

**2021—2022
BOARD MEMBERS**

PRESIDENT

Khatereh Vaghefi
Parsons

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Derrick Shelton
Haley & Aldrich

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Jason Cawrse
JACOBS

**PAST PRESIDENT AND
REGIONAL REP.**

Charlie O'Connell
FAM Construction

SECRETARY

Shireen Gharangik
FHWA

TREASURER

Jesse Glasser
Wallace Montgomery

DIRECTOR 2017-2022

Adam Welschenbach
Rinker Design Associates

DIRECTOR 2021-2024

Sadie Fahoul
EXP U.S. Services

DIRECTOR 2019-2022

Erin Beckmann
RK&K

DIRECTOR 2021-2024

Mark Phillips
Kimley-Horn

DIRECTOR 2019-2022

Jeff Tan
CTL Engineering

DIRECTOR 2021-2024

Ian Cathcart
J2 Engineers

**YOUNG MEMBER
COORDINATOR**

Kush Vashee
RK&K

**YOUNG MEMBER
COORDINATOR**

Sai Gonuguntla
Prime A.E. Group

The ASHE Potomac Section Newsletter

President's Message

"Leave the woodpile higher than when you found it". As a seasoned hiker, that phrase always meant a lot to me. In so many ways, for me, it refers to the woodpile of life. With respect to ASHE and our engineering profession, I like to think I've done that and will challenge you to do the same with your profession and your life.

Early in my VDOT career I had to meet with the Chief Engineer, his Deputies and ultimately a FHWA Representative to justify a ramp, off an Interstate ramp to feed a developer road, now known as Heathcote Blvd in Prince William County. It was then, I first read and was profoundly influenced by the inscription on the Central Office Building.

DEDICATED TO THE COMFORT AND SAFETY OF THOSE WHO TRAVEL THE HIGHWAYS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Over the years, I have come to paraphrase this and am always mindful of the **"Safety and convenience of the traveling public"**. While my engineering perspectives may have changed with experience, my conviction has never faltered.

ASHE is intertwined in my professional life. When I leave the ASHE Board next year, after serving as past president, I will have accumulated 10 years of being on the board. Many people consider ASHE as a nice organization for networking. I always looked at it as once a month I would go have dinner with my friends. I am grateful to all of you, our members, my friends and the wonderful people I've worked with on the Board. I have had the pleasure to work with many of our speakers. I'm reminded of some of our friends who are no longer with us: Theresa DeFore, Leslie Prokop, Pat Timbrook and Steve Evans for whom we've named the scholarship fund. I have admiration for so many who have dedicated their time and talents: Dave Palfrey, 9 years as treasurer; Dorothy Purvis 9 years, Adam Welschenbach 8 years (so far), Most BOD members seem to serve 3-5 years. I must acknowledge Tom Flemming for first convincing me to be on the Board in 2004 and Cerasela Cristei for having me back in 2017. She and Richard Clifton served as "Special Advisors" to the Board when we took a run at hosting the National Conference. I've enjoyed so many ASHE events and people along the way that I don't have space here to name and thank you all.

I believe, with a lot of help, the woodpile is higher than when I found it. Our organization is solid. **I'm leaving you with an outstanding Board of Directors that will serve you well for many years as they progress through their roles and responsibilities.**

Again, I want to thank you all for your support and friendship and wish you Happy Trails.

Charles K. O'Connell, P.E.

Past President, ASHE Potomac Section



Congratulations to our New 2021-2022 Board of Directors!



President
Khatareh Vaghefi
Parsons



1st Vice President
Derrick Shelton
Haley & Aldrich



2nd Vice President
Jason Cawrse
Jacobs



Secretary
Shireen Gharangik
FHWA



Treasurer
Jesse Glasser
Wallace Montgomery



Director (Facilities)
Adam Welschenbach
Rinker Design Associates



Director
(Special Events)
Erin Beckmann
RK&K



Director
(Gold Sponsors)
Mark Philips
Kimley-Horn



Director (PDH)
Sadie Fahoul
EXP U.S. Services Inc



Young Member Coordinator
Kush Vashee
RK&K



Director (Newsletter)
Ian Cathcart
J2 Engineers



Director (Website)
Jeff Tan
CTL Engineering, Inc.



