

# AASHTO STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

June 25–28, 2007

ASHEVILLE, NC



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
STATE HIGHWAY AND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS

**AASHTO**  
THE VOICE OF TRANSPORTATION

## MONDAY, JUNE 25

- 2:00–5:00 pm      **Registration** –Ballroom Foyer
- 3:00–5:00 pm      **Steering Committee Meeting** –Windsor A
- 5:00–6:00 pm      **Welcome Reception** –Salon A
- 5:00–7:00 pm      **State Best Practices Poster Session** –Salon A

## TUESDAY, JUNE 26

- 7:00 am–5:00 pm      **Registration** –Ballroom Foyer
- 7:00 am–5:00 pm      **Sponsor Exhibits** –Windsor Corridor
- 7:00–7:50 am      **Breakfast (provided)** –Salon B
- 8:00–9:30 am      **Standing Committee on Environment Opening Session** –Salon C  
Moderator:      **John Horsley**, *Executive Director, AASHTO*  
Panelists:      **Mayor Terry M. Bellamy**, *City of Asheville*  
                     **Alan Thornburg**, *Member, Board of Transportation, North Carolina DOT*  
                     **Victor Mendez**, *AASHTO President and Director, Arizona DOT*  
                     **Doug MacDonald**, *Secretary of Transportation, Washington State DOT*  
                     **Dianna Noble, P.E.**, *SCOE Vice Chair and Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas DOT*
- 9:30–10:30 am      **Storm Water/Water Quality Issues** –Salon C  
**Russell Kaiser**, *Chief of the Regulatory Program, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*  
**Overview:** This session will provide an overview of how the various upper and lower court decisions related to jurisdiction of “waters of the United States” protected under the Clean Water Act are addressed in the Guidance recently released by EPA and USACE and provide a summary of the Guidance.
- 10:30–10:40 am      **Break**
- 10:45 am–12:10 pm      **Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change** –Salon C  
Moderator:      **John Zamurs**, *Head, Air Quality Section, New York State DOT*  
Panelists:      **John Horsley**, *Executive Director, AASHTO*  
                     **Doug MacDonald**, *Secretary of Transportation, Washington State DOT*  
                     **Steve Winkelman**, *Director of Transportation, Center for Clean Air Policy*  
**Overview:** Environmental sustainability and climate change are important issues that affect the environment, transportation and the economy. This session will provide an overview of the AASHTO Visioning Conference held in Cambridge, MD May 21–23, including the recommendations from the Sustainable Transportation Panel. To assist states in addressing climate change, this session will address the impacts to and from transportation, ways to assess and present this issue in NEPA documents, and potential policy, legislative and/or regulatory approaches to transportation and climate change.

12:10–1:10 pm

**Lunch (provided)** –Salon B**Jay Swain, PE**, *Division 13 Engineer, North Carolina DOT***Liz Jones**, *Graduate Student in Wildlife Science, North Carolina State University*

**Overview:** Construction of I-26 from north of Mars Hill to the Tennessee State Line in Madison County traverses some of the most rugged terrain in North Carolina ever crossed by a major highway. The construction of this section of interstate has been described as the largest single construction project in the history of NCDOT. The project had a total cost of \$230 million, and required the movement of 37 million cubic feet of earth adjacent to trout streams. The project included the construction of six bridges (including the state's tallest bridge), two interchanges, a Welcome Center, two wildlife underpasses, stream mitigation sites, and a butterfly sanctuary. This project is an early example of a Context Sensitive Solution. On the project tour, you will see all of these features, plus enjoy beautiful Appalachian scenery.

1:10–1:30 pm

**Context Sensitive Solutions** –Salon C**John Deatrick**, *Chair, AASHTO CSS Task Force and Chief Transportation Engineer, District of Columbia DOT*

**Overview:** This session will cover outputs from the 2006 National CSS Peer Exchange as well as the recent CSS sessions at the Subcommittee on Design and Standing Committee on Planning meetings. John will discuss integrating CSS within AASHTO and the State DOTs across all stages of project delivery and will host the CSS Problem Solving Marketplace discussion immediately following this session to receive SCOE input. At Thursday's business meeting, we will outline next steps for SCOE to assist in this integration.

