

The Voice

OCTOBER 2012

Voice

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A New Perspective: Walk, bike or run across the Mississippi River

by Paige Walkup, Managing Director
Caissa Public Strategies, LLC
Memphis, TN

With unprecedented views and new connectivity between downtown Memphis, Tennessee, and West Memphis, Arkansas, the Harahan Bridge Project will connect visitors to the river in a new and unique way.



Paige Walkup

The project is the centerpiece of the recently awarded \$14.9M US Department of Transportation TIGER grant for the Main Street to Main Street Multimodal Connector project. This project will connect downtown Memphis with West Memphis, Arkansas, via the Harahan Bridge.

Completed in 1917, the Harahan Bridge was designed for train, vehicle and pedestrian use. After the Memphis-Arkansas bridge

The Harahan Bridge Project will create a spectacular walkway across the Mississippi River. Rendering by Chase Percer with O.T. Marshall Architects.

(currently I-55) was completed in 1949, the roadways of the Harahan fell into disuse; the wooden planks that formed the roadways were removed in 1954. Rail service has continued, with the bridge servicing 20-25 trains daily on its two tracks. The cantilevered structural steel supports for the roadway are still in place and in good condition providing a base for the reconstruction of the pathway across the river. At 4,932 feet long, the bridge will be one of the longest rails with trails projects in the nation and will include a new surface for the bicycle- and pedestrian-ways, and new safety fencing along the walkway.

Reopening the existing roadways of the Harahan Bridge to bicycle and pedestrian traffic will provide not only expanded biked resources for Memphians, but it will

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Fall Forecast: Opportunities to win

*by Steven Field, PE
President, ACEC of Tennessee*

The NFL Football season started in mid-September on a cool, almost fall like weekend and my Patriots whooped up on the Titans in week 1. I know that probably stings for some, but a fan has gotta be a fan no matter the price. Take heart: there are still games to play and opportunities to win.

**Steven Field**

Another highlight of mid-September was the first ever joint annual meeting between ACEC, TSPE, and ASCE on September 13 and 14. I forecast that the success of this event will result in many more joint meetings and activities.

Speaking of opportunities to win—it's time to enter the *Engineering Excellence Awards* competition; entry deadline is November 2, 2012. You should have received the Call for Entries postcard in the September newsletter. This annual competition is a great opportunity for Tennessee engineering firms to showcase their projects and innovative solutions devel-

oped for their clients worldwide. The winning projects will be honored at a gala event at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs on March 5, 2013. Don't miss this opportunity. For more information please see <http://www.acectn.org/CallEntry.htm>.

Opportunity to tell our story. Federal, state, and local budgets are under continued pressure to do more with less, resulting in reduction or no net increase in funding for programs that provide significant services to communities throughout Tennessee and the U.S. It also makes for a tough business environment. However, it offers the engineering industry the opportunity to 1) work together to identify the ways that we provide substantial value to our clients, 2) tell the story and 3) offer solutions to funding issues.

Value should not be interpreted as “reduced costs,” but as innovative, sustainable solutions that pay off during construction and in long-term operations and maintenance.

Remember - A penny spent on an engineer is a dollar saved over a lifetime of use. It's important that we work together to tell this story as often as possible and in as many ways as possible. It's the best way to create opportunities for all to win.

Harahan Bridge *(continued from page 1)*

create a spectacular walkway across the river that will be a regional and national attraction, bringing tourists to downtown Memphis for the unique experience and one-of-a-kind views.

“The Harahan Bridge will be an unparalleled attraction on our riverfront and will allow Memphians and visitors alike the opportunity to connect to the river in a new and exciting way. It also provides a critical link in the rapidly expanding network of trails, greenways, bike lanes, open spaces and parks that connect our community,” said Barbara Hyde, President of the Hyde Family Foundations.

Greg Maxted, Executive Director of the Harahan Bridge Project, often shares the fact that there is no way to bike or walk across the Mississippi River at Memphis. “Currently, cyclists are almost forced to take a bus from West Memphis to Memphis or divert their travel plans to another city along the river corridor”.

Maxted recounts, “On a recent ride across Arkansas, we came to a point in West Memphis where we just had to stop at the base of what will be the new connector of the Harahan Bridge into Arkansas. It was a great feeling to know

that in the near future people will be able to literally bridge this gap”.

