

ASCE

WISCONSIN SECTION



Milwaukee Pierhead Lighthouse

President's Message

By: Larry Buechel

Greetings fellow Wisconsin Section members.

Spring is finally upon us. I am always filled with a renewed sense of optimism during this time of year as so many things spring to life. The tulips are blooming, the birds are chirping, and my lawn has become filled with dandelions... Ah, the joy.



Speaking of spring, we had a very successful Spring Technical Conference in early March of this year. It was a virtual event hosted by the Fox River Valley Branch. Many thanks to the Branch's event planning committee and Impact Association Management for pulling together all the details for the event, and thanks as well to our Section's Technical Groups for providing excellent content for the breakout sessions. Lastly, thanks to our event sponsors for supporting the conference. Their generosity allowed us to put on a very high-quality event for our membership at a very,

very affordable cost.

Hopefully, the coming weeks and months bring more steps toward returning to some semblance of “normal” life post-COVID-19. Over the last 12-14 months, COVID-19 has cost the Section and our members a number of high profile in-person ASCE events – Regional and National Concrete Canoe Competitions at UW-Madison in the Spring and Summer of 2020, the EWRI World Environmental & Water Resources Congress planned for Milwaukee in May 2021, and the 2021 National Concrete Canoe Competition at UW-Platteville in June 2021. That is very unfortunate, but the circumstances are out of our control. Let’s hope the COVID-19 recovery across our country and around the world continues to gain momentum and our Section again has the opportunity to host major in-person ASCE events like these in the near future.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Section’s strategic planning process is underway and we have accomplished quite a bit over the last few months. Our survey of the Section membership concluded in March and focused interviews of a cross-section of the membership wrapped up in April. The Section Board held two strategic plan development sessions, one in April and a second in May. We remain on schedule to release the Section’s strategic plan this summer.

In late March, the President of the United States announced a proposed infrastructure improvement plan for our country. Much has been written and reported on the contents of that proposal and there is a great deal to be sorted out on exactly what the final approved plan will look like, but that plan will mean a great deal of opportunity in the coming years for civil engineering and construction professionals around the country. ASCE’s Position Statement on the President’s proposed plan is included later in the newsletter.

Perhaps not coincidentally, ASCE issued its National Infrastructure Report Card in early March, just a few weeks prior to the announcement of the President’s infrastructure plan. A link to that Report Card information can be found in the body of the newsletter as well. As that report shows, there is much work to be done on our nation’s infrastructure, and ASCE will continue to monitor progress on development of a national infrastructure improvement bill and work to position it’s membership to contribute effectively to whatever plan is eventually rolled out for the nation.

May is election month for ASCE at the Society level. All members should have received an invitation from the Society to participate in the election. Please make sure to take advantage of this opportunity to make your voice heard. In addition, the Section’s annual elections are planned for June. Section positions up for election this year are: President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Director-at-Large positions. If you would be interested in pursuing one of these positions or would like to nominate another member for a position, please email the Section at wi.sec.asce@gmail.com by May 31.

Lastly, I will close this message with a note on the Section’s Fall Annual Meeting, which is planned for Friday September 24th. You each should have received a “save the date” announcement for the event in the past few weeks. The Northwest Branch is planning this event as a virtual one. Please strongly consider participating in the event to expand your professional knowledge and earn a number of those very important PDH credits. Let’s hope our next Section event in 2022 can be held, at least in part, as an in-person one...

Thank you for your continued support of ASCE and the Wisconsin Section. Please be sure to vote in the Society and Section elections being held over the next couple months, and be safe out in the field as the annual construction season ramps up for the year.

