

Partners in Quality

A Publication of the Maryland Quality Initiative
Steering Committee (MdQI)

Fall/Winter 2011

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Welcome to the 2011 Fall/Winter issue of Partners in Quality!

MdQI continues to enrich its transportation partnership, collaborating throughout 2011 with newly added MDOT modals, contractors, and consultants. Great strides have been made by the Steering Committee and the Subcommittees to incorporate the new transportation industry focused mission. These innovations in quality transportation services and resources will be the focus of the working group sessions held during the MdQI Conference. The 19th Annual MdQI Conference will return to the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel this year on February 1-2, 2012. Mark your calendars for this exciting two day event!

The 2012 conference theme, entitled "Quality Transportation – A Hybrid Approach" will include workshops and technical sessions focusing on topics affecting today's transportation industry. State and Federal officials will also provide pertinent information on issues impacting Maryland's transportation community. The Conference will kick-off with technical sessions and workshops on Day One and close on Day Two with the Banquet and Awards of Excellence presentation to recognize the exemplary work within the industry. We look forward to seeing you at our 19th Annual Conference in February. Please check our website: www.mdqi.org for the latest information leading up to the conference and don't forget to save the dates - February 1st and 2nd .

This year has brought about many changes to regulations, as well as exciting new technology. SHA has implemented a newly revised Highway Noise Policy, effective July 13, 2011, which reflects and expands upon the changes outlined in 23 CFR 772. This change will make analyses more consistent over the long term, avoiding the confusion associated with allowing for changing materials costs over the lifetime of a project. The policy will be discussed in detail in the technical sessions during the 2012 MdQI Conference.



(Chairman's Letter continued on Page 2)

Chairman's Letter (Continued)

You may have also wondered why there's not as much blue smoke being emitted from some of the asphalt mixes being placed in Maryland over the past few years. It's because a number of Maryland's producers and contractors are placing more warm mix asphalt (WMA). There are many different warm mix technologies and WMA has been placed with great success not only in Maryland but around the world! At the 2012 MdQI Conference, SHA and producers will discuss the status and trends in this new technology.

Lastly, out of concerns for sustainability, The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure was founded in February 2011. The Institute developed The envision™ Sustainability Rating System which uses a set of objective-based goals that will guide the engineer, owner, constructor, regulator and policymaker to provide more effective levels of reliability, resilience, efficiency, organizational adaptability and overall project performance. The rating system acknowledges the challenges faced by the many stakeholders charged with delivering and supporting necessary infrastructure projects in an increasingly resource-constrained world. During MdQI Conference sessions, we'll discuss the place such a rating system may have in our industry.

As you can see, 2011 has been a busy year for expanding and improving Maryland's transportation system. MdQI continues to provide a venue for collaboration among government and industry professionals. Many of these efforts will be linked to working group sessions and presentations during this year's MdQI Conference. Attend the event and stay informed with the most up-to-date information impacting your business now and in the future.

In closing, Maryland continues to be challenged with tough economic conditions. We would like to extend my appreciation once again to all of the transportation stakeholders who continue to participate in MdQI and look for innovative solutions to the complex problems our state is facing. We look forward to seeing you and working closely with you next year as we celebrate 19 years of MdQI!



Greg Welker
MdQI Co-Chairman,
SHA Deputy Administrator/
Chief Engineer for Operations



Dan Cheng
MdQI Co-Chairman,
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Executive Vice President

Industry News & Upcoming Events

UPCOMING MDQI EVENTS

The **2012 MdQI Conference** is quickly approaching. Be sure to mark your calendar for our 19th Annual Conference to be held on February 1st and 2nd, 2012 at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel.

The 8th Annual **Highway Construction and Career Day** will be held on the Eastern Shore in the Spring of 2012. This popular event will be hosted by Gillespie and Son, Inc. and David A. Bramble, Inc.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Concrete Industry and the Transportation sector are planning their 12th Annual Technology Conference for March 6, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore North in Timonium. "**Concrete 2012**" is a 1-day educational forum that provides information regarding applications for Portland Cement Concrete on all transportation projects. Attendees may receive up to Five Professional Development Hours (5 PDH's).