Building on the recent success of the Shelby Farms Greenline, the Harahan Bridge project will be a catalyst for the continued expansion of our regional greenway system, including the extension of lines north to Shelby Forest, south to T.O. Fuller State Park and southwest into Arkansas along the levees.

According to the Rails to Trails Conservancy, every day thousands of Americans run, bike and hike trails located along active rail lines. There are over 1,000 “rails to trails” paths in the United States, of which there are over 60 “rails with trails” sites. Rails with trails sites, like the Harahan Bridge Project, are built directly adjacent to active railroad corridors and offer shared use paths that are physically separated from motorized vehicular traffic by an open space or barrier.

To learn more about the project visit www.harahanbridgeproject.com or follow them on Facebook for the latest updates and project news.

2012 Annual Meeting moments



◀ Bradley County Engineer, Sandra Knight, modeled a black cowboy hat which was auctioned off at the ACEC / ASCE / TSPE Joint Annual Meeting.



The professional development sessions on a variety of topics were well-attended. Pictured is the session on "Risk Considerations for Geotechnical Construction" presented by Mike Marasa, PE, Hayward Baker.

The Exhibit Hall was a popular place to network and learn about new products and services. Left to right are exhibitors Trey Hightower, Jen-Hill Construction Materials; Eric Gardner, PE, Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.; and Mike Kusch, Sherman-Dixie Concrete Industries.



▲ Jim Morinec, PE, left, with AECOM and a member of the Tennessee Engineering Foundation Board of Trustees, welcomed Commissioner Bob Martineau, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Commissioner Martineau was the featured speaker at the Foundation luncheon.



Thank you – again – to all of our event sponsors!

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CALENDAR

OCTOBER

9

ACEC Nashville Chapter Board Meeting

7:30 a.m., Tennessee Engineering Center Board Room

Information: bobmurphy@rpmtraffic.net

OCTOBER

14 - 17

ACEC Fall Conference
Boca Raton Resort & Club
Boca Raton, FL

NOVEMBER

2

Deadline to Submit Entries for Engineering Excellence Awards

Information: jlogue@tnc.org

DECEMBER

5

Professional Liability Seminar presented by Crow Friedman Group

Knoxville

Information: ctoler@tnc.org

DECEMBER

6

Professional Liability Seminar presented by Crow Friedman Group

Nashville

Information: ctoler@tnc.org

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Memphis

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MEMBER NEWS

- Joe Ledford, PE, board chairman and manager of the Knoxville office of **Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc.**, has been appointed to the Knoxville Business Advisory Council by Knoxville Mayor Madeline Rogero. **John Horne, PE**, has joined the Memphis office of the firm.
- **Suzanne Herron, PE**, has joined the Nashville office of **Fisher & Arnold, Inc.** She was previously associated with TDOT.
- **Doug Sharp, RLA**, has joined **Gresham, Smith and Partners**, as senior vice president of land planning.

Thank you to all ACEC of Tennessee members contributing to the Tennessee Professional Engineers' PAC.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Applause for you; scholarships for students

by *Candy Toler*
Executive Director, ACEC of Tennessee

Wow! Applause! A record number of attendees participated in the annual meeting in September. Based on all of the positive responses



Candy Toler

we have received, it looks like the combined meeting with ASCE and TSPE was a huge success. We will evaluate the results of the follow-up survey and decide if this year's experiment will be repeated. Thank you to all of our speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and participants.

Scholarships

Environment and Conservation Commissioner Bob Martineau spoke to an enthusiastic crowd at the Tennessee Engineering Foundation luncheon during the annual meeting. The TEF's mission is to support activities that encourage students to pursue careers in engineering. To that end, the TEF trustees met in September and approved

spending for three scholarships for 2013 and support for MATHCOUNTS, a math competition for 6th-8th graders. The TEF scholarships, which will be awarded next spring, will be given to students enrolled in engineering programs in Tennessee colleges.

The need for engineers continues to grow. ACEC and ACEC of Tennessee join the TEF in encouraging college students to continue their engineering studies.

If you know engineering students entering their junior, senior, or fifth year or graduate school in the fall of 2013, please encourage them to visit our website for information about scholarship eligibility and deadlines (www.acectn.org/Scholar.htm) Winners will be announced in March 2013.

More applause!

We are pleased to report that involvement on ACEC of Tennessee committees continues to grow and participation at events is at an all-time high. Let's sustain the momentum by encouraging more entries in the 2013 *Engineering Excellence Awards* program. The details are available by clicking on the EEA tab on www.acectn.org.