1:30–2:30 pm

**Environment Problem Solving Marketplace** –Salon B

**Overview:** This session will allow discussion of the environmental issues identified below as well as those issues raised at the meeting.

- Climate change, greenhouse gasses and sustainability
- 6001 state examples: incorporating existing resource/conservation/environmental plans in the transportation planning process; linking planning and NEPA; organizational challenges in implementing
- 6002 state examples and organizational challenges in implementing
- 4f *de minimis* and feasible and prudent experiences
- Context Sensitive Solutions
- Environmental Management Systems
- Public Private Partnerships; Congestion Initiatives; timing of NEPA clearance for design-build projects
- Storm water permitting nationwide
- Mitigation planning/Habitat mitigation
- Economic Analysis in NEPA
- Performance measures for funded agencies

2:50–7:00 pm

**Project Tour**

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

7:00 am–5:00 pm **Registration** –Ballroom Foyer

7:00 am–5:00 pm **Sponsor Exhibits** –Windsor Corridor

7:00–7:50 am **Breakfast (provided)** –Salon B

8:00–9:45 am **SAFETEA LU Planning and Environmental Review Processes (6001 and 6002)**  
–Salon C

**Moderator:** **Tim Hill**, Administrator, Office of Environmental Services, Ohio DOT

**Panelists:** **Marella Buncick**, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, North Carolina Ecological Services Division, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**Dan Thomas, PE**, Technical Services Unit Manager, Transportation Planning Branch, North Carolina DOT

**Brad Beckham**, Environmental Services Program Manager, Colorado DOT

**Kelly Dunlap**, Environmental Management Office, CALTRANS

**Bill Malley**, Partner, Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P

**Overview:** This session will focus on SAFETEA-LU Sections 6001 and 6002 with a focus on what states have learned thus far. Several states will present what is working well and what isn't, as well as focus on success stories on how AASHTO CEE is developing guidance to assist the states with these new requirements.

9:45–10:00 am **Break**

10:05–10:25 am **Center for Environmental Excellence Update** –Salon C

**Shannon Eggleston**, Director, Center for Environmental Excellence, AASHTO

10:25–10:50 am **AASHTO Legislative Development Process** –Salon C

**Janet Oakley**, Director, Policy and Government Relations, AASHTO

**Overview:** This session will provide an overview of the AASHTO 2007-2009 legislative development process to establish legislative recommendations for reauthorization.

10:50 am–12:15 pm **Environmental Research Coordination and Results** –Salon C

**Moderator:** **Gary McVoy**, Director, Office of Operations Management, New York State DOT

### **Research Coordination**

**Panelists:** **Chris Hedges**, Senior Program Officer Cooperative Research Programs, Transportation Research Board

**Shari Schafflein**, Team Leader, Program/Policy Development Team, FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review

**Shannon Eggleston**, Director, Center for Environmental Excellence, AASHTO

### **Research Results**

**Panelist:** **Chris Hedges**, Senior Program Officer Cooperative Research Programs, Transportation Research Board

**Jan Edwards**, AASHTOWare Project Director, AASHTO

**Overview:** This session will provide an overview of the various national funding sources for environmental research and coordination amongst the major research programs. The panel will describe ways that SCOE members and friends can participate

in the research programs. FHWA/FTA will discuss allotments of research funds and lines of research covering multiple years, current research solicitation efforts, and specific research efforts. Finally, select environmental research topics, research results and how they are disseminated will be discussed.

12:15–1:15 pm

**Lunch (provided)** –*Salon B*

1:15–2:30 pm

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Indirect and Cumulative Impacts** –*Salon C*

Moderator: **Cindy Adams**, *NEPA Delegation Manager, CALTRANS*

Panelists: **Bob Deaton, AICP**, *Community Planner IV, Community Studies Unit, North Carolina DOT*

**Dianna Noble, P.E.**, *SCOE Vice Chair and Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas DOT*

**Overview:** This session will discuss the fundamental concepts of cumulative and indirect impact analyses. Additionally, panelists will discuss why their state developed guidance, the approach taken in developing the guidance, the status of their guidance, and hurdles faced in developing the guidance.

