

RAMCA NEWSLETTER

UPDATE ON VDOT SIX YEAR TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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The recession-battered, six-year transportation program calls for spending \$7.7 billion on road, rail and transit work during 2011-16. Of that total, \$5.6 billion will pay for highway projects and \$2.1 billion for rail and public transportation efforts. While the state transportation plan shows an increase over the current \$7.6 billion program, that growth is not expected to match inflation during the six-year period. Even using hundreds of millions of dollars from state highway construction revenues to bolster road repair work, the condition of Virginia's 57,867 miles of state-maintained highways gradually has been deteriorating while the number of vehicles on the roads has grown and demand for transit service has

increased. The six-year program retains full funding for several key highway projects for the Richmond metropolitan region:

- Huguenot Bridge replacement in Richmond and Henrico County;
- Interstate 95 bridge rehabilitations in Richmond;
- U.S. 360 widening in Mechanicsville;
- State Route 10 widening in Chesterfield County;
- U.S. 250 widening in Goochland County;
- Midlothian Turnpike -German School Road drainage improvements in Richmond; and
- I-95's Lewistown Road bridge replacement in Hanover County.

VDOT also recently indicated that the total cost for cleaning up this winter's

three major snowstorms has risen to more than a quarter of a billion dollars. VDOT had budgeted \$79.7 million for this winter's snow removal work. Now the Transportation Department is taking \$183.6 million from this year's maintenance and administration budgets to help cover the snow-related expenditures. The state is applying for up to \$40 million in reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As a result there will not be maintenance occurring that should be occurring. Even using hundreds of millions of dollars from state highway construction revenues to bolster road repair work, the condition of Virginia's highways has been deteriorating gradually, according to a VDOT study.

PRESIDENT APPOINTS 2010-11 COMMITTEES

One of the first duties of an incoming RAMCA President is to appoint members and chairmen to various RAMCA standing committees. Please find below those appointments for 2010-11. It is at the committee level that much of the important work of our association is really accomplished.

RAMCA thanks these committee members for their willingness to serve RAMCA as committee members in the coming months and encourages members who have industry-related issues to bring them to the attention of RAMCA by contacting the appropriate committee chairman.

2010-11 RAMCA COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Steve Rhyne - Chairman
- Mike Todd
- Johnny Glazebrook
- Monty Gatewood
- James Martin

FINANCE

- Mike Todd – Chairman
- Dave Moore

GOLF OUTINGS

- Kenny Tyree – Chairman

Legislative/PAC

- Wilson Whitehurst – Chairman

Phil Tarsovich

MEMBERSHIP

- Lee White – Chairman
- David Armstrong

Program

- Jim Patterson – Chairman

Scholarship

- Ken Creasey - Chairman
- Mike Harcum
- Taylor Cantrell

Safety

- Jamie Accashian- Chairman

JOINT COOPERATIVE (SPECIFICATIONS)

- Monty Gatewood. – Chairman
- J. Alvin Collins, Jr.
- Jim Patterson
- Coleman Lyttle
- Dave Cosby
- Johnny Glazebrook
- Bill Johns

UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION

- Buddy Hummel – Chairman
- Steve Rhyne
- J. Alvin Collins, Jr.

A big Thank You to all of these folks who are willing to serve on these RAMCA Committees.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 17th George Bickerstaff Memorial Golf Outing –The Crossings Golf Club
- September 9th Jack Bargamin Memorial Summer Golf Outing – Mattaponi Springs
- October 14th General Membership Meeting – Hilton Hotel, Short Pump

LEGISLATORS' NIGHT BROUGHT MEMBERS AND LEGISLATORS TOGETHER



[GLORIOUS GLASS IN THE GARDEN](#)

On May 4th RAMCA members and their spouses had the opportunity to meet informally with area legislators in the informal setting of the Tea Room at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. A beautiful day and a beautiful setting provided a backdrop for members to discuss transportation funding and a broad range of other legislative issues with House and Senate members of the Virginia General Assembly. All parties learned more about each others issues, problems and concerns and the meeting was deemed such a success that plans are underway to re-book the event at the same venue and expand the number of legislators to be invited. Nothing is more important to RAMCA members than ensuring that our elected officials are made aware of our concerns. If you were unable to attend this year's event we urge that you, and your significant other, do so next year. Besides attending a first-class function and networking with other RAMCA members, your presence is needed as we continue to work with our elected officials on issues relating to immigration reform, highway funding, Miss Utility legislation, and much more. We hope to see you next year!

