revitalize and restore the landmark William H. Gray III 30th Street Station.

Section President **Jesse Gormley** managed to get everyone seated and settled to begin the evening's business with several announcements and then welcomed the students of the meeting's featured **Student Chapter, Widener University**. Chapter Co-Presidents **Emma Miernicki** and **Ashleigh Stehr** provided an update on the Chapter's activities and happenings, which seemed to be a very busy program. President Gormley wrapped up the announcements and dinner was served.



As dinner wound down Section President-Elect **Dennis Wilson** took the podium to introduce and welcome our featured presenters, **Abigail Barman, Thomas Bonner** and **Jared Celona**, part of the Amtrak project team. Mr. Bonner offered an overview of 30th Street Station and the project, noting that the station has been in existence for almost 100 years (opened in 1933), became the main intercity railroad station in Philadelphia with the closure of Broad Street Station (1952), and has been operated by Amtrak since the company's formation in 1971. It is Amtrak's third busiest station and serves both intercity operations as well as SEPTA's Regional Rail network. It additionally serves as headquarters for Amtrak's engineering operations as well as a number of its corporate offices and functions. It was extensively renovated in the 1980's but is in need of some additional work and the opportunity to reprogram a number of functions and offer ancillary services such as food halls, restaurants and retail offerings will be included in the current effort.

Mr. Celona addressed several structural issues including platform renovations, escalator and elevator replacement, as well as installation of new generators and substations, some of which required intricate logistics and transport efforts to fit into tight confines and avoid contact with overhead power catenary lines. The project is happening concurrently with construction of a new coach/railcar maintenance facility in the adjacent north rail yards which called for close coordination as well as track and



catenary outages to move equipment. Substantial work on the ceiling above the main station area was able to be accomplished to a great degree using hanging platforms referred to as "dance floors" rather than installation of scaffolding which would have been very disruptive to crowd flow and result in a more claustrophobic environment.

Ms. Barman outlined the upgrades to Amtrak office space, which most station users do not know exists, on upper floors of the building. The spaces above either side of the main station are connected by walkways called "catwalks" which can be seen through windows at the east and west walls of the station. Additionally, she noted that much of the existing station floor space will be reprogrammed, with a new passenger lounge, baggage check/claim area, and relocation of many of the benches and waiting areas into the North Hall, which is mainly unused (and where the historic frieze, Spirit of Transportation, is located). This will allow more use of the main station floor for cafes and restaurants as well as improved crowd flow. Work on the plaza adjacent to Market Street called the Porch will improve pedestrian and passenger amenities as well.

The presentation team wrapped up the session adding that the work is currently underway and the overall goals of the effort are to enhance the station's functionality and improve the customer experience. The net result will be the noted modernization of nearly 500,000 sf of space while maintaining the historic integrity of the station. The work is being coordinated with current developments on adjacent properties as part of the Schuylkill Yards program in the area. The overall 30th Street Station District Plan will transform adjacent neighborhoods and our city as a whole.

President-Elect Wilson closed the evening after a lively question and answer session and thanked the presenters and panel members for their insights and updates. He presented each of them with the Section's speaker gifts as a token of our appreciation for their efforts.

Thanksgiving, man. Not a good day to be my pants.

— Kevin James

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SECTION AGENCY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

As you may be aware, our Section offers a Section Sponsorship Program to allow firms to help provide our various activities and programs for our membership and the Civil Engineering community in the Philadelphia area. This involves

a financial commitment which is reflected in the placement of the participant's logo and business card in *THE NEWS* and on the Section's website, along with several other benefits. Additionally, we have established an informal

recognition of government and quasi-government agencies for the assistance they have provided us, through volunteer assistance and award recognition among other things. Our Agency Partners' logos are shown below.