Thanks again and stay well,



Larry Buechel
ASCE Wisconsin Section President



ASCE
WISCONSIN SECTION

2021 ASCE Wisconsin Section Awards
Call for Nominations
Nominate Today!

Nominate a *Civil Engineer* for:

- Distinguished Service Award
- Wisconsin Young Civil Engineer of the Year
- Individual Merit Awards
- Excellence in Journalism Award

Nominate a *Civil Engineering Project* for:

- Category A: Construction Cost Under \$2,000,000
- Category B: Construction Cost \$2,000,000 and Over, but Under \$10,000,000
- Category C: Construction Cost \$10,000,000 and Over, but Under \$20,000,000
- Category D: Construction Cost \$20,000,000 and Over

Up to 2 projects can be selected for an award in each category.

2021 Wisconsin Section Elections

by: Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

Elections for the 2021-2022 year's ASCE Wisconsin Section Board of Directors will open next month.

The following positions for the Wisconsin Section Board are open:

- President Elect (three-year term; year one President Elect, year two President, year three Past President)
- Treasurer (three-year term)

- Director at Large (two positions open, two-year term)

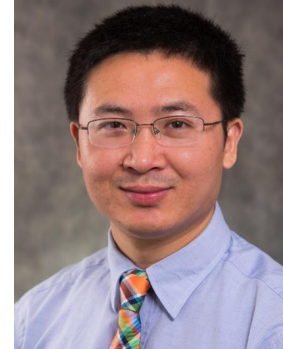
Members will be invited to cast their electronically next month. Details on how to cast your vote will be communicated via email to all ASCE Wisconsin Section members in June 2021.

Current candidates for the 2021-2022 ASCE Wisconsin Section Board of Directors include the following individuals.

President Elect Candidate

Danny X. Xiao, P.E., ENV SP

Dr. Danny Xiao is an assistant professor at University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He teaches courses related to construction materials and transportation engineering. He also leads research projects on pavement materials and design. He is currently investigating the impact of deicing and anti-icing materials on the durability of concrete pavements and how to minimize the impact, both sponsored by Wisconsin Department of Transportation. He started the American Concrete Institute (ACI) UW-Platteville Student Chapter in 2016 and serves as the faculty advisor for the Chapter. He also serves as a technical oversight committee member at Wisconsin Highway Research Program (WHRP), a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Design and Rehabilitation of Asphalt Pavements (AKP30), and a member of the Platteville Airport Commission.



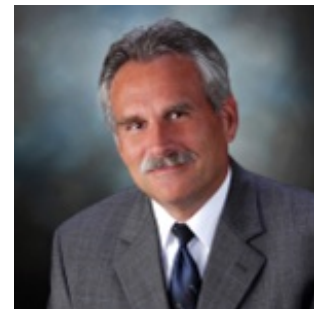
He has been the coordinator of UW-Platteville EMS Engineering Seminar Series since 2018. EMS Seminars are 1-hour long invited presentations that showcase the plan, design, construction, maintenance of real-world engineering projects and how they change our community. The platform has become an important venue that connects civil engineers in the tri-state area (Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa).

Dr. Xiao is a licensed Professional Engineer and an Envision Sustainability Professional. Trained as a transportation engineer at University of Arkansas, he worked at Arkansas Department of Transportation and Louisiana Transportation Research Center before joining University of Wisconsin-Platteville in Fall 2015. He has served as the Director-at-Large of ASCE Wisconsin Section since 2018 and has contributed to the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family, running, and camping outdoors. One of his lifetime dreams is to visit all national parks.

Treasurer Candidate

Martin Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE

Martin Hanson, originally from Burnsville Minnesota, obtained his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree with water resources and transportation emphases from the University of Minnesota in 1977. He was awarded a Master's degree in Business Administration from University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire in 1998. Hanson is a licensed Professional Engineer in Wisconsin and five other states. He is an American Society of Civil Engineers Fellow and a National Society of Professional Engineers member. Mr. Hanson's career has included work for private consultants, local governments, and the federal government.



