

# ACEC Tennessee

American Council of Engineering Companies of Tennessee

THE VOICE OF TENNESSEE'S ENGINEERING COMPANIES

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## The Growing Importance of Freight Transportation in Tennessee

by *Tanisha J. Hall, AICP*  
*Director of Long Range Planning Division*  
*Tennessee Department of Transportation*

Every day, the Tennessee transportation system plays an integral role in the delivery of goods to manufacturers, crops to markets, and packages to our doorsteps. In order to efficiently move freight in the midst of Tennessee's population, TDOT must plan and budget for the necessary, continued improvements to the transportation infrastructure.



**Tanisha Hall**

This infrastructure that supports key freight movements is not just highways. While trucking currently dominates the transport of freight now and likely in the future, air, rail, and water facilities also play important roles in the transport of goods. Tennessee's freight system consists of approximately 95,500 miles of roadways, 2,800 miles of railroad tracks, 949 miles of navigable waterways, 79 public use airports, and several intermodal facilities. Most often, the water and rail modes are used to transport generally low value, heavy commodities whose

delivery is not time-sensitive, whereas higher value and more time-sensitive deliveries are shipped using air and trucking modes. The presence and maintenance of each of these modal assets in Tennessee helped the state move more than 770 million tons of freight in 2012, equating to approximately \$1 trillion worth of goods. Key supply chains in Tennessee include automotive, advanced manufacturing, chemical products and plastics, and agriculture.

With its strategic location, Tennessee's supply chains are not only critical for its own residents, but also for those beyond the state borders. Domestically, Tennessee shipped \$158 billion worth of goods in 2012. Inter-

nationally, Tennessee exported just over \$31 billion to over 231 countries worldwide in 2012 with Canada and Mexico being the dominant international trading partners.

Noting how vital Tennessee freight is to the state, U.S., and global economy, it is important for TDOT to plan for

investments to sustain mobility and accessibility for the growth of the state's population and industries. In doing so, the

*“The presence and maintenance of each of these modal assets in Tennessee helped the state move more than 770 million tons of freight in 2012, equating to approximately \$1 trillion worth of goods.”*

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## The Value of "Face" Time

by Thomas L. "Chuck" Saunders, PE  
 ACEC of Tennessee President

Last month, I wrote about the wheel, arguably the greatest invention of all time and its cyclic analogies to time. I also referenced our obsession with technology and digital devices. According to A&E the printing press was the greatest invention of all time as of 1999.



**Chuck Saunders**

My how things have changed. Pew documented as of January of this year, 58 percent of American adults own a smart phone, 90 percent own a cell phone and 67 percent, yes two-thirds, of those cell owners find themselves checking their phone even when it does not

alert them.

Why does that matter to us, you ask? It matters because we are in the business of people, yet our most coveted business companion is our smartphone. People interacting and transacting business face to face has become much less prevalent. With social media, email, and numerous teleconferencing options, we often go months without seeing a colleague, teaming partner, or even a client face to face. These tools certainly are essential to operating a business in this era. In the sixteenth century an author had to

craftily choose words to communicate succinctly. In the modern era of information abundance, we must make the choice to focus on the quality of our communication to consider the reader's time demands and our own.

Most of us recognize the generational communication gaps we need to close with our younger generation, but what is the solution? The solution is simply to form new habits. Deliberately make an effort for face-to-face team meetings, not just with the Millennials, but all of your colleagues and peers. On September 25th and 26th, ACEC, TSPE, and ASCE will jointly host the Tennessee Engineers' Conference. Nearly 400 engineers and support staff will converge on Murfreesboro to convene with peers and vendors from around the southeast. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to transfer our knowledge to a new generation by face-to-face interaction with industry leaders by attending the conference.

Stephen Covey said, "Trust is the glue of life. It's the most essential ingredient in effective communication. It's the foundational principle that holds all relationships." Building trust takes time and effort and investment in personal relationships. I am as guilty as the rest. Take the time to personally interact with your peers and your colleagues, your legislators and your community leaders. Growing relationships is the lifeblood of our profession.

## The Growing Importance of Freight Transportation *(continued from page 1)*

Department must plan for outside factors that play a part in Tennessee's freight story. By 2040, Tennessee is expected to see approximately 2 million more people and 2 million more jobs in the state. While this means a larger labor force to help produce and manufacture goods, it also directly impacts the amount of freight moved on Tennessee's multimodal freight system. Increases in population will likely be accompanied by increases in demand for goods and services; these increases will have an effect on the number of shipments being made throughout the state and, therefore, will impact the usage of the transportation infrastructure. While TDOT is not responsible for all of the freight transportation infrastructure, it strives to work with private entities and government organizations to maintain the system in a state of good repair so that Tennessee's economy flourishes.

To achieve this goal and manifest its vision of becoming the best multimodal DOT in the nation, TDOT is currently developing

Tennessee's first Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan. The purpose of this plan is to define strategic goals for the state's freight system and establish strategies and projects to achieve those freight-related goals that ultimately align with TDOT's Guiding Principles. To shape this plan and to continue to further freight planning in the state, TDOT has been working with a freight advisory committee, which includes representation from those involved in freight logistics, distribution, shipping and hauling, trucking, and industries, among other stakeholders from both public and private industry across Tennessee in all modes - highway, water, rail, air, and intermodal.

To learn more about Tennessee's multimodal freight planning efforts visit: <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/longrange/freightplan/nig.htm>.

