

# 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY DOES THE UNTHINKABLE – FUNDED OUR ROADS!

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## RAMCA Newsletter

Last month the Virginia General Assembly did what very few pundits, politicians and lobbyists thought they would do – passed legislation that creates new, long term, sustainable transportation funding revenue streams that will produce more than \$5½ billion to both maintain the state’s existing roads and build new transportation infrastructure across the state.

It has been 27 years since meaningful transportation funding legislation was approved by state legislators, and in those nearly three decades we have seen state roads and bridges crumble, and nearly a half of billion dollars in funds that needed to go towards new construction projects instead be diverted to the state’s road maintenance budget.

When this bill becomes fully effective in 2018 it will create over 20,000 jobs, produce more than \$2.5 billion in economic activity and generate over \$200 million in new tax revenues for the state. Most importantly, the legislation will improve mobility, spur economic development, and enhance the quality of life for all Virginians.

The fat lady has not yet sung however. The bill is now before the Governor who supports it but is expected to offer some amendments which will be taken up on April 3<sup>rd</sup> when legislators return to town for the one-day Veto Session. There is also the possibility of litigation slowing the implementation of the new law or, in the absolute worst case, substantially gutting some of its important provisions such as the regional funding plans for northern Virginia and the Hampton Roads areas. But absent these worst case scenarios, Virginia has passed meaningful transportation funding legislation that will benefit every member of RAMCA.

It’s important to note that the Governor’s commitment to fixing this problem was essential in obtaining the final result. RAMCA’s lobbyists met numerous times during the session with him and the Secretary of Transportation in an effort to keep some version of the legislation alive. For more details on the legislation, including who voted for and against it, visit the RAMCA web site and click on the *Legislative News* button. For password information contact the RAMCA office.

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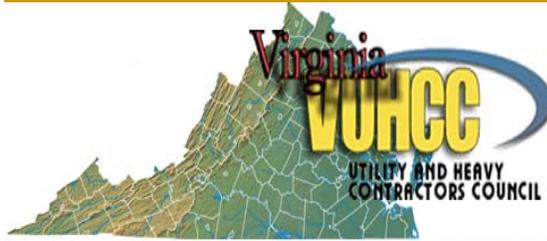
**Richmond Area Municipal Contractors Association**

*One Strong Voice*



## 2013 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADDRESSES OTHER ISSUES AS WELL

The VUHCC lobbied on two bills dealing with Virginia's Mechanic's Lien laws.



RAMCA's lobbying arm, the VUHCC, was very focused on transportation funding legislation during the session, but also lobbied hard on other bills which impacted members. Of particular importance were two bills dealing with Virginia's mechanic's lien laws. The first was a re-play of a very bad bill that was killed last year and reintroduced this year. It would have required additional and early notification to homeowners before a lien could be filed, and made even less sense when the proposed new requirements were considered in the context of the current law. Fortunately, this legislation failed again this year.

The second lien bill was not going to fail and once that became obvious to the VUHCC, we were able to amend the bill so that its new provisions did not create additional ways for liens to be thrown out due to technicalities. The bill added a requirement that the contractor's license number (a ten digit number) and the expiration date of same appear on any lien filing. VUHCC's language made it clear that an unintended error in listing the correct numbers and dates would not be cause to disqualify the lien.

For comprehensive information on both of these lien law proposals and a review of all other legislation lobbied on behalf of RAMCA members at the 2013 session, please visit the RAMCA web site and click on the *Legislative News* button. For password information contact the RAMCA office.

## RAMCA MEETS WITH HENRICO DPU



Late last month a representative group of RAMCA contractor and associate members met with senior officials with Henrico County's Department of Public Utilities. RAMCA was most interested in obtaining an update on revisions to the DPU Standards and Specifications, which have been in "proposed revision" stage for nearly two years.