Those expected to attend and participate include representatives from MD SHA, FHWA & MDOT, Environmental Design, Highway & Bridge Design, Materials & Technology, Landscape Architecture, Construction & Inspection, Maintenance, County and Municipal Roads, Concrete Suppliers and Contractors, Consultants, Academia and other Transportation Building Partners.

The agenda is unfolding to include the following topics: Pervious Concrete Design, MOT, Self Consolidating Concrete, Rebuilding after Katrina, Overlays / Maintenance Options, Roller Compacted Concrete, MIT Research – Pavement Sustainability, Quiet Pavements – Next Generation, Metro/Dulles Elevated Pre-Cast, Architectural Concrete Elements, Micro-Piles and Concrete Approach Slab Design. There will also be exhibits of industry products & services through out the day providing yards of knowledge transfer & partnering.

For registration information, please visit www.MarylandConcrete.com or email: office@MarylandConcrete.com.

INDUSTRY NEWS

The **Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association** annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner was held on November 3, 2011 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis. Barton S. Mitchell of E. Stewart Mitchell, Inc., was inducted into the MTBMA Hall of Leadership in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment to furthering the cause of improved highways and transportation construction in Maryland. E. Stewart Mitchell, Inc., was the leading marketer, transporter, and applicator of all types of liquid asphalts. Barton has spent considerable time on industry and civic affairs over the years. He served as President of the Maryland Asphalt Association in 1971-72 and Maryland Highway Contractors Association from 1977-1979. In 1981 he served as Chairman of the National Asphalt Paving Association.

Quality Transportation - A Hybrid Approach

19th Annual MdQI Conference

The 19th Annual Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) Conference will be held on **February 1 and 2, 2012** in the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel located at 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. It is a two day conference attended by local, state, and federal agencies, as well as the consultant engineering community, highway contractors and suppliers.

Quality Transportation – A Hybrid Approach

Continuous attention to quality improvements remains a top priority for the agencies, consultants, contractors, suppliers and engineers that support Maryland's transportation community; however, the use of a hybrid approach to facilitate innovative solutions to complete today's complex projects in a strained economy is necessary.

So how can we continue to deliver high quality projects with fewer resources? One strategy to achieve our goals is the use of new materials that improve quality but cost less. Some examples are the use of new technologies in the areas of safety, construction, paving, and concrete.

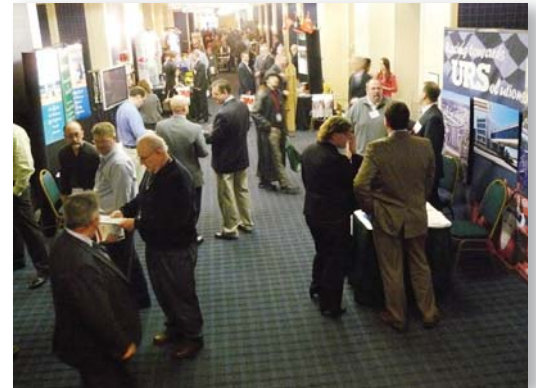
Collaboration is also vital between contractors, suppliers, state/federal agencies, and the engineering community now more than ever. Collaboration between all transportation stakeholders will facilitate communications and streamline processes that deliver superior products to our customers.

Technical Sessions

Each year, the MdQI Steering Committee and its subcommittees analyze and research current topics of interest relative to the Maryland Transportation community. These topics become working group sessions during the conference. This year's conference focuses on innovations by leading transportation professionals and challenges attendees to partner on developing hybrid solutions. The conference will provide attendees with the most current information on new industry trends including the latest technologies in construction, updated regulations for TMDL, safety certifications, the new noise policy, and BWI rail station and track improvements.

