

**Old Dominion Section
American Society of Highway Engineers**

2002-2003 Meeting Report

PAST MEETING: March 13, 2002

GEOPAK 2001 DESIGN SOFTWARE

GEOPAK provided an informative presentation on the Roadway, Bridge and Drainage design systems on GEOPAK design software. Mr. Tommy Davis, VDOT Automated Engineer Support Manager, will be delivering an update on how the move to GEOPAK is progressing with the Department.

PAST MEETING: August 1, 2002

Natural Stream Assessment and Restoration

Guest Speakers: Bill Jenkins and Jan Patterson of EarthTech gave an excellent presentation on two stream restoration projects in North Carolina. They provided an overview of the elements of stream restoration projects and some lessons learned enroute to successfully completing the challenging projects.

Randy Baker, of the VDOT Environmental Section, and John McClain, from the VDOT Lynchburg District Environmental Section gave presentations on past, future, and ongoing projects with the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Old Dominion Section plans to continue a dialog on this subject at future meetings which has been a great benefit to our membership.

PAST MEETING: September 4, 2002

Wilson Bridge Geotechnical Issues

Presented by Stan Hite - VDOT Geotechnical Engineer

Stan Hite provided an excellent presentation on the complex challenges for providing suitable foundations for the roadways, bridges, and associated infrastructure needed to complete the Woodrow Wilson bridge project. Through VDOT's innovative planning, geotechnical engineering design, contracting, and construction methods substandard soil conditions are being addressed with a comprehensive testing and implementation program keeping the project on schedule. We hope to stay tuned with Stan and hear about the lessons learned as they work towards the successful completion of this premiere project.

PAST MEETING: September 26, 2002

Route 288 Field Trip

Through the Public-Private Transportation Act (PPTA), the Virginia Department of Transportation awarded a \$236 million contract to APAC-Virginia for the completion of Route 288 around Richmond, Virginia. APAC's team is currently constructing new segments of Route 288 in Powhatan and Goochland counties and completing four lanes of Route 288 all the way from the Powhite Parkway (Route 76) in Chesterfield to I-64 in Goochland, completing a long-planned western loop around Richmond. The project totals 17.5 miles and is planned for completion by October 2003.

A big Thank You to TIMMONS, Inc. for organizing the field trip and providing support for the use of the buses. We would also like to thank the following organizers and presenters for the field trip: R.H. Riley, Jr., PE, Parsons Brinkerhoff Construction Services, Inc.; James L. Schmidt, PE, Koch Performance Roads, Inc.; Lee Yowell, PE, CH2M Hill, Inc.; Jim Wiley, PE, APAC, Inc.; Karen Allen, TIMMONS; Paul R. Trapp, Jr., PE, TIMMONS

For more information on the project, check out the website at: www.route288.com

PAST MEETING: November 13, 2002

New Survey Technology In Practice
Bobby Tuck, Tuck Engineering, Inc.

Our guest speaker for our Nov. 13 meeting was Bobby Tuck with Tuck Engineering, Inc. Flying in from Big Stone Gap, Virginia, Mr. Tuck gave us an excellent presentation on new survey technology being tested and brought into use. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an emerging technology that has seen wide spread uses for very large projects such as a recent North Carolina FEMA project where the entire state is in the process of being mapped.

Tuck Engineering has installed a system in a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter to provide services for smaller projects, but also with a higher accuracy than is being realized by LiDAR mapping from fixed wing aircraft. Accuracies are being achieved in the range of +/- 0.15 meters on hard surfaces and on open regular terrain and +/- 0.25 meters on soft/vegetated surfaces in flat to rolling terrain. These accuracies are good enough for many highway design projects.

Mr. Donald W. Little, the VDOT Program Manager for Surveys and Photogrammetry, provide an outstanding briefing on the Department's experience in utilizing LiDAR.

PAST MEETING: December 13, 2002

The Old Dominion Section closed out the year with our First Holiday Social which over sixty people attended. The purpose of this meeting, with a format different from our typical meetings, was to provide a social atmosphere for networking among membership, potential members, and industry supporters. To gain admittance to the meeting, attendees were asked to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the Medical College of Virginia Hospital Massey Cancer Center. Entities that donated to the Old Dominion Section Century Club were given the opportunity to bring informational material on their businesses.