Young Member Coordinator
Sai Gonuguntla
Prime AE Group, Inc.



Past President
Charlie O'Connell
FAM Construction

And Many Thanks to the Outgoing Board!

Congratulations to our 2021 Stephen M. Evans Scholarship Recipients!

Our mission is to promote a safe, efficient and sustainable transportation system through education, innovation and fellowship. By awarding several scholarships each year we carry our mission forward. This year our Scholarship Fund has been greatly enhanced by the generous contribution from Mary Dunn and Stephen M. Evans's trust. We thank the trust and stay committed to continuously pave the way to success for budding engineers.



ASHE[®] Meet Our 2021 Scholarship Recipients!

Potomac



Naomi Meiselman
Johns Hopkins University

Naomi is currently enrolled in the combined BS/MSE program for Civil Engineering at Johns Hopkins University and is expected to complete her studies by the end of Fall 2021. Her interests range from traffic modeling and autonomous vehicles to airport design and management. During her internships at both Stantec and the Massachusetts Port Authority, Naomi assisted in the structural design and project management for the complex airport-terminal roadways project at Boston Logan Airport. Naomi plans to continue to work in this field and help design optimal transportation networks and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of society.



Alex Partridge
University of Virginia

Alex Partridge is a rising fourth-year civil engineering student at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA. His passion for engineering has led him to a variety of occupational programs at renowned organizations such as the University of Massachusetts Amherst, WSP, and the American Society of Civil Engineers, as well as teaching his own STEM-based courses to younger aspiring engineers. Outside of work, Alex spends much of his free time volunteering with nonprofits such as Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, and The Farmlink Project. He also enjoys running and is currently exploring the world of cooking.



Yasmine Khiri
Howard University

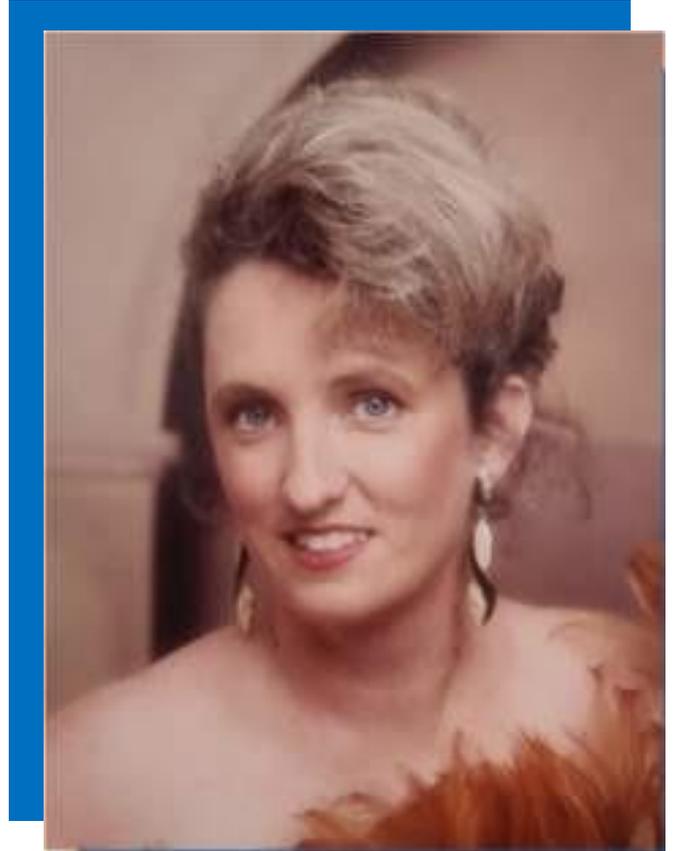
Yasmine Khiri is a senior in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Howard University. She is from Marrakesh, Morocco. She has acted as Captain of Howard University Women's Tennis team, Public Relation Representative for Howard University ASCE chapter and a member of the Howard University Steel Bridge Team. She is an active member of ACI and ITE Chapters as well as the Climate change club.