He retired from the consulting engineering business in Eau Claire where he held various titles including Manager, Vice President, and Director of Transportation Relations. Mr. Hanson managed large projects including the 2-lane to 4-lane expansion of STH 29 from Abbotsford to Marathon City, including the Abbotsford Bypass in central Wisconsin and the relocation of STH 29 from Elk Mound to Chippewa Falls, including the Chippewa Falls bypass in West Central Wisconsin; as well as urban and local roadway projects across the state.

Hanson served on the Wisconsin State board for professional licensure for eight years, including serving as chairman. Mr. Hanson was appointed to the Wisconsin Transportation Finance and Policy Commission created in the 2011-2013 biennial state budget to study the transportation needs and funding options. Mr. Hanson is also active in the community serving as a Junior Achievement instructor and serving as an officer on several boards in northern Wisconsin. Currently Mr. Hanson has a transportation public policy company, Starboard Tack Consulting. Mr. Hanson currently serves as Treasurer for the ASCE Wisconsin Section.

Director At Large Candidates

Mike Arnold, P.E., M.ASCE

Mike Arnold is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a B.S. in Civil Engineering (2005) and is currently a senior structural engineer for AECOM in Milwaukee. He has 16 years of experience in transportation structure design, with an emphasis in complex highway bridges and movable bridges. Mike’s service with ASCE over the years has included President of the ASCE Wisconsin Section Southeast Branch and planning committee membership for the past five ASCE Wisconsin Section conferences hosted by the Southeast Branch. Most recently, Mike served as a co-author of the Bridge Chapter of the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card.

Mike lives in New Berlin, WI with his wife Julia, three children (7, 4 and 2) and three dogs (13, 12 and 3 months).



Nick Bobinski, P.E., M.ASCE

Nick is an Associate and Senior Project Engineer at Kapur in Milwaukee, working primarily on WisDOT and local roadway projects. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was a member of the ASCE Student chapter and the Concrete Canoe team. Nick enjoys participating in ASCE’s many outreach, volunteer, and social activities. He previously served on the Southeast Branch Board of Directors in several roles including Branch President and Planning Co-Chair for the 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting. He currently serves on the Wisconsin Section Board of Directors as Southeast Branch Director.



Jennifer Hurlebaus, P.E., M. ASCE

Jennifer Hurlebaus is the Collection System Engineer for the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District where she is responsible for the overall management of the collection system at the district, including a focus on longer-term programs and initiatives. With 16 years in consulting and 5 years public sector, Jennifer has experience in collection system

evaluations, hydrologic/hydraulic modeling, design, and construction of sanitary sewer and pumping stations. Jennifer was the construction project manager for the Pumping Station 15 Rehabilitation, which earned ISI Envision-Gold and EPA PISCES awards. She was the lead author of the wastewater chapter for the ASCE 2020 Wisconsin Report Card. Jennifer holds a B.S. in Geological Engineering and a B.S. in Geology/Geophysics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



Brad Severson, P.E., M. ASCE

Upon graduating from UW Madison in 2003, Brad began working at raSmith as a transportation designer. He has spent his career at raSmith and is currently a Transportation Project Manager in their Appleton office. Brad manages roadway design projects for WisDOT and local units of government. In particular, Brad specializes in the design of roundabouts, having designed over 150 roundabouts throughout Wisconsin. Brad has recently been certified by WisDOT as a Level 3 Qualified Roundabout Designer, approved to design single, double, and triple lane roundabouts, as well as systems of roundabouts in a series.



Brad and his wife Mindy live near Appleton in the Town of Freedom, along with their two daughters. They enjoy family camping trips, taking their pop-up camper to state parks throughout Wisconsin. When not working or camping with the family, you can find Brad fishing on a boat, sitting in a deer stand, or waterfowl hunting on a marsh or field.