Vendor's Theme

The vendor theme this year will be "Celebrating Maryland's Patriotism." The vendor theme will coincide with activities taking place throughout the State of Maryland



“...the use of a hybrid approach to facilitate innovative solutions to complete today's complex projects in a strained economy is necessary.”



commemorating historic events surrounding the War of 1812. MdQI has partnered with Governor O'Malley's "War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission" to inform attendees of the significance of Maryland's involvement in the celebration and the schedule of events taking place in the months following the conference.

Each vendor is encouraged to creatively display their patriotism by decorating their booth using the selected theme. Participating vendors in the past have provided an environment that has been both informative and fun for conference attendees during the two day event. During the conference, attendees will cast their ballot for the vendor booth they like the most. The vendor with the most votes will have their booth registration fee waived for the following year.

Annual Racing Competition

The competition continues to intensify this year for the annual Pinewood Race Car Derby. The heat races will be simulcast live on

Wednesday evening, February 1st from 5:00pm to 6:00pm in Shula's 2, which is located in the Sheraton. The final races will be held during the awards banquet Thursday evening. Please come see who will win the "Rose Cup".

Conference Registration

Join transportation officials, contractors and MdQI members at the 19th Annual MdQI Conference – one of the nation's largest transportation conferences. The conference features exciting and motivating speakers, technical sessions and exhibit areas. Meet other professionals in your specialty area and use this opportunity to network. Please make plans to attend the only conference created for you! This Conference is all about you, your needs, challenges and solutions. We look forward to seeing you there!

Additional conference information is available on Page 5 of this newsletter. Registration materials are available at www.mdqi.org.

Redevelopment of the BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Rail Station

The **Maryland Aviation Administration** is currently working in partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Mass Transit Administration for the redevelopment of the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport Rail Station. The existing station was opened in 1980 and was the first intercity rail station in the United States built to service an airport. The project is part of a larger program to add a fourth rail to improve Amtrak and MARC commuter rail service in this region. Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is also being considered for the rail station project. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently being prepared for completion in 2012. The new BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Station will include landside improvements for curbside operations of personal vehicles, local taxis, commercial vehicles and connecting airport bus service. The station will be designed to serve as an intermodal hub and dynamic public place connecting MARC and Amtrak rail lines, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport and the surrounding region. Passenger facilities will include

a modern passenger station terminal concourse, climate controlled passenger waiting areas located over the tracks, and passenger amenities, including shops and restaurants. The TOD will share the new station's terminal concourse to serve both rail and airport patrons. The new station and the potential TOD are planned as the transit gateway to, and an extension of, BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport.



MdQI Conference Registration Information

2012 MdQI Conference ~ February 1-2, 2012

The 2012 MdQI conference is scheduled for February 1st and 2nd with the Annual MdQI Awards of Excellence presentation and banquet on the last day of the conference. Each year, breakout topics of interest to the Maryland transportation industry are identified by the MdQI Steering Committee and discussed at the conference. Each breakout topic is presented by a panel comprised of public/private professionals considered experts in the topic area. The presentations on breakout topics are followed by team discussions and brainstorming sessions. Conference attendees participate in the breakout topics of their choice. Vendor exhibits will be on display throughout the conference. More information, as well as conference registration, will be available on our website at www.mdqi.org.

Full Conference

\$295 Early Bird (by January 9, 2012)
 \$325 by January 27, 2012
 \$225 Government Rate (by January 9, 2012)

Awards Banquet Only (Day Two - February 2nd)

\$85 Early Bird (by January 9, 2012)
 \$100 by January 27, 2012

Exhibitor Registration: \$675 Member; \$800 Non-Member

Registration Deadline: January 27, 2012

Hotel Accommodations are available at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel for a discounted MdQI Conference rate of \$115.00 per night plus 15.5% state and local taxes. For Reservations: (866) 837-5182 or register on-line at www.mdqi.org. Room reservations at this discounted rate must be made by January 16, 2012.