She is very excited to become an Engineer and work on exciting and innovative projects.

In Memoriam: Mary Dunn

Mary Dunn, late Stephen M. Evans's wife, was one of the most fervent supporters of the ASHE Potomac Scholarship program that carries the name of her husband. While among us, Mary taught the Board Members how to enhance our efforts in raising more funds and helping more young deserving engineers in advancing their careers. Her efforts yielded wonderful results, as testimonials from students eloquently prove. She was also very passionate about the organization that her husband also loved so much and continued to stay active in our fundraising efforts each year, often attending a monthly meeting to award the checks.

Mary passed away last year, in June of 2020, and left behind a generous gift to the scholarship program. A generous sum of \$10,000 is now part of our funds to be used on future scholarships, which will be enhanced by our continuous fundraising efforts. We thank Mary, Steve and their family for this large effort to support our organization and pay it forward by seeing more scholarships being awarded in years to come.





February 2021 Meeting Recap

Transform 66 Outside the Beltway – Virtual Tour and Presentation

John Morse
ATCS

John Morse, VP of Program/Project Management Services at ATCS, presents a virtual tour of the project using aerial drone footage.



Using aerial drone footage collected in pieces throughout the entire corridor, John Morse walked us through all aspects of the project starting at the western terminus in Gainesville and proceeding all the way to the I-66 / I-495 interchange.

The drone footage covered about 22.5 miles of flight and showed construction activity in progress, giving us a unique perspective on all the work being done. Mr. Morse also provided construction updates and fielded questions on the drone operations as well as the project itself, including the following:

- Construction of ped and bicycle facilities within the corridor
- Sound wall construction and challenges
- Erosion & Sediment Control challenges
- Updates and schedules for the following interchanges
 - Route 28
 - Route 50
 - Route 123
 - Nutley Street
 - I-495



I-495 & I-270 P3 Program Overview

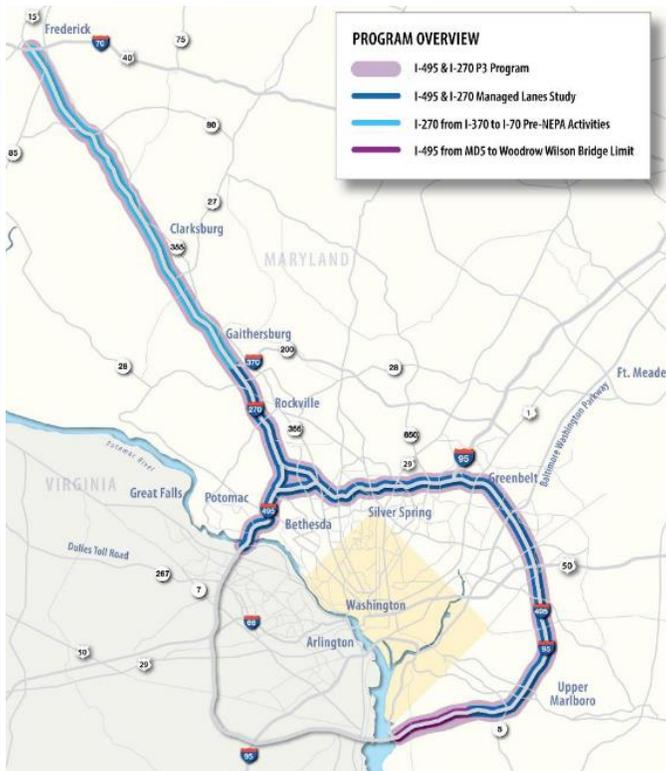


March 2021 Meeting Recap

Maryland I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes P3 Project Overview

Jeff Folden
MDOT SHA

Jeff Folden, Deputy Director of the I-495 & I-270 P3 Office at MDOT SHA, presented on the historic endeavor to include managed lanes around the Maryland side of the Beltway and provide over 70 miles of highway improvements



The I-495 & I-270 Program is broken into 3 main components: The I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study, the I-270 from I-370 to I-70 Pre-NEPA Activities, and the I-495 from MD 5 to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge future study. The goals of the P3 program include congestion relief while minimizing impacts and doing so with no net costs to the State of Maryland.