Brad has been active in ASCE for several years, serving various officer positions for the Fox River Valley Branch since 2015. He has been involved in preparation efforts for numerous ASCE conferences including the 2016 Spring Technical Conference, 2018 Annual Meeting, and the 2021 Spring Technical Conference. He helped organize a fundraiser for the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card, served on the Fox River Valley Branch’s scholarship committee, and has volunteered at outreach events such as the Einstein Expo. Brad currently serves on the ASCE Wisconsin Section Board as the Fox River Branch Director.

Save the Date!



**2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

Presented by:



Civil Engineers: Public Health and Infrastructure

Opinion by Public Affairs Chairman, Gregory Schroeder, P.E., M. ASCE

Exactly one year ago, I wrote to you about the civic responsibility of both wearing masks and writing to your representatives regarding the nation's infrastructure. What a difference one year makes. Today's topics are similar, but now I am encouraging you to get vaccinated, and to encourage your friends and family to do the same. On infrastructure, it is time again to contact your representatives. Let them know what parts of President Biden's plan you like and don't like.

The pandemic is not over. In fact, only 3% of the world's population has been vaccinated. Consider this: the sooner the US gets to herd immunity, the sooner we can ship more vaccine doses to the places in the world that are desperately in need. The current situation in India is tragic. We must consider the possibility that other regions may go the way of India. We need to do all we can to help, starting by getting our own vaccinations.

On the president's infrastructure plan, I refer you to [this ASCE article on the national ASCE website](#). Write, email or call your representatives. Let your voice be heard.

Finally, ASCE Wisconsin Section's partnership with the League of Women voters provides great opportunities to highlight the Wisconsin Infrastructure report card. Please attend as many of these presentations as you can and share the event announcements with family, friends and especially on social media. The event topics and dates are announced elsewhere in this newsletter.

We would like to hear from you. Please log in to ASCE Collaborate and share your

The opinions expressed here are those of the author only, and do not necessarily represent the views of his employer, the Wisconsin Section, or ASCE.

Southeast Branch Scholarship Golf Outing

by: Nick Bobinski, PE M.ASCE

Mark your calendar! The ASCE WI Southeast Branch Scholarship Golf outing is scheduled for Friday, August 27th at Ironwood Golf Course in Sussex. We can't wait to hit the links to support scholarships for local Civil Engineering students. See below for further information, and contact [Steve Weyda](#) with questions.

[2021 ASCE WI Southeast Branch Scholarship Golf Tournament](#)

2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Update

by: Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

The 2020 ASCE Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card Committee is continuing to work on advocacy activities with the Report Card. On March 23, Gretchen Bohnhoff, Ken Mika, and Mike Penn gave a presentation for the University of Wisconsin – Platteville Engineering Seminar Series on what went into producing the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card, what the grades were, and the next steps for advocacy.

Carl Sutter, Jake Brunoehler, and Marty Hanson had set up four collaborative presentations with Wisconsin's League of Women Voters where Carl gave a presentation on the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card and an economics professor made the economic argument for investing infrastructure. All of our presentations were well attended!

In addition, the Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card continues to be mentioned in media.

1. [American Jobs Plan presents opportunity to rebuild Wisconsin's manufacturing, labor, environmental legacy - Wisconsin Examiner](#)
2. [Public Service Commission: Recognizes April 25- May 1, 2021, as Water Week](#)
3. [White House gives report cards on states' infrastructure needs; Wisconsin gets a 'C'](#)
4. [Biden Infrastructure Plan Could Fix Wisconsin's Near-Failing Grade for Roads](#)
5. [Federal Funding Expected To Help Ease Wisconsin's Road Repair Needs](#)
6. [Amtrak in Green Bay? Company announces vision plan for new routes](#)
7. [Fixing 'decades of neglect' in Wisconsin's transportation system](#)
8. [ASCE Calls for Increased Infrastructure Spending to Raise Wisconsin's "C" Grade](#)
9. [Report Card For America's Infrastructure: Wisconsin Receives Low Marks For Roads & Transit](#)
10. [Wisconsin receives low grade on infrastructure](#)
11. [Tony Evers' budget relies on borrowing for road projects, but new solutions may](#)

Over the next few months, Report Card chapter authors will be providing chapter-specific presentations with Wisconsin's League of Women Voters and other professionals who are leaders in those infrastructure areas around Wisconsin. More information on these presentations can be found on the below image.

