



ACEA Today

Official quarterly newsletter of the Association of County Engineers of Alabama
First Quarter 2008

County Road and Bridge Tour Makes a Splash Across Alabama

If the attention given by Alabama's news media is any indication, the County Road and Bridge Tour was a success.

In the last three weeks, legislators, county officials, engineers and members of the news media have gotten a first-hand look at the condition of Alabama's road and bridge system.

The statewide effort was coordinated by "team captains" who volunteered to collect data necessary to produce a written evaluation of the road and bridge system in every county in the state.

"I want to make sure that all county engineers know how much we appreciate their hard work on this project," said **ACEA President Jerold Dean**.

"This is the first step in an effort that is really aimed at the 2008 regular session of the Alabama Legislature," Dean said.

When the session convenes in February, the Association will support three bills aimed at raising extra revenue for road and bridge construction and maintenance.

The legislation would alter the collection process for the statewide gasoline and motor fuel taxes in order to more efficiently collect revenue on all fuel sold in Alabama; authorize a



ACEA President Richie Beyer, CEA, (right) made sure Rep. Mac Gipson and Elmore County Commissioner Mickey Shaw got first-hand knowledge of the condition of some of the problems ACCA's proposed legislation is hoping to correct.

second county bridge bond issue similar to the \$250 million issue from 2000; and adjust the rate of the statewide gasoline and motor fuel taxes for inflation as well as authorizing counties to levy local fuel taxes for road and bridge construction and maintenance.

HOW WAS THE COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE TOUR RECEIVED BY STATEWIDE MEDIA?

From **The Montgomery Advertiser**, Nov. 26:

(Mac) Gipson, R-Prattville, said something has to be done to help counties find the money to fix roads and bridges.

"I really look at this as a user fee. The only people paying it are the people who are using the roads," Gipson said.

He said he sees the condition of the state's roads and bridges as an economic development issue, because companies want locations with good roads to make it easy to receive materials and deliver goods.

In a caption of a front-page photo from **The Valley Times-News**, Nov. 23:

*It's not the sky that's falling in this picture. Instead, it's fragments of the concrete deck of a bridge on County Road 289. This road is the primary route to reach the 270-lot Quail Run and Quail Hollow subdivisions planned on County Road 289. **Chambers County Engineer Henry Hawkins** took legislators Rep. DuWayne Bridges and Rep. Richard Laird on a tour of the problem areas in the county that are in dire need of state funding. This bridge would cost approximately \$720,000 to replace and would require the better part of a half year to bid and build.*

From **The Coosa County News**, Dec. 7:

"In Coosa County, a recent infrastructure assessment reveals that approximately 55 miles of paved roads achieved an assessment 'grade' of 70 or below and must be resurfaced or rehabilitated immediately."

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New Procedure Approved for Annual Maintenance Programs

Counties may now ask the Alabama Department of Transportation to remove certain road and bridge projects from the annual inspection conducted by ALDOT.

The application procedure, which has been approved by the Department as well as ACCA and ACEA, is designed to remove the inspection requirement from those projects that otherwise require inspection, but have exceeded their useful life, are under the responsibility of a municipality, or “otherwise are considered candidates for removal.” The policy outlines the specific circumstances justifying the removal of the projects.

A committee of ACEA, chaired by Blount County Engineer Richard Spraggins, worked with ALDOT officials on the development of the criteria.

“This new procedure is a step forward for many counties that have been maintaining roads and bridges that really no longer fit the inspection criteria,” said ACEA President Richie Beyer. “We very much appreciate the hard work of Richard Spraggins and his committee, as well as Ed Philips, whose support was instrumental in the establishment of this new procedure.”

The new procedure was detailed in a memorandum from Philips to county engineers and ALDOT personnel.



Flood Plain Committee Begins Work

A committee of county engineers has started its work on the development of a suggested minimum ordinance on flood plain management for county governments.

All counties are required to provide regulation of development in flood-prone areas, and for many years a set of model regulations have been distributed to counties by state and federal authorities as “minimum” standards for county use. However, in many cases the suggested regulations exceed the minimum requirements.

Shelby County Engineer Randy Cole is serving as chair of the committee, which hopes to provide counties with a suggested ordinance and regulations which meet the minimum state and federal requirements. The committee held its first meeting in early December and will reconvene after the new year. Those with questions, comments or concerns should contact Randy Cole.

Make plans now to come to The Hill!
County Day @ the Legislature
Wednesday and Thursday • April 16-17, 2008

Don't forget ACCA's District Meetings! Before you come to The Hill, prepare yourself by attending a district meeting. Each meeting begins with dinner at **6 p.m.** and includes a comprehensive discussion of the Association's Legislative Program for the 2008 Legislative Session. It's **VERY** important that **EVERY** county be represented.

2008 ACCA District Meeting Schedule

ACCA's District Meetings are extremely important because this is your opportunity to become familiar with the Association's 2008 Legislative Package. Each meeting will begin at **6 p.m.** with dinner and follow with a detailed discussion of the Legislative Package. It is **VERY** important that **EVERY** county be represented in January. *So, choose a date, register, and get involved!*

January 8 REGISTER THIS WEEK!
Lawrence County
Doublehead Resort in Town Creak, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Dec. 28 • Cost: \$20

January 15
Greene County
Cotton Patch Restaurant in Eutaw, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Jan. 4 • Cost: \$20

January 9 REGISTER THIS WEEK!
St. Clair County
Ashville City Hall in Ashville, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Dec. 28 • Cost: \$13

January 22
Pike County
Brundidge Senior Center in Brundidge, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Jan. 11 • Cost: \$13

January 14
Conecuh County
Old Trail Depot in Evergreen, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Jan. 4 • Cost: \$13

January 23
Montgomery County
Arrowhead Country Club in Montgomery, Ala.
Registration Deadline: Jan. 11 • Cost: \$20



ACCA District Meeting Registration Form

County or Company Name: _____ Person Completing Form: _____

Please register the following persons for the District Meeting:

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Name/Meeting Location: _____

Enclosed is payment in the amount of \$ _____ for the persons listed above.

**Please mail form and payment (payable to ACCA) to:
ACCA District Meetings • 100 N. Jackson Street • Montgomery, Ala. 36104**

ACEA is kickin' off the



New Year!



ACEA
100 N. Jackson Street
Montgomery, Ala. 36104