Still in the study phase, MD SHA published a Draft EIS document in July 2020 for the initial phase which is the I-495 & I-270 managed lanes portion of the project. The study evaluated numerous alternatives, and a two HOT-lane alternative was identified as the preferred alternative, mimicking what is seen today on the Virginia side from the American Legion Bridge down to I-395.

The I-270 improvements from I-370 to I-70 in Frederick portion of the project is currently in the data collection and alternatives development stage. The project seeks to alleviate congestion at several bottleneck locations along the I-270 corridor.

This program will employ a Progressive P3 approach, which differs slightly from the more traditional P3s that VDOT has used recently. The Progressive P3 approach will provide flexibility throughout the duration of the project by involving multiple development partners to undertake different sections of the improvements.



April 2021 Meeting Recap

Jurisdictional Roundtable Discussion

Our panelists from 7 different municipalities joined **Monica Backmon** of the **Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)** as the moderator for our annual Jurisdictional Roundtable Discussion. The group touched on several topics pertinent to the issues that we as an industry are facing today, ranging from challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and remote working to managing the expectations of stakeholders with different priorities when trying to provide transportation improvements for the public.

Monica Backmon moderated the event and fielded a set of pre-formulated questions:

1. How has been funding/efficiency been affected by the pandemic?

Wendy Block Sanford – no impacts to funding – improvements to project delivery due to minimal traffic;

Terry Suehr – pushed some future projects; staff was stretched thin, but existing projects on schedule; delay in materials has had an impact on construction activity;

Todd Minnix – construction able to move quicker; ROW acquisition had some hiccups; less success on SMARTScale applications; efficiency has been variable (younger folks did better with technology) but overall consistent

Dennis Leach – benefit to plan review & permitting efficiency due to virtual environment; construction accelerated; the stressors were staff stretched thin due to pandemic response and delays in material delivery;

Michael Paylor – construction moved forward, but TE studies and plan development suspended (volumes down); teleworking has not been as efficient for MCDOT due to some reluctance to adopt virtual environment

Andrew Jinks – utility relocations delayed by private utilities, but finances were not impacted as much as anticipated;

Jim Zeller – mixed reviews with remote work but most preferred some flexibility, but production has been consistent

2. What are your thoughts on the return of Federal earmarks as funding source?

Terry – construction side is resulting in low dollar projects getting funds; excitement about infrastructure bill funding

Dennis – Federal focus on infrastructure is a plus (especially in ArlCo due to Federal land and DCA); mixed feelings on earmarks – everyone got SOMETHING, but funding gets spread very thin

Todd Minnix

Fairfax County

Jim Zeller

Loudoun County

Terry Suehr

City of Alexandria

Wendy Block Sanford

City of Fairfax

Dennis Leach

Arlington County

Andrew Jinks

Town of Vienna

Michael Paylor

Montgomery County



April 2021 Meeting Recap (cont.)

Jurisdictional Roundtable Discussion

Todd Minnix
Fairfax County
Jim Zeller
Loudoun County
Terry Suehr
City of Alexandria
Wendy Block Sanford
City of Fairfax
Dennis Leach
Arlington County
Andrew Jinks
Town of Vienna
Michael Paylor
Montgomery County

3. How do you prioritize which funding you pursue (Local/State/Federal)?

Andrew – First, look at internal CIP/bond sources; VDOT TA programs and Ffx County partnerships; sources that gear towards bike/ped projects;
Wendy – Look at 2-year CIP and compare projects to funding sources that match best with planned their program
Jim – Loudoun relies heavily on County BOS funding and general obligation bonds; also pursue SMARTScale and TA funding where appropriate