Based on input from this meeting it now looks like RAMCA will receive a draft of final proposed standards by mid-year and the tentative effective date of the new document will be this fall. RAMCA will make members aware of the final draft and will be communicating any remaining concerns our members have back to the county before final action is taken.

RAMCA also inquired about how members could become more informed as to actions taken, rejected, or being considered by the County's Product Review Committee, and asked about upcoming Capital Improvement Projects scheduled for 2013 (see attached [DPU\_1] project list). Finally, the County made an extensive presentation about their Cobb's Creek Reservoir mega project, which, over the next four years, should provide an opportunity for substantial new work for RAMCA's utility and site contractors.

## PETERSBURG PROPOSES RIGHT OF WAY FEE INCREASES

The City of Petersburg is currently considering fee increases and other changes regarding utility and road work performed in their right-of-ways. (See attached [\[Petersburg\\_2\]](#) matrix for fee comparisons with other localities). If you currently, or may in the future, perform this type of work in Petersburg you are encouraged to request a copy of the entire *Right-of-Way Permit Policy* as soon as possible as this information is time sensitive. To obtain this information contact:

Carmen Tirado  
Assistant Superintendent  
Public Works  
City of Petersburg  
(804) 733-2355



*Special Thanks to Coleman Lyttle (The Lyttle Companies) for making RAMCA aware of these upcoming changes.*

## RAMCA CONDUCTS FIRST AID/CPR PROGRAM

Nearly 20 RAMCA members and their employees participated in the January 26<sup>th</sup> RAMCA CPR/ First Aid Training program presented by RAMCA member Jamie Accashian with **Safety Consultants of Virginia**. Attendees obtained both first aid and CPR certification as required by both OSHA and MSHA. Special thanks to Lee White and **Draper Aden Associates** for allowing RAMCA to utilize their training room as the site for this important RAMCA program.

## SCC DAMAGE PREVENTION CONFERENCE FAST APPROACHING

SCC Damage  
Prevention  
Conference:  
April 16th -18th  
Hilton,  
Virginia Beach

If you excavate, one of the most important conferences you can attend each year is fast approaching. The Virginia Damage Prevention Conference 2013 hosted by the State Corporation Commission will take place April 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Hilton at Virginia Beach. The program features two-days of intensive sessions designed to bring you up to date on your legal responsibilities under Virginia's Underground Damage Prevention Act, as well as inform you on the latest trends, issues, and technologies. Not being at this event will cost you money, and RAMCA urges our excavating members to attend. (A program and registration information are attached [\[SCC\\_3, SCC\\_4, & SCC\\_5\]](#).)





## 2013 VIRGINIA AND FEDERAL LABOR LAW POSTER AND OSHA REPORT

Members are reminded that state and federal law requires the posting of state and federal labor law notices. Recent federal posting revisions include five new or revised notices. Fines can run as high as \$17,000 for non-compliance. If you haven't already posted the new notice and need help in finding a source to purchase one, do a quick online search or contact the RAMCA office. In addition, members are reminded that federal OSHA requires all employers to post the summary (OSHA Form 300 A) of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred the previous year. The report must be posted from February 1st to April 30th. In addition to the total numbers, employment information about your average number of employees and total hours worked is required in order to calculate the accident incidence rate. Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses during the previous year must still post the form with zeros in the Total line. All summaries must be certified by a company executive.

## ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDEES HEAR REPORTS, ELECT NEW BOARD

The Annual Meeting of RAMCA was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> at the Short Pump Hilton. Members heard reports from all of the association's standing committees, as well as comments from RAMCA President Johnny Glazebrook (**Branscome Richmond**) and the Executive Director. Planned activities for 2013 were reviewed and the financial status of the association was discussed. A copy of the newly-elected Board for 2013 is attached [[Board\\_6](#)] and also listed at the end of the newsletter.

Congratulations to the new RAMCA Board. Members are encouraged to contact any of these individuals or the RAMCA staff should you have an issue that you believe needs to be brought to the attention of the RAMCA Board of Directors.