The event was a great success providing a relaxed setting for current members, prospective members, and industry representatives to network and enjoy a wonderful offering of food and drink. Most importantly, a large number of toys and games were donated to a very appreciative MCV/Massey Cancer Center representative the following day. They were very appreciative and we hope the toys will provide some happiness to the children coping with challenging medical conditions. We plan to make this an annual event

Thanks very much to those who organized and worked to make the event a success including Suzanne Lucas, Jim Durbin, Tal Wingate, Susan Warren, and Adrienne Belcher. Great Job!

PAST MEETING: January 21, 2003

We started of the New Year with a well attended event with VDOT Commissioner Philip Shucet as the guest speaker for our Joint meeting with ASCE. Commissioner Shucet provided an overview of current initiatives underway at the Department and made a request to the

transportation and engineering community to offer solutions for ways to do business better and more efficiently.

While he already has an Old Dominion Section ASHE hat from a previous engagement with us, the gift to Commissioner Shucet on this occasion was a complimentary membership in the Old Dominion Section which he gladly accepted. We greatly appreciate the Commissioner providing an open format for questions and discussion on the challenges and opportunities our industry is facing!

February 2003 Event

For our second year participating in Career Day as part of Engineers Week we had a great time. With Old Dominion Section members and volunteers participating Career Day 2003 at the Science Museum was a great success! We provided displays on Building a Road, Women In Transportation, a hands-on Survey Instrument display, and an excellent Computer Traffic Simulation, our volunteers did an outstanding job talking with Middle and High School age students about the variety of opportunities in the transportation field. A big thank you to the Career Day volunteers including:

Suzanne Lucas (Events Chairperson)
Chad Tucker - Traffic Simulation Display
George Nyfeler - Survey Display
Tal Wingate
Nancy Kalousdian
Paul Trapp
Dwayne Wohnig

Students and parents particularly enjoyed the Traffic Simulation display and learning about future careers in the transportation industry. We already have some great ideas planned for next year!

March 2003 Meeting

Virginia's 511 Information System
Presenter: W. Todd Kell, AICP, Travel Information Program Mgr. Mobility Management Division
Virginia Department of Transportation

Congratulations to VDOT and the 511 Virginia for recently being named a finalist for the 2003 Best of ITS Awards , a program of the Intelligent Transportation Society of America to select the year's most outstanding examples of surface transportation technology. We were fortunate to get an update on Virginia's 511 program from Todd Kell, of the VDOT Mobility Management Division, at the March regular meeting. This has been a successful public-private partnership providing a foundation for one of the country's best traveler information systems right here in Virginia. The final selection for award winners will be made in May of this year.

Once again Virginia is leading the way in finding innovative solutions to improve transportation. On the leading edge of intelligent transportation system technology, an exciting new initiative is underway under the direction of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Virginia 's 511 service, an outgrowth of the "Travel Shenandoah" traveler information service, involves a novel public-private partnership designed to ensure ongoing traveler information services yet take advantage of the system's potential future financial success.

This is a unique an exciting partnership including the of the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, the Virginia Tourism Commission, the Virginia State Police, and the Shenandoah National Park . VDOT is encouraging brand recognition for its 511 service, and has so far installed fifty-eight 511

signs along I-81 and approaching Interstate. Hundreds of travelers are using the service daily and usage continues to grow.

May 2003 Meeting

Cultural Resources and Transportation

Presenter: Eric E. Voigt, The Louis Berger Group

Thanks very much to Eric Voigt for an excellent presentation on cultural resources and it's relationship with transportation development. Eric provided a review of the history of cultural resources and the development of the current regulatory process and procedures. He also gave a great first-hand review of the work done at the Brook Run archeological site which was discovered in 1998 during a cultural resources survey for the Virginia Department of Transportation Route 3 project in Culpeper County. During this survey, they uncovered a Paleo-Indian jasper quarry site dating to 11,500 years ago. Artifacts of jasper indicate early occupants of North America came to the Brook Run area to actively mine jasper nodules from a vertical seam at the site. This is the second oldest artifact site in Virginia and one of the oldest on the east coast

If you missed the meeting our would like to learn more about archeology, a television show on the Brook Run Project and VDOT's involvement will air on WCVE (Channel 23) at 12:30 PM on June 8.