Contact Information: Shelly Baquol at 410-760-9505 or shelly@mtbma.org

Contact for SHA Employees: Tanya McNeil at 410-545-0360 or tmcneil@sha.state.md.us

Day 1 Technical Sessions~ Wednesday, February 1, 2012

10:00am	Vendor Exhibits Open	Registration Begins				
11:30am		Welcome, Overview of Technical Sessions and MdQI Activity Update, Lunch (provided)				
		Carroll Room	International E	Pratt Room	Poe Room	Mencken Room
1:30pm-2:45pm		Review Existing Utility Coordination Process	Concrete Materials & Recent Technology for Paving in Maryland	Prime/DBE/MBE Construction Business Opportunities: Building a Successful Relationship	BWI Rail Station & Track Improvements	Common Contractor Re-work Issues – Can they be mitigated through design?
3:15pm-4:30pm		Follow-up Round Table Discussion on Utility Coordination Process	"TMDLs Are Here to Stay": What it means for Operations, Design & Planning	Goal Setting For Success	Safety Certification with MTA	New Technologies: Stakeless Construction and Intelligent Compaction
4:30pm	Reception, Pinewood Derby Heat Races					

Day 2 Technical Sessions~ Thursday, February 2, 2012

7:30am	Vendor Exhibits Open	Registration and Continental Breakfast				
8:30am		General Session				
		Carroll Room	International E	Pratt Room	Poe Room	Mencken Room
10:45am - 12:00pm		Purple Line/Red Line Update	"Meetings...who needs them?" You do!	Unconventional Intersection Design Techniques/ MD CATT Lab Discussion	FHWA Everyday Counts - Accelerating Technology- ASC & Safety Edge	Incentive/Disincentives – Do they work?
		Special Presentations and Lunch (provided)				
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Terminal Concourse B/C Connector Project	Pedaling & Peds - Improving Safety and Awareness Along Our Roadways	FHWA Efforts to Improve Safety/Mobility in Work Zones/ Innovative Work Zone Safety Operations	Prefabricated Bridge Element & Systems for Accelerated Bridge Construction	Design/Build Risk Minimization	
3:45pm - 5:00pm	MDTA Facility Inspection Program—An Inside Look	DBOM - Innovative Stormwater Asset Contracting	New Noise Policy	Warm Mix Asphalt	The New envision™ Sustainability Rating System for Infrastructure Projects	
5:00pm	Reception					
6:00pm	MdQI Banquet and Awards of Excellence					

Automated Speed Enforcement: Improving Safety in Highway Work Zones

In October of 2009, a state law became effective in Maryland authorizing automated speed enforcement (ASE) within work zones along expressways or controlled access highways with speed limits of 45 mph or greater. This legislation was developed by a partnership between highway contractors, the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Maryland Transportation Authority, the Maryland State Police and others in an effort to improve highway safety as a result of several tragic accidents that occurred within highway work zones. The law is intended to protect not only highway workers, but motorists, too -- 4 out of 5 injuries or fatalities occurring within work zones involve motorists or their passengers. Drivers traveling 12 mph or more over the speed limit are subject to a \$40 fine with no points added to their driving record. Citations may be contested in court. Failure to pay an ASE citation results in a 'flag' on the motorist's vehicle registration, prohibiting it from being renewed until their citation is resolved.

Work zones along I-95, I-695, I-70, I-495, I-270, and US 15 have been included in this program to date. Numerous signs are erected in advance of and within the work zone warning motorists to observe the posted speed limit and that a photo enforcement deployment may be in operation. Additionally, a public awareness program was initiated advising motorists be attentive in work zones and watch their speeds.

The goal of the ASE program is not to raise revenue, but to improve safety within our work zones and, to date, we have been achieving that goal. Statistics show that within the work zones where ASE has been deployed, excessive speeds have been reduced, speeding citations are down by more than 75 percent since July of 2010, and crashes have dropped by 10 percent.