4. Top 2 projects in the pipeline to impact locality and region at large?

Michael – usually responsive programs (resident requests rather than long term priorities); big focus on bike/ped recently due to COVID, but evaluating network to focus more on permanent complete streets options
Andrew – Maple Ave study identified upgrades to 4 W&OD Trail crossings and parking supply/demand study;
Todd – Route 1 BRT (comp plan complete, design underway) down to Ft. Belvoir; Route 28 Design-Build
Terry – private redevelopments (Amazon and Virginia Tech); Landmark Mall redevelopment on west side of ALX with BRT and other transportation improvements;
Dennis - \$250M in street, transit, ped improvements in Pentagon City/Crystal City/DCA, all driven by Amazon
Jim – evolving Route 7 corridor to L/A facility east of Leesburg and expanding capacity west of Leesburg; increased capacity on Route 15 north of Leesburg; Northstar Blvd corridor (a.k.a. “Bi-County Parkway”)
Wendy – Fairfax Circle redevelopment; Ole Lee Hwy multimodal expansion and bike/ped improvements

5. Ask any other panelist any question that comes to your mind?

Wendy – How would YOU envision Fairfax Circle redevelopment? Andrew suggests giant British style roundabout
Andrew – Issues or frustrations with projects that have Federal funds and associated requirements? Jim says that Federal requirements slow projects down and prefers state/local funding. But he also notes that you have to be strategic, and gives the example of the difficulty in using SMARTScale funding to build a road on new alignment
Michael – What do folks think about entities providing decorative markings on pavement in heavy pedestrian areas?
Wendy notes that Fairfax City is pursuing the same things, and notes that it’s interesting that there is grant money available for this work even though FHWA doesn’t support it.
Dennis – What are going to do to ensure that metro ridership returns and is sustainable? Todd opines that silver line opening and lifted restrictions will help, and that bike/ped improvements will encourage ridership as well, but that an increase in teleworking will be a challenge to transit demand.



April 2021 Meeting Recap (cont.)

Jurisdictional Roundtable Discussion

6. How can the consulting community help in these initiatives?

Michael – Need consultants to be voice of truth and honest/blunt about problems if the direction they're going isn't the best choice. Don't cater to what the client wants – tell them the truth and what they really need.

Wendy – Understand and communicate various funding requirements and the process that VDOT/NVTA expects

Andrew – Stay on top of various regulations and hoops associated with Federal funding

Dennis – Become more versed in multimodal bike/ped design with regards to retrofitting existing facilities and creating complete streets

Todd Minnix

Fairfax County

Jim Zeller

Loudoun County

Terry Suehr

City of Alexandria

Wendy Block Sanford

City of Fairfax

Dennis Leach

Arlington County

Andrew Jinks

Town of Vienna

Michael Paylor

Montgomery County



June 2021 Meeting Recap

Implementing Complete Streets

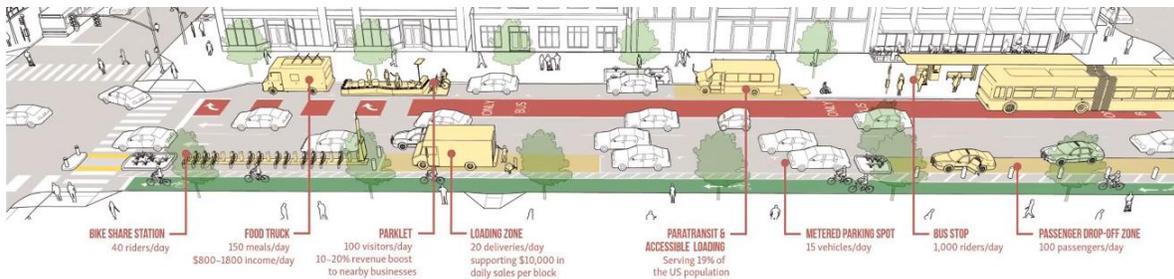
Larry Marcus
Wallace Montgomery

Larry Marcus, a nationally recognized expert in multi-modal transportation design and the implementation of complete streets, joins us to discuss these topics.

