



ACEA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama
Special ACCA 79th Annual Convention Issue

ACEA Annual Conference a Success!

Each year for the Association of County Engineers of Alabama's Annual Conference, the awards committee is tasked with naming a County Engineer of the Year. In 2006, ACEA began a new tradition with the John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award.

County Engineer of the Year

Shelby County Engineer Randy Cole took his second trip to the podium to receive this top honor – his first being in 1999.

“I am very excited to be named County Engineer of the Year,” Cole said. “To be recognized by my peers with this award for the second time is very special. I am truly humbled.”

Since he was first president of ACEA in 1998, Cole has remained active in ACEA through the Board of Directors and numerous committees. On the national level, Cole's involvement with NACE reaches back



2007 ACEA Engineer of the Year and Shelby County Engineer Randy Cole and ACEA President and DeKalb County Engineer Philip Widner.

as far as 1999 when he was first elected as the Southeast Regional Vice President representing 11 Southeastern states on national issues affecting county government. He also served as president for the 2005-2006 term.

“Randy is most deserving of this award not only because of the dedication he has shown to our state and national Associations, but also for the work he has done in Shelby County” said **DeKalb County Engineer and ACEA President Philip Widner**. “His leadership and character are just two reasons why so many of the engineers in our state look up to him.”

John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award

This year, the **Elmore County Highway Department** received the 2007 John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award, an award to recognize projects, programs, individuals and departments that have excelled in county engineering.

The project, a collaborative effort between the Elmore County Commission and Highway Department, is a process of repairing base failures on Elmore County's road system. According to **Elmore County Engineer Richie Beyer, CEA**, the process has allowed the county to maximize the use of limited resources while continuing to address a major need in the county in a shorter span of time.

According to Beyer, the beauty of this



2007 John F. Courson Excellence in County Engineering Award recipients from the Elmore County Highway Department were County Engineer Richie Beyer, CEA, Lee Colley and Butch Hammonds.

project is that it allows for recycling of the material on site, including the asphalt; shortening labor time spent working on the area of the designated road; and limiting the amount of equipment in use, the department actually provides more flexibility in the use of that equipment.

“We appreciate the Elmore County Commission supporting the vision for this process and making the leap of faith to purchase the 30-inch reclaiming attachment compatible with our existing backhoe fleet,” Beyer said.

Congratulations...

...to **Chambers County Engineer Henry Hawkins**, who was recently elected president of the Board of Trustees for the ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund.

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Why Should You Attend ACCA's 79th Annual Convention?

...because it's so much more than a week at the beach! Not only will there be interesting vendors to captivate and intrigue you on Tuesday, Aug. 21, but there are also plenty of educational sessions to give you exciting ideas to take back to your counties.

The registration desk will be open on Tuesday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. inside the Exhibit Hall. Be sure to pick up your registration packets for last-minute details about the week. There is also an ACEA Board of Directors meeting from 9-10 a.m. in Sand Castle II and an ACEA membership meeting from 10-11 a.m. in Sand Castle II. *New board members will be elected during the membership meeting at 10 a.m., so please make every effort to attend!*

On Wednesday, Aug. 22, during the Opening General Session, you might want to check out, *County to County: Helping in Times of Disaster*, with Alabama Emergency Management Agency Assistant Director John James and Coffee County Emergency Management Director John Tallas. Following the County Agents Kitchen Lunch, be sure to catch one of the Concurrent Sessions.

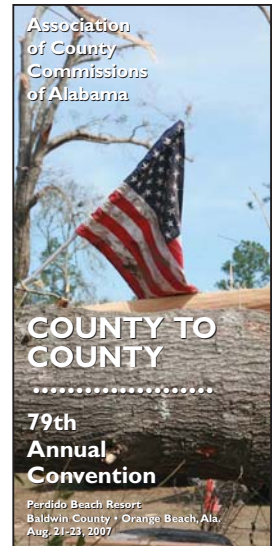
- Did you know that more than 330 people were killed on county-maintained roads in 2005? If this number is appalling to you, then check out *Session A: Safety on Alabama's County Roads* in Salons ABCD at 1:30-2:15 p.m. and again at 3:15-4 p.m. This panel discussion will include guests **Chambers County Engineer Henry Hawkins (presiding)** and **Houston County Engineer Mark Pool**.
- Don't miss *Session D: Cooperative Infrastructure Plan* with **Elmore County Engineer Richie Beyer, CEA**, in Salons ABCD at 3:15-4 p.m. and again at 4-4:45 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 23, will begin with the ACEA breakout session in Sand Castle II from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. **ACEA President Richie Beyer, CEA**, will preside.