## VDOT SIGNS MOU WITH OSHA

VDOT recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry outlining procedures for enforcing Virginia's Occupational Safety and Health Standards on VDOT work. The MOU outlines procedures that VDOT will take in the event of a situation of imminent danger as well as other occurrences that violate OSHA (VOSH) standards. The MOU is available on VDOT's web site at: [www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/const/iimc-1203.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/business/resources/const/iimc-1203.pdf)



## AREA CONSTRUCTION PERMIT VOLUME A MIXED BAG

Building permit records for 2012 in Richmond, Chesterfield County, Henrico County and Hanover County show the effects of more people staying put and the bigger dollars spent in the suburbs on a few large projects. Chesterfield saw a 51 percent year-over-year increase in construction dollars spent in the county, with an estimated \$392 million in construction costs, according to permit totals from 2012. That's compared with \$261 million in 2011. But Henrico County saw a precipitous decline in construction dollars spent last year, dropping 50 percent year-over-year, with an estimated \$101.4 million spent. The 2011 total in Henrico was \$202.6 million.



The big jump in dollars in Chesterfield is at least in part due to several massive commercial projects such as the expansion of the Sabra plant and construction of the Amazon distribution center. Accounting for the drop-off in Henrico is trickier, especially because the number of permits was up slightly from 2011.

Fewer homes were constructed in Chesterfield in 2012. The county issued 2,722 residential building permits in 2012 compared with 3,089 the previous year, but building costs listed in the permits were up about 7 percent year-over-year. Hanover County saw a 60 percent jump in construction dollars spent in 2012 over the previous year, with an estimated \$159 million spent in the county. Hanover got a big boost this from the construction of the Vitamin Shoppe distribution center. In Richmond, where the bulk of the big-dollar permits are tied to multi-family projects, 360 building permits were issued in 2012 for a total value of \$224 million.

## RAMCA MEMBER RE-APPOINTED TO SCC ADVISORY BOARD

RAMCA Vice President **Mr. Buddy Hummel** was recently appointed to a second term as an excavator representative on the Underground Damage Prevention Advisory Committee of the State Corporation Commission. The Committee meets monthly to review policy changes in the states damage prevention regulations as well as hear and decide cases from around the state dealing with underground utility damages. It consists of representatives from utility companies, locating companies, VDOT, the One Call Center, and three excavators. Mr. Hummel is highly qualified to represent excavators in this important position and we congratulate him on his re-appointment.

### Dates to Remember:

May 1st, 2013—Legislator's Night  
June 6th, 2013—Spring Golf—Federal Club



## OVERWEIGHT/OVERSIZE PERMITTING FEES AND OTHER CHANGES NOW IN EFFECT

House Bill 806 was enacted during the 2012 General Assembly Session and established a uniform and equitable system of permitting overweight and oversize vehicles, including a new schedule of fees. These changes became effective January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Highlights of some of the more significant enhancements and fee changes include:

- Allowing transfers of multi-trip permits, whether for an overweight or an oversize vehicle, provided that no more than two transfers are authorized in any 12-month period for each permit, and that the vehicle to which the permit is transferred is subject to all the limitations (on weight, size, route, etc.) set forth in the permit as originally issued. An administrative fee of \$10 will be charged for each transfer.
- Offering certain locality permits to be ordered via the Virginia Hauling Permit website.
- Combining oversize permits for vehicles with 9-, 12-, and 14-foot widths.
- Including multiple axle groupings on a multi-trip hauling permit.
- Allowing carriers to renew 5% overload permits or obtain an original 5% overload permit for a non-apportioned vehicle online at <https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/dmvnet/overloadPermits/intro.aspx>. Overload permits for IRP apportioned vehicles are currently available online through DMV's webCAT system.
- Reformatting VDOT's list of restricted structures issued to holders of overweight permits and publishing the list on the Internet.
- Offering additional options for Unladen Permits to allow for contingency planning and emergency issuance.