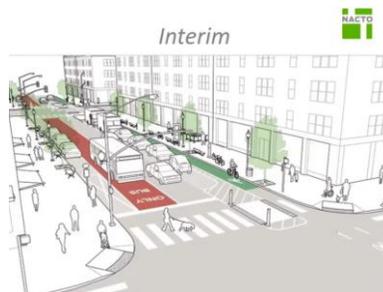
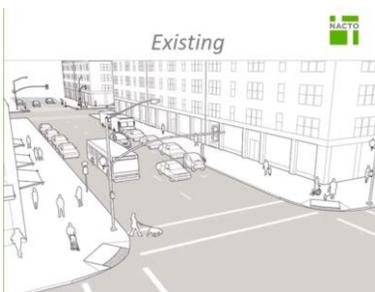
The concept of Complete Streets has been evolving as standards and the technology are changing creating a dynamic environment. The challenge is how to implement the guides and concepts.

Guiding principles:

- Define System Performance that addresses safety first, is accessible by everyone and it improves mobility;
- Create Community Enhancements to ensure equity, represent community culture and be sustainable.



From Larry's experience we start the implementation process by identifying street types, aligning street function with community environment, establishing the design specifications, defining the cross section elements and including Curbside Management Element. An interim solution can be implemented before full reconstruction. The concept of flexible streets is innovative and is being implemented to easily change the use of streets; there are no curbs and gutters allowing the traveled way to be wider or be completely closed, retractable bollards and moveable planters are a few of the measures.



Ryan McCreedy Pursues Further Academic Excellence



ASHE Potomac's outgoing 1st VP, Ryan McCreedy, graduated with a Master of Liberal Arts Extension Studies degree in Management from Harvard University Extension School on March 2nd. He graduated with an academic achievement award as well as a graduate certificate in organizational behavior. Ryan's passions for management and psychology in the workplace have led him to helping T3 Design with organizational and strategy development, conduct research at Harvard, and start a side management consulting business, McCreedy Group. He has been accepted into William James College's Leadership Psychology doctoral program, where he will begin studies in the fall of 2021.

Ryan's contributions to both ASHE and the Transportation Industry here in Virginia have been greatly appreciated, and we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors. Congratulations, Ryan!

Shireen Gharangik Begins a New Journey

ASHE Potomac's Secretary, Shireen Gharangik, recently accepted a position as a Highway Engineer with the Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Division. She will be working on a variety of Transportation projects located on Federal and Tribal lands, including National Parks. Shireen has picked up a new hobby of gathering National Park Stamps for her collection!

A **2015** graduate of George Mason University, she is excited to use all the skills she learned and developed working in the private sector with JMT in her new position while continuing to build her "toolbox". At the FHWA, she will expand her repertoire while getting to work next to some of the foremost experts in our industry on some of the most pressing transportation challenges faced by the organization that manages the Emergency Relief Program as well as all of our National Parks transportation needs through the Federal Lands program.

Congratulations, Shireen, and best of luck gaining a new perspective on the industry in your new position! We are excited to see you continue to grow.