SHA staff managing the ASE program encounters numerous customer service situations they must resolve on a daily basis. Most issues involve motorists claiming they did not notice the ASE warning signs at the work zone in question. This supports theories that many motorists drive on 'autopilot' and do not notice some of the traffic control devices that are placed along the highways. Other issues include citizens questioning the basis for the program, claims that everyone else was speeding, and workers were not present at the time they were photographed (workers need not be present during ASE deployment periods). We have been very successful in defending the program as very few citations have been dismissed by judges after the motorist pleads their case in court.

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ASE is also permitted within school zones statewide, residential areas in Montgomery County and the area surrounding the University of Maryland in College Park. Typically, these ASE programs are operated by the local jurisdiction and the State Highway Administration's (SHA) involvement occurs only when an SHA maintained road is utilized. However, if jurisdictions fail to abide by the program requirements set forth in the law, the entire ASE program likely will be adversely affected. We are often asked by others to review and advise on local jurisdictional programs to assure they comply with the law.

The State's ASE program has been a success in many ways. Not only has safety in work zones for motorists and workers been improved, but cooperation and communications among the many agencies and highway construction companies involved with the program have developed and been solidified. The partnerships created between the enforcement community, highway workers, engineering staff and communication offices truly exemplify the spirit of MDQI and promote the 3 E's of Traffic Safety: Engineering, Enforcement and Education!



Charles Street/I-695 Interchange Reconstruction Project (BA9775A72)

Partnering
In Motion 

The project began in January of 2009. From the beginning, the relationship between SHA and Six-M has been a true demonstration of partnering. All parties involved believe it really is "our" project, and work together to ensure the partnership has no surprise issues or delays. Therein lies the key to partnering... the belief and feeling that we are in this together - it is our issue, not SHA's or Six-M's or the designers- we are in this together. The atmosphere is one of comfort, respect and even humor. We know that whatever the issue, we are committed to working together each day, not just at the monthly partnering meetings, to resolve it with all parties' best interests in mind.

One major issue on this project was the redesign of the I-695 Bridge over the MTA Light Rail. After starting demolition, it was apparent that the original plan was not going to work, so together with the designers, Six-M and SHA, we were able to continue working through the changes while not delaying the contract. This project is a true of example of Partnering in Motion.



Change Order Update: Highway Operations Subcommittee

At the 2010 MDQI conference the Highway Operations Subcommittee presented a breakout session on SHA construction change orders. This presentation was the result of concerns raised by the contracting community regarding matters of consistency and timely processing. The workshop had four goals in mind:

- 1.) Clarify roles and responsibilities of both SHA and the contractors
- 2.) Identify common errors
- 3.) Identify areas of improvement
- 4.) Develop action items

As a result of the workshop, areas of concern were identified such as timeliness, accountability (status of change order), need for a web based solution and levels of authority.

Follow up items included SHA internal training, establishment of a criteria in which the District staff will e-mail the change order to the contractor once approved by the Office of Construction, making

the change order process consistent/uniform in each District, and the creation of statewide tracking in SHA's McMan system.

The Office of Construction incorporated a hybrid plan of action from what was learned at the 2010 MDQI conference. They created and implemented a change order standardization discussion session where staff visited each District and other SHA Divisions that create change orders. At those sessions, staff reviewed the issues/concerns brought to light at the conference and introduced new tracking fields and reports in the McMan database which will enforce consistency and accountability with SHA and its contractors. As in the past, the contractors were asked to first contact the appropriate District representative regarding any inquires about their change orders and further contact the Office of Construction when needed.

An online tracking database is definitely an objective of the Office of Construction, but has not yet been developed.

The MdQI Steering Committee is jointly sponsored by representatives of the following agencies:



The MdQI Mission - "To provide the Maryland transportation industry a forum that fosters coordinated and continuous quality improvement in order to ensure safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive and sustainable systems to meet the needs of all transportation stakeholders."

Don't forget to visit our [website](http://www.mdqi.org) at www.mdqi.org