**Results of 2nd National Survey of Partners in the Project Development Process** –*Salon A*

**Alison Simon**, *Senior Research Director, Government Group, The Gallup Organization*

**Overview:** The session will provide an overview of the results of the 2nd National Survey of Partners in the Project Development Process, highlight significant trends, and explain the methodology used in the survey and opportunities for outreach and training.

2:30–5:30 pm

**SCOE Subcommittee Meetings**

**Air Quality and Energy** –*Berkely Room*

**Natural Systems and Ecological Communities** –*Windsor A*

**Community and Cultural Resources** –*Windsor B*

**Environmental Process and Analysis** –*Salon A*

5:50–9:00 pm

**Biltmore Estate Event**

**Overview:** Meeting delegates will arrive at the Biltmore Estates for a reception in the Stable Café Courtyard followed by a tour of the Biltmore House. The Stable Café was built in 1895 to house George Vanderbilt's prized horses. The Estate House is America's largest home, boasting 250 rooms, 65 fireplaces, an indoor pool, bowling alley, priceless art and antiques. Delegates will return to the Stable Café after the tour for a formal dinner.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 28

7:00 am–5:00 pm **Registration** –Ballroom Foyer

7:00–7:50 am **Breakfast (provided)** –Salon B

8:00 am–Noon **SCOE Subcommittee Meetings (continued)**

**Air Quality and Energy** –Berkely Room

**Natural Systems and Ecological Communities** –Windsor A

**Community and Cultural Resources** –Windsor B

**Environmental Process and Analysis** –Salon A

Noon–1:15 pm **Lunch (provided)** –Salon B

**Resource Agency Update: ACOE, EPA, FWS, ACHP, Forest Service**

**Moderator:** **Shari Schaftlein**, Team Leader, Program/Policy Development Team, FHWA  
Office of Project Development and Environmental Review

**Panelist:** **James Gavin**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Joseph Burns**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Jennifer Moyer**, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Carol Legard**, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation

**Paul Anderson**, U.S. Forest Service

**Overview:** This session will provide reactions to the results of the National Survey of Partners in the Project Development Process, the performance messages that resonate with the resource agencies, and how the results can be integrated into the liaison activities. In addition, participants will highlight their liaison activities over the past year and actions their resource agency has accomplished that has influenced Transportation Project Development.

1:25–4:00 pm **SCOE Business Meeting** –Salon C

The main objectives are to summarize the outcomes from prior days' discussions and focus work for the coming year. Each presenter will cover highlights and next steps.

**Subcommittee Reports**

**Air Quality and Energy,**

*Chair–John Zamurs, Head, Air Quality Section, New York State DOT*

**Communities and Cultural Resources,**

*Chair–Bill Hauser, Administrator, Bureau of Environment, New Hampshire DOT*

**Environmental Process and Analysis,**

*Chair–Tim Hill, Administrator, Office of Environmental Services, Ohio DOT*

**Natural Systems and Ecological Communities,**

*Chair–Dianna Noble, P.E., SCOE Vice Chair and Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas DOT*

**SCOE Steering Group Report**

**Dianna Noble, P.E.**, *SCOE Vice Chair and Director of Environmental Affairs, Texas DOT*

**Key items include:** plans for next year's meeting, the strategic approach to satisfy SCOE's research needs, strategic plan revisions and supporting the work of the SCOE subcommittees.

**Reauthorization Next Steps**

**Items presented for SCOE Vote**

**Federal Partners' Report**, *Lamar Smith, Team Leader, Training, Technology and Technical Assistance Team, FHWA*

**Closing**, *Greg Thorpe, 2007 Meeting Host, Manager, Project Development and Environmental Analysis, North Carolina DOT*

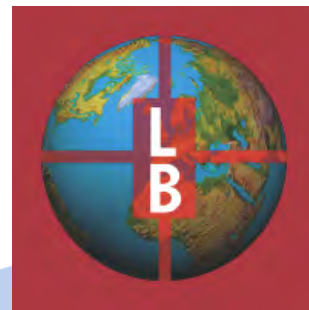
4:00 pm

**Adjourn Annual Meeting**

4:00–6:00 pm

**Steering Committee Meeting** –*Windsor A*

AASHTO Standing Committee on Environment  
would like to thank the following sponsors for their support:



**Baker**

**Carter Burgess**