RAMCA CONTINUES TO MONITOR HENRICO DPU CHANGES

RAMCA continues to stay in touch with key officials at Henrico County's Department of Public Utilities with regard to the massive rewrite to their standards which were presented in draft form last year. At that time a working committee of RAMCA members met on numerous occasions with County officials and offered a number of suggestions and recommendations. Despite the many months that have passed since those meetings, a final draft of the ordinance has not yet been adopted.

The County is still testing the applicability of "ball markers" which apparently has held up any final action. In addition, the County has assured RAMCA that we will have an opportunity to review the final draft before it is considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. As always, RAMCA will keep members informed of any progress in this area and provide links to the new standards once they are adopted.

PIGEON SHOOT BRINGS OUT THE BIG GUNS!

Six 5-man teams participated in this year's RAMCA Pigeon Shoot held in mid-April at Old Forge Sporting Clays in Providence Forge. And despite the threat of rain participants completed the 100-clay event and enjoyed a bountiful buffet. First and second place trophies were awarded as follows:

1st Place – Luck Stone Team

Brad Duty

Charlie Liebert

Kelby Morgan

Mike Barr

2nd Place – Godwin Pump Team

Ted O'Conner

Robert Wilson

Jimmy Ward

George Gehse



Congrats to this year's winners. Enjoy those big trophies!

OSHA IS STEPPING UP ITS EFFORTS – BE WARNED

The Obama administration has strong ties to organized labor. So it should be a surprise to no one that OSHA will be stepping up its enforcement efforts in a big way in the coming months. More than 150 new inspectors will be hired this year and the department's budget will be increased 10% with enforcement getting \$25.5 million as opposed to a \$1 million increase for compliance assistance. New standards will be promulgated for confined space, cranes, ergonomics, fall and amputation hazards and dangers associated with excavation and trenching. Much of this new focus centers on work many RAMCA contractors perform. Given that fact, this is probably a very good time to review, and if necessary enhance, your current safety program.

RAMCA has also obtained a copy of a memo from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health to all Regional Administrators. In it, there are a number of important administrative changes being implemented that will affect how OSHA cases are handled, and fines assessed. The memo is attached with this newsletter for your information.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

NEW MEMBER – Welcome to ATLANTIC UNDERGROUND INC.

Please be sure and say hi to Mr. Michael Kidd at the next RAMCA event!

RAMCA Officers

President
Steve Rhyne
Rhyne Contractors, Inc

Vice President
Johnny Glazebrook
Branscome Richmond

Secretary/Treasurer
J. Michael Todd
Keiter, Stephens

Immediate Past President
James H. Martin, Jr.
J.H. Martin & Sons Contractors

RAMCA Directors

Contractors

J. Alvin Collins, Jr.
McLane Construction Company

Monty Gatewood
Lee-Hy Paving

Buddy Hummel
Henkels & McCoy

Richard E. Smith
RJ Smith Construction

Associates

Ken Powell
James River Equipment VA, LLC

Hardy Josephson
Luck Stone Corporation

At Large Directors

Lee White
Draper Aden Associates

Dave Moore
Slurry Pavers, Inc.

Staff

Executive Director
Mark I. Singer
Office Manager
Judy Frederick

WHITE LINING BACK ON THE BURNER

Nearly 20 years ago RAMCA fought the requirement that contractors mark, using white paint the area of proposed excavation when calling in a Miss Utility locate ticket. As a result of our efforts at that time, the present law says white lining may be used if the contractor is unable to provide other ways to effectively communicate the area to excavated.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) however, is now reviving the issue of white lining in an effort to reduce the number of tickets which do not provide enough information for accurate marks to be put down, resulting in call backs for remarking or marking substantially more area than the excavation encompasses. RAMCA does not believe the scope of these problems requires a change to mandatory white lining, and has begun discussions with various affected parties to share our concerns with this proposed change.

It is expected that the SCC will propose a work group, on which RAMCA will be represented, to attempt to find some common ground on this issue. We will keep our members advised of these discussions and any outcomes which may require us to become both excavators and painters. We hope such an outcome will not be reached.

NO MATCH RULE ENDS, BUT ICE AUDITS COULD INCREASE

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has ended its effort to adopt a controversial “no match” regulation targeting employers that have undocumented workers. First announced some two years ago, the rule required employers to terminate workers when their social security did not match the number on file at the Social Security Administration (SSA). A California judge blocked the rule from taking affect based on inaccuracies in SSA records and that injunction has remained in effect for some two years. Recently the Obama administration decided to abandon the legal fight and rescind the order.

But the Department has announced that it plans, instead, to step up its audits of employers Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification as part of the Department’s Immigration Customs and Enforcement (ICE) Agency’s long term strategy to address and deter illegal aliens.