

AASHTO

Spring Meeting 2003

Lexington, KY

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) concluded its 2003 Spring Business Meeting on Monday, June 2 at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Lexington, Kentucky.

In addition to the regularly scheduled meeting of AASHTO's Board of Directors on Sunday, June 1, addressed by Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton and chaired by AASHTO President James Codell III, Secretary of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, the conference featured a day-long National Highway Safety Leadership Forum on Monday. The spring meeting also was preceded by a regular meeting of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highways.

Officials of AASHTO, which represents state departments of transportation, were joined by top leaders of three agencies of the U.S. Department of Transportation and several highway-safety groups for Monday's National Highway Safety Leadership Forum. The forum was convened by AASHTO President Codell, who has made transportation safety one of his AASHTO emphasis areas for 2003.

Deputy U.S. Transportation Secretary Michael Jackson addressed the nearly 150 people in attendance at a luncheon, asking them to be among what he termed "leaders with passion in their bones." Though state officials handle crises of many kinds regularly, Jackson acknowledged, this is one that deserves "a piece of your heart" because highway crashes devastate so many lives and families each year.

After receiving briefings by Dr. Jeffrey Runge, Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator Annette Sandberg, those attending pledged to return to their home states and work together with all interested groups to decrease the death tolls on our roads. A meeting to assess progress is tentatively slated for October.

Groups cosponsoring the forum include the Governors Highway Safety Association, the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance.

Other action at the AASHTO Spring Meeting included the debut of a set of guides on proven methods to remedy several common causes of highway deaths, an outgrowth of AASHTO's Strategic Highway Safety Plan. The guides are the product of years of research conducted through the Transportation Research Board's National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP).

Further, AASHTO's Route Numbering Committee, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Highways (SCOH), recommended to SCOH that U.S. Highway 666 in the Four Corners area of the southwestern United States be renumbered U.S. 491, at the request of three states. The recommendation was accepted, and the renumbering now is official.

TRANSPORTATION CABINET PERSONNEL ON MILITARY LEAVE

| Employee | Division/District | Branch of Service | Date Called to Active Duty |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Harold "Johnson" Broughton | District 11, Knox Co. | Army National Guard | 2/11/03 |
| John Callihan | District 5, Jefferson Co. | Army National Guard | 8/4/02 |
| James "Jim" Covany | Fleet Management | Army National Guard | 4/8/03 |
| Scott Crigler | Vehicle Enforcement, Shelby Co. | Marine MP, Reserves | 1/14/03 |
| Richard Davis | District 1, McCracken Co. | Army National Guard | 12/18/02 |
| Richard Deters | District 6, Kenton Co. | Marine Corps Reserves | 3/8/03 |
| Anthony "Tony" Downs | Equipment, Franklin Co. | Navy Reserves | 11/19/02 |
| Steve Edwards | District 5, Jefferson Co. | US Army Reserves | 2/21/03 |
| Robert "Anthony" Gaines | District 8, Pulaski Co. | Army National Guard | 5/1/03 (Derby Security – has returned to work) |
| Kent Glenn | District 7, Fayette Co. | US Army Reserves | 5/2/03 |
| Marie Lee | District 8, Pulaski Co. | US Army Reserves | 2/14/03 |
| Jeremiah Littleton | District 9, Fleming Co. | Army National Guard | 8/1/02 |
| Robert "Stephen" Mattingly | District 9, Fleming Co. | Army National Guard | 3/15/03 |
| Nathan Olin | Vehicle Enforcement, Scott Co. | Army National Guard | 8/1/02 |
| Earl Peace | District 11, Whitley Co. | Army National Guard | 5/1/03 |
| William Rein | Vehicle Enforcement, Hardin Co. | Coast Guard Reserves | 3/24/03 |
| Richard Smith | Vehicle Enforcement, Scott Co. | Army National Guard | 3/15/03 – returned to work 6/16/03 |

CURVES AND SWERVES

A dangerous stretch of road in their community influenced Henry County Middle School students to start the *Curves and Swerves* community service project plan. The *Curves and Swerves* project involved Kentucky Highway 146, a winding road

where 209 accidents occurred in the past eight years alone.