If anyone is interested in participating in Wisconsin infrastructure advocacy, please reach out to Jennifer Schaff and Ken Mika. The committee has more plans for the future and could use help with finding public groups to present the 2020 Wisconsin Infrastructure Report Card to, writing opinion pieces (Platform and the Society are willing to help support this effort), to a state drive-in in the future!

Engineers Without Borders in Wisconsin

by: Brad Hughes, P.E., M.ASCE

Below are summaries for the chapters throughout Wisconsin:

EWB-UW Madison with Madison Area Professional Chapter support:

- Zapote water system in Guatemala and the solar system with Hogar Albergue children's center in Puerto Rico completed.
- Submitting design for El Pericon Chuacurrul Well Water Project in Guatemala
- Implementing the Camorones Water Project and Tobuga Bridge Project in Ecuador this year.
- Continuing design on the Bunangwe/Buyobo Schoolhouse Project - Uganda
- Approval to begin working on the Benitez Resilience Center solar project design in Puerto Rico.
- <http://ewbuwmadison.weebly.com/> and <https://www.ewbmapc.com/>
- Fundraising campaign: <http://ewbuwmadison.weebly.com/ewbeunited.html>

EWB-UW Stout:

- Assessing the Naranjal Water Project in Ecuador.
- Starting a new greenhouse project in Narajal project.

EWB-UW Milwaukee:

- Implementing the Xolco Water system in Guatemala.
- Designing the Viucalvitz water design.

EWB-UW Platteville:

- Completed Chinderi school project in Ghana.

EWB-Milwaukee School of Engineering:

- Submitting design for review for the Chosavic School House in Guatemala.
- Testing design of Cardamom Spice Dryer project.

EWB-Marquette:

- Santa Apolonia Electrification project construction to begin this summer in Guatemala.
- Guacamayas Hamaca bridge project construction to begin this summer in Guatemala.
- Finalizing design for the El Aguacate Bathroom Project in Guatemala.
- Adopting a new water project for the community El Tesoro in Guatemala.

EWB-Milwaukee Professional Partners:

- Starting design for a new water system for the community of La Faye in Guatemala.
- Looking for professionals to get involved: <http://www.ewbwpp.org/>

View the documentary film from UW Madison about the Zapote, Guatemala water system [here](#).

Wisconsin's Infrastructure Needs You!

Let's raise Wisconsin's infrastructure grade!

Join the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, ASCE-WI infrastructure category authors and invited panelists to discuss Wisconsin's 2020 Infrastructure Report Card. These category meetings are designed to initiate conversations about local infrastructure needs.

Series Schedule: Thursdays, 3-5 PM	Grade
Energy	May 6 B
Bridges and Roads	May 27 C+/D+
Transit and Aviation	June 17 D+/C+
Inland Waterways and Ports	July 8 C-/C+
Stormwater and Dams	July 29 C/C+
Drinking Water and Wastewater	August 5 C-/C-
Hazardous Waste and Solid Waste	August 19 B-/B-

REGISTRATION

For more information and to register for the series event, visit lwwwi.org/calendar

ASCE REPORT CARD

View the ASCE Report Card brochure at bit.ly/ASCE-WI-ReportCard

To join discussions about infrastructure needs with the League, contact us at lwwwisconsin@lwwwi.org for more info.



ASCE Wisconsin - Northwest Branch: Now Accepting Applications for the 2021 Goodell Scholarship!

The Northwest Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers annually awards a scholarship to recognize the unselfish contributions to the civil engineering profession made by Mr. Harvey Goodell, a notable Northwest Branch leader and member. One \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded this year.