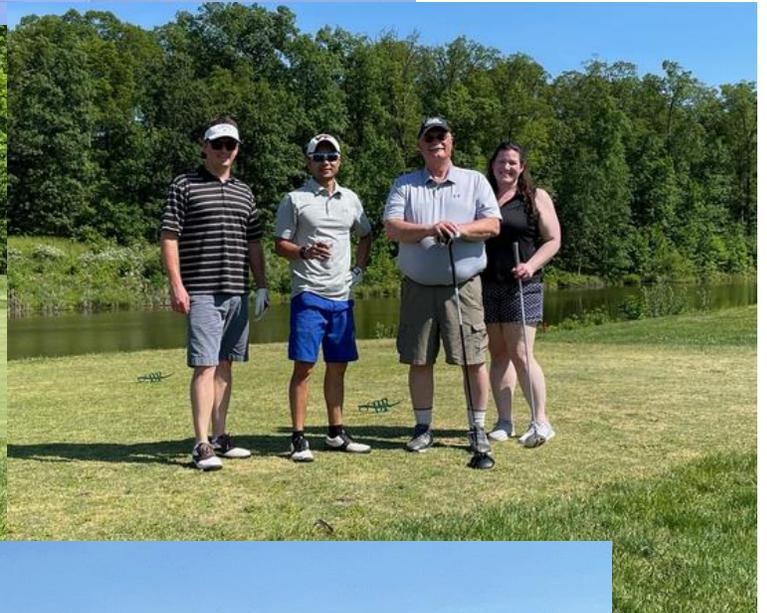
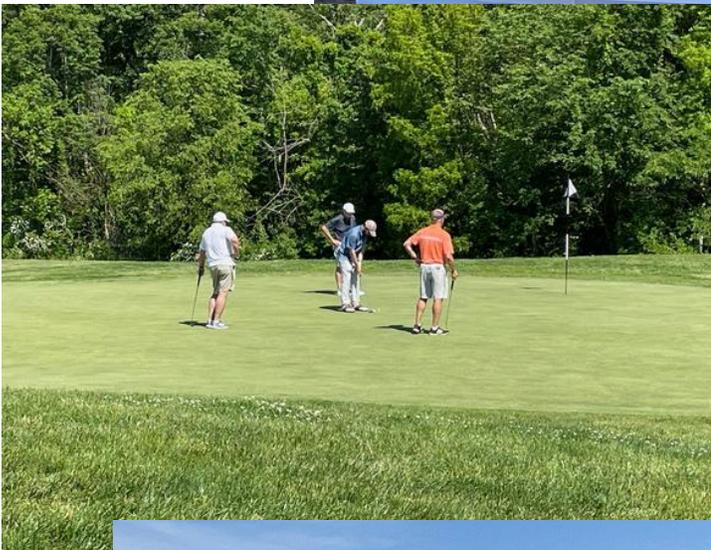


Golf Tournament

To Benefit the Stephen M. Evans Memorial Scholarship

THANK YOU to Everyone who came out to the Golf Tournament in May to support the Stephen M. Evans Scholarship Fund!

A great turnout helped raise money that went towards the Scholarships that were given out to our three recipients at the June ASHE meeting. We had some excellent weather and even better fellowship for all involved. Thank you everyone for supporting a great cause!



Manuals and Standards Updates (links)

- Updated [Virginia Work Area Protection Manual \(WAPM\)](#), Revision 2.1
- Updated 2021 [VDOT CADD Manual](#)
- NEW VDOT Resource – [Right-of-Way Cost Estimating Guide](#)
- Revisions to IIM-LD110 (General Notes) and -LD118 (Pre-Con & Construction Design Deliverables): [LD IIM Index](#)

Professional Development Corner – Handling Difficult Conversations at Work

- How do we navigate our differences in the workplace respectfully and in ways that lead to positive outcomes?
- It is important to approach difficult conversations with **empathy**. You will have a more productive discussion if you are able to acknowledge and understand the opinions and feelings of others.
 - “I understand why you would want to do it that way – here are some of the benefits of that approach.”
- **Avoid** using language that devalues the opinions of others. Instead, appeal to peoples’ desire for validation.
 - “You’re wrong” or “No, that approach will not work.”
 - Instead, say something like “I think you have the right idea, but what if we look at it this way?”
- We often seek the same results, but see different paths to achieve them. Find common ground in order to facilitate **constructive** brainstorming.
 - “I agree that we need to consider X in developing a solution for Y. Have you thought about working Z into our process as well?”
- Do not get defensive and keep an opened mind. Listen to others as they talk instead of just waiting to speak, and seek to **assimilate** different ideas to produce even better solutions. We are all better off when we work together!

Our Gold Sponsors

Thank You Gold Sponsors!



AS OF 01/05/2021

DID NOT SEE YOUR FIRM?!?!

Interested in becoming a Gold Sponsor?

Contact Mark Philips,

Mark.Phillips@Kimley-Horn.com or

703-870-3631