The students gathered accident and fatality data and presented this information to the Cabinet. Consequently, the Cabinet was able to obtain \$770,000 in Hazard, Elimination and Safety funds to straighten out a section of the road. This spot improvement project will begin in 2004.

Just a few weeks ago, the students entered their problem solving project in the Future Problem Solving Program International Competition at the University of Connecticut. The team won first place **in the world** in the middle grades division of the health concerns category! Congratulations!

The Cabinet appreciates the efforts of the students who worked hard to make the roads safer in their community.

What is Facilities Pride?

As you all know, monies and budgets have been seriously depleted over the last few years. So to keep transportation maintenance facilities across the state in tip-top shape, the Division of Property and Supply Services asked employees for their help in preventative maintenance. By keeping their facilities clean, neat, and maintained, not only does the transportation cabinet save money but it instills a sense of pride in each employee.

In May of 2002, the Facilities Pride program began. The chief district engineers and the operations branch managers accepted the program and stressed its importance to maintenance employees. Each maintenance facility throughout the state has a sign that says, "We have facilities pride" which reminds each employee to keep their facility clean and in good shape.

Division of Property and Supply Services Director Mike Molloy said, "Now instead of us asking maintenance employees to cleanup their facilities, the employees are asking us what they need to do to keep their facilities looking good. The Division of Property and Supply Services is proud that this project took off the way it did and we appreciate the efforts of everyone involved."

As an incentive to upkeep their facilities, Property and Supply has given and will be giving out a Best Maintained Facility Award and a Most Improved Facility Award to each district in June and July. The chief district engineers and the operations branch managers pick the winners. Signs will be given to each best maintained facility and most improved facility to display outside on facility grounds for the public to see.

Facilities Pride has successfully been accepted by all districts and is expected to be an ongoing program for years to come.



Spottsville Bridge Collapses for Second Time

When a construction barge hit the Spottsville Bridge in Henderson County in May, stories emerged in the community about a previous tragedy at that site.

This recent bridge mishap occurred when a barge owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers barge struck the bridge, causing major structural damage. The bridge, which goes over the Green River, reopened to traffic on June 22, following repair work.

The first accident happened before the bridge ever opened to traffic for the first time. In 1931, a span of the bridge collapsed and three workers fell to their death. Official reports of the cause of that accident indicated that workers had removed wooden braces prematurely. However, family members who still live in the area, said the accident was a result of a barge running into the bridge and weakened it.

Whatever the official cause of the accident was, the construction company was doomed to failure from that time, according to Tim Ghormley, grandson of the company's owner. The Evansville, Indiana Company also built the New Harmony Bridge that goes across the Wabash River.



A state inspector surveys the damage to the bridge.

DANIEL BOONE PARKWAY IS NOW THE HAL ROGERS PARKWAY AND IT'S TOLL FREE



Rogers and his wife unveil the new parkway sign.

On June 9, just minutes before U. S. Congressman Hal Rogers knocked down the tollbooth on the Daniel Boone Parkway, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary James C. Codell, III announced that the parkway would now officially be named the Hal Rogers Parkway.

Rogers obtained \$13 million in federal funding earlier this year that allowed the state of Kentucky to eliminate tolls on the Daniel Boone and Louie Nunn (Cumberland) Parkways. At the time, the state owed \$26 million in bonds for four toll roads in the Commonwealth. The funding obtained by Rogers relieved a large portion of Kentucky's parkway burden.

Codell said, "Hal Rogers has done many great things for southern and eastern Kentucky including public works projects to provide flood control and clean drinking water; business and tourism development projects to create jobs; job training and education programs; and of course, removing the tolls from the Daniel Boone and Cumberland Parkways. We are thanking him today by renaming this road the Hal Rogers Parkway."



Secretary Codell joins Congressman Rogers aboard the bulldozer.