Applicants must have a permanent residence within one of the following counties within the Northwest Branch geographical area: Adams, Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lincoln, Marathon, Monroe, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Rusk, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vilas, or Wood.

Applicants must have completed or will complete in the present semester/quarter, at least one full academic year of study in the engineering curriculum.

Applicants must be attending, or plan to attend in the following semester/quarter, one of the following ABET-accredited engineering institutions: University of Wisconsin – Madison, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin – Platteville, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, University of Minnesota — Mankato, Michigan Technological University, Marquette University, or Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Applications are due **5:00 PM May 31, 2021**. Application materials and additional information is available on the ASCE Northwest Wisconsin Branch [Website](#).

Northwest Branch Scholarship Information

2023 Centennial Year Update

By: by: Ken Mika, PE M.ASCE

Thank you to everyone who responded to the 2023 Centennial Year member survey!

The survey responses are being reviewed and will be discussed at an upcoming Wisconsin Section Board of Directors Meeting. For those of responded that they would like to be involved with the 2023 Centennial Year planning, a member from the Section will be reaching out in the near future (in about a month) to confirm your involvement. If you were unable to respond to the survey but would like to be involved with the 2023 Centennial Year planning, please email Ken Mika (kmika@geosyntec.com) to let him know of your interests.



Thank you to those
who attended the
2021 VIRTUAL
SPRING
TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE!

Presented by the Wisconsin
Section Fox River Valley Branch

Friday, March 5



Thanks To:

Keynote Presentation Speakers
Technical Session Speakers
Event Presenting Sponsors:



and Very Special Thanks To:

The 2021 Virtual Spring Technical
Conference Planning Committee
for coordinating a successful event!

CHAIR:

Matt Dahlem, P.G.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Seth Johnson, P.E.

Brad Severson, P.E.

Phil Verville, P.E.

Joe Zellmer, P.E.

ASCE Wisconsin Section Strategic Planning Update

The Wisconsin Section has now completed two facilitated sessions, one in April and one in May. This process so far has additionally included a membership survey and member interviews from a diverse group of members from across the state and at all stages of their professional careers.

The identified areas of focus for the plan are:

- Foster an environment for ASCE Wisconsin Section member engagement.
- Position ASCE Wisconsin Section as a sought-after association for graduating civil engineering students.
- Promote ASCE Wisconsin Section brand and reputation.

Impact AMC, who is facilitating the strategic planning, is currently drafting the strategic plan for board review and approval. The Wisconsin Section looks forward to sharing the new strategic plan with members once finalized.

Welcome New Wisconsin Section Members!

The Wisconsin Section would like to welcome our newest members, who have joined since our last quarterly newsletter. We are excited that you've joined us!

Isaac Baker, S.M.ASCE

Gabrielle Campagnola, S.M.ASCE

Eric Cefalu, A.M.ASCE

Logan Chart, S.M.ASCE

Anthony Di Padova, S.M.ASCE

Kathryn Ebert, S.M.ASCE
Porter Garst, S.M.ASCE
Kevin Gleisner, S.M.ASCE
Shelby Hiltgen, S.M.ASCE
Sharif Hoque, S.M.ASCE
Cassidy Jackson, S.M.ASCE
Alex Jansen, S.M.ASCE
Lily Kraft, S.M.ASCE
Stefan Lepinske, S.M.ASCE
Jinghao Li, Ph.D., A.M.ASCE
Zhaole Liang, S.M.ASCE
Jacob Loehr, S.M.ASCE
Caitlin Lulay, S.M.ASCE
Cory Miklas, A.M.ASCE
Kadin Milbauer, S.M.ASCE
Edward Nelson, S.M.ASCE
Gonzalo Palacios Ginez, S.M.ASCE
Jessica Parmenter, S.M.ASCE
Sarah Pelletier, S.M.ASCE
Eliezer Ramirez, S.M.ASCE
Jacob Reiner, S.M.ASCE
Alejandro Santos, S.M.ASCE
Elizabeth Sirkman, S.M.ASCE
Joe Voit, S.M.ASCE
Daniel Volk, S.M.ASCE
Alex Wahlgren, S.M.ASCE
Yu Xia, S.M.ASCE