Some of the fee increases are:

Permit Type	Old Fee	New Fee
Annual overweight permit up to 115,000 lbs	\$140	\$500
Annual overweight permit greater than 115,000 lbs	\$140	\$560
Three-month permit (superload only)	\$110	\$220
Exempt Vehicles	\$0	≤ \$130
5% Overload permits	\$200	\$250
Single Trip Permit 115,000 lbs or less, non-superload	\$20 + \$0.10/mile	\$20 + \$0.30/mile
Single Trip Permit 115,000 lbs or less, superload	\$30 + \$0.10/mile	\$30 + \$0.30/mile
Single Trip Permit 115,001 lbs to 150,000 lbs	\$30 + \$0.10/mile	\$80 + \$0.30/mile
Single Trip Permit 150,001 lbs to 200,000 lbs	\$30 + \$0.10/mile	\$190 + \$0.30/mile
Single Trip Permit 200,001 lbs to 500,000 lbs.	\$30 + \$0.10/mile	\$280 + \$0.30/mile
Single Trip Permit 500,001 lbs or more	\$30 + \$0.10/mile	\$1450 + \$0.30/mile

For more information relating to these or other changes to the hauling permit program or to view the new fee structure, visit [www.dmvNOW.com/vahps](http://www.dmvNOW.com/vahps) then click on Permit Equity Study. Or, contact Wayne Davis at [wayne.davis@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:wayne.davis@dmv.virginia.gov) or (804) 497-7121.

# RAMCA MEMBERS

## Meeting Sponsors

RAMCA would like to thank its generous members for their support as meeting sponsors . We really appreciate your support.

November 2012 Annual Meeting:



March 2013 General Meeting:

- Eure Traffic Systems
- R.J. Smith Concrete Recycling
- American Infrastructure Paving



## Welcome New Members!

BB&T Insurance Services –  
Mr. Warren Frischi and Mr. Neil Biller



Insurance Services  
Global Resources — Client Focused

Brown and Brown Insurance –  
Mr. Bill Metcalfe and Mr. Eddie Gay



Eure Traffic Systems –  
Mr. Jason McGee and Mr. Asa Lowe

## Members in the News

Rish Equipment recently recognized the achievements of its top sales representatives. Among those was our own **John Rocca** and **Chip Bohlen**. Nice work, guys!

American Infrastructure has been named to *Chief Executive Magazine's* 2013 Top Companies for Leaders. The company was ranked second on the list of private companies who excel in leadership development. AI is also ranked number 25 on the country's Top 50 Heavy Civil Contractors by Engineering News Record. Kudos!

Vulcan Materials has been awarded the 2013 Safe-in-Sound Award for Excellence by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Vulcan was recognized for its implementation of a data-driven hearing loss prevention program. RAMCA congratulates Vulcan on being state-of-the-art when it comes to noise measurement and control.

## In Memoriam



RAMCA was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of former member Sam Ridgeway, long time principle with **RMC contractors** and a strong supporter of RAMCA for many years. A charitable contribution has been made by RAMCA in his memory. Rest in peace, Sam.

## RAMCA BOARD

### RAMCA Officers

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Branscome Richmond

**Vice President**

Buddy Hummel  
Henkels & McCoy

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Mason Ayers  
J.E. Liesfeld Contractor

**Immediate Past President**

Steve Rhyne  
Fortiline

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Mark I. Singer

**Office Manager**

Tina Pollard

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Sovereign Paving

Monty Gatewood  
Lee-Hy Paving

Richard E. Smith  
RJ Smith Construction

David Houser  
Blakemore Construction

**Associates**

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Fortiline

Billy Chenault  
Luck Stone Corporation

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Draper Aden Associates

Dave Moore  
Slurry Pavers, Inc.