# Annual Meeting Welcomes Championship Coach



**Tim Corbin**

**M**ake plans to attend the Tennessee Engineers' Conference **September 25-26** at Embassy Suites (1200 Conference Center Drive) in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. **Tim Corbin**, Head Vanderbilt Base-

ball Coach, will be the keynote speaker at the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Luncheon on September 25.

Named the 2014 College Baseball Coach of the Year, Corbin took the Commodores to their first National Baseball Championship. The TEF

Luncheon benefits the Tennessee MATH-COUNTS competition, K-12 STEM activities and engineering scholarships.

Other speakers include the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Marinneau, newly-appointed Director of Water Resources Tisha Calabrese and Tennessee Department of Transportation External Auditor Richard Emerson.

Early registration will continue until September 12. For more information, visit [www.ACECTN.org](http://www.ACECTN.org) to find registration and sponsorship information on the home page or call Judy Logue at (615) 242-2486.

## Calling All Engineers . . . It's Time to Enter the Engineering Excellence Awards

**W**hether the project is large or small, it's time to enter the Engineering Excellence Awards! With 13 award categories, the EEA gives your project the recognition it deserves. The competition honors engineering firms for their work that demonstrates a high degree of achievement, value and ingenuity.

The Grand Iris Award is considered "Best in Show" and is presented to the project judged to be the best overall in competition. 12 additional awards are handed out in each of the 12 project categories, including a People's Choice Award that will be peer chosen on event night.

The Engineering Excellence Awards provides a chance for firms to receive statewide recognition and the bragging rights that come with a prestigious EEA win.

Entries for the Engineering Excellence Awards must be submitted by November 7, 2014. A Call for Entry postcard was included in this newsletter for ACEC of TN members. Or, you can also find the entry form online at [www.ACECTN.org](http://www.ACECTN.org). For additional information, contact Judy Logue at (615) 242-2486 or [jlogue@tneec.org](mailto:jlogue@tneec.org).



### Member News

- **Barge Waggoner Sumner and Cannon** President and CEO Bob Higgins, PE, has been elected to the Nashville Chamber of Commerce Board
- **Chris Hammer**, PE, is now a senior water resources engineer with **Gresham Smith & Partners**
- **Stantec** has added **Ronnie Canups**, PE, as project manager in the firm's aviation practice in Nashville
- **Kerry Rice, Jr.**, is a new PE with **I.C. Thomasson**
- **Nigel Miller**, PE, has joined **Stantec** as a senior geotechnical engineer and leader of the firm's geotechnical services practice

ACEC of Tennessee members recently elected to national positions with ASHE are:

- **Brad Winkler**, PE, Parsons Brinckerhoff, is National Director
- **Larry Ridlen**, PE, Gresham Smith & Partners, 2nd Vice President
- **Sharon Schutz**, PE, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Southeast Region Representative

## CALENDAR

**SEPTEMBER  
12**

Early Registration  
Ends - Tennessee  
Engineers'  
Conference

**SEPTEMBER  
24**

ACEC of TN Board  
Meeting 5 p.m.  
Embassy Suites  
Murfreesboro, TN

**SEPTEMBER  
25-26**

Tennessee Engineers'  
Annual Conference  
Embassy Suites  
Murfreesboro, TN

**OCTOBER  
22-25**

ACEC Fall  
Conference  
Waikoloa, HI

**NOVEMBER  
7**

2015 Engineering  
Excellence Awards  
Entry Deadline

**NOVEMBER  
27-28**

ACEC of TN/TSPE  
Offices Closed  
Thanksgiving  
Holiday

Tennessee Engineering Center  
800 Fort Negley Boulevard  
Nashville, TN 37203

Return Service Requested

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STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Nashville, TN  
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**ACEC of TN is Social!**

For more up-to-date news, photos, and events from ACEC of Tennessee, follow us online!



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**F R O M   T H E   E X E C U T I V E   D I R E C T O R**

**ACEC Is Hitting It Big This Month**

by *Candy Toler*  
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

September will be a busy month for ACEC of Tennessee. Plan to attend the annual Tennessee Engineers' Conference September 25-26 - it promises to be bigger and better than last year!



**Candy Toler**

There will be multiple education tracks from which to choose and the Transportation Working Groups will be gathering during the conference. There will be something for everyone. Go to <http://acectn.org/category/current-events/> for more information.

Tim Corbin, Baseball's 2014 College Coach of the Year, will be a big "hit" as the keynote speaker for the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Luncheon on September 25, which is the TEF's primary fundraiser this year. Get your tickets today by following the link for the meeting and support educational opportunities for engineering students!

Although we have just gotten over the primary, there is a general election for State Senators and

Representatives on the horizon. Your Tennessee Professional Engineers' PAC needs your support this month. There is an old saying around the legislative halls . . . if you are not at the table, you may be on the menu. Please help us support legislative candidates who bring us to the table on issues! The easy way to make your contribution is by writing checks, offering something for the state auction, and making a purchase during the auction at the Engineers' Conference!

We are also kicking off the 2014 Engineering Excellence Awards this month. The entry postcard is enclosed with this newsletter for ACEC members. Remember hearing about the winning entries at the banquet in March or reading about them in the newsletter and thinking that you should have entered a project? Now is the time to go to [www.acectn.org](http://www.acectn.org) to learn more about the categories and requirements.

2014 winners might want to consider entering their projects in the national EEA competition. Details about how to do that are at [www.acectn.org/engineering-excellence-awards](http://www.acectn.org/engineering-excellence-awards). Don't miss these opportunities to showcase your projects!