Membership at a Glance

Total WI section members: 1,709

Affiliate: 56

Assoc: 288

Distinguished: 5

Fellow: 55

Member: 1,070

Student: 263

**New Members since last Newsletter
(Feb 10): 27**

ASCE 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure

The 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure found the nation's infrastructure earns a cumulative grade of a "C-." This is an improvement over the 2017 grade of a "D+" and is an indication that modest improvements have been made to our infrastructure systems over the past four years. However, 11 categories are still in the "D" range, including the newest infrastructure sector to the report card, stormwater.

ASCE evaluated 17 categories in the 2017 Report Card, with grades ranging from a "B" for Rail to a "D-" for Transit. Due to increased investment and smart policy, grades improved in aviation, drinking water, energy, inland waterways, and ports. One

infrastructure category – bridges – saw a decrease in grade. In addition to grading 17 categories of infrastructure, the report found a \$2.59 trillion investment gap over 10 years between what we are currently projected to spend and what we must spend to bring our systems back to a state of good repair.

ASCE Statement on American Jobs Plan Proposal

by Kevin Longley

The following is a statement by Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., President, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in response to the Biden Administration’s proposed American Jobs Plan:

WASHINGTON, DC. – The American Society of Civil Engineers applauds President Biden’s American Jobs Plan, a truly historic proposal for modernizing and improving the nation’s infrastructure. ASCE urges Congress and the Administration to now work together to develop a comprehensive, bipartisan, infrastructure bill that will set the plan in motion – rebuilding and modernizing our infrastructure systems, while growing the economy, increasing public safety, and creating jobs and more resilient communities.

ASCE’s 2021 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure found the nation earned a ‘C-’, up from 2017’s cumulative GPA of ‘D+’. This is the first time since ASCE began issuing the Report Card that the nation’s infrastructure has received a GPA outside of the D range. However, progress has been incremental and 11 of the 17 categories received scores in the “D” range, demonstrating that much work needs to be done to improve the overall infrastructure network.

The nearly \$2 trillion investment over the next 8 years in the Administration proposal, including \$621 billion dedicated to modernizing our surface transportation networks, \$25 billion to airports, \$111 billion for clean drinking water, \$100 billion for broadband, and \$17 billion to inland waterways and ports, will go a long way to ensure that our nation’s infrastructure continues to improve in the upcoming decade.

The focus is rightly on tackling the maintenance backlog for our transportation, water, and freight systems, enabling “shovel worthy” ideas to get across the finish line, ensuring new projects result in systems that are more resilient, investing in transmission lines to connect the grid, and reflects that our infrastructure is truly a connected system that is only as strong as its weakest link. The recent tragedy in Texas has brought that concept to the forefront.

Beyond raising the grades, the investments proposed in the American Jobs Plan could result in long-term economic gains for American families and businesses. ASCE’s recent study Failure to Act: Economic Impacts of Status Quo Investment Across Infrastructure Systems, finds that continued underinvestment in infrastructure and the inefficiencies that will result will have a cascading effect on the economy over the next 20 years. In fact, ASCE estimates that the U.S. is set to underinvest in our nation’s infrastructure by \$2.59 trillion over the next 10 years, resulting in increased costs for families, lost jobs, and declining GDP. The American Jobs Plan would cut significantly into these funding gaps and ensure that the federal government is working with state and local governments to make these much-needed investments. As the nation looks to revitalize and jumpstart the economy, ASCE believes that infrastructure investment is the key to long-term recovery and prosperity, as well as providing access and opportunity to communities across the country. We look forward to working with the

ASCE Wisconsin Section 2020-2021

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