- Ken Meredith with the Office of Water Resources of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs will kick off the morning breakout session with *Wading Through the Flood-Prone Regulations* from 8:45-9:45 a.m.
- Rep. Mac Gipson (R-District 88) will be on hand from 9:45-10:15 a.m. for a discussion of the *County Road and Bridge Funding Package* of legislation that passed this year.
- **Morgan County Engineer Greg Bodley** and **Blount County Engineer Richard Spraggins** will lead a discussion on *Municipal Subdivision Regulations in Police Jurisdictions* from 10:30-11:30 a.m. **Elmore County Engineer, Richie Beyer, CEA**, will preside.
- Ed Phillips, Chief, County Transportation Bureau, ALDOT, will wrap up the morning session from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

After the last session, everyone will gather in Salons DEFGH for the Convention Luncheon Honoring ACCA 2006-07 President Rhondel Rhone from 12-1:15 p.m. The Afternoon General Session in Salons ABC will follow lunch and open with the Awards Ceremony. There will also be a *Report on the Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board* with Alabama State Employees' Insurance Board Executive Director William Ashmore and ACCA Executive Director Buddy Sharpless.

Following the Affiliate Reports and ACCA Annual Report will be the ACCA Business Session in which the reports of the Resolutions and Nominating Committees will be announced before the district caucuses will take place. And, don't forget the President's Banquet at 6:30 p.m. in Salons DEFGH.



What You Need to Know About the New Joint Bid Program...

Work is now underway on the Alabama County Joint Bid Project for 2008. Under the leadership of **ACEA President Philip Widner**, an energetic group of county engineers have volunteered to assist with this year's program, and are currently hard at work preparing the bid specifications for the upcoming bid letting.

Many thanks are extended to all of those who volunteer to work on this project. It could not be a successful program without the dedicated efforts of those county engineers who offer their time and expertise.

Plans for this year are to rebid or renew all heavy equipment, road sign, and herbicide items included on the program in 2007. (A list of all items currently available through the County Joint Bid Program can be found at the ACCA web site – www.acca-online.org.)

Additionally, a few heavy equipment items are being added for 2008: a larger tractor; a skid steer loader; a pad foot roller; and a 15-ton long track-mount excavator.



As in years past, the invitations to bid will be mailed out in mid-September to all vendors who have requested notice of bid offerings from any county in the state. The current schedule provides for the bid opening to take place at the ACCA office on Oct. 19. Bids will then be reviewed

and will be awarded sometime in November by the Houston County Commission, which serves as the awarding authority for this project. Contracts will be executed with all successful bidders by the end of the year allowing all Alabama counties to purchase items at the awarded bid price throughout the next calendar year (Jan. 1, 2008-Dec. 31, 2008).

Counties will receive additional information about this year's bid project in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the ACCA office at (334) 263-7594.

Counties should also keep in mind that it is very likely that prices on many items will increase for 2008. Therefore, counties planning to purchase heavy equipment, road signs, or herbicides in the coming months may want to look at the current bid prices, and if possible, make their purchases prior to Dec. 31, 2007.

79th ACCA Annual Convention Registration Form

County or Company Name: _____ Person Completing Form: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Registration fee is \$185 per person for *ACCA members* if paid **before July 27**. (\$210 per person after July 27)

Registration fee is \$265 per person for *company representatives* if paid **before July 27**. (\$290 per person after July 27)

\$_____ Total amount enclosed. **Please do not ask ACCA to bill you.**

List below the names of the persons you are registering for the conference. Please indicate if each person is a (C) Commissioner, (CA) Clerk/Administrator, (CE) County Engineer, (EIT) Engineer in Training, (EMA) Emergency Management, (CRO) County Revenue Officer, (911) 9-1-1 Administrator, (G) Guest, (S) Spouse.

**Please return form and check payable to ACCA by July 27, 2007 to:
ACCA Convention • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104 • Fax (334) 263-7678**



ACEA
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104

Important ACCA Convention Info Inside...