NACE News
The Voice of County Road Officials
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June 2026 Edition

# NACE Executive Committee Update

Greetings from The Hawkeye State,

Before digging into the nitty gritty of national infrastructure news, I'm sure you find yourself overwhelmingly contemplating how the great state of Iowa acquired such a nickname. You may think that as Iowa has no professional athletic teams, it was almost certainly coined this moniker due to its superior historical record in all relevant collegiate athletic contests to another institution found in Ames, but as Coach Corso says…" not so fast my friend". The truth (or at least what 1keydata.com says) is that Iowa was coined this to honor Chief Black Hawk, a prominent figure of the Sauk tribe who resisted U.S. expansion in the early 19th century.

While I'm no historian, my historical curiosity has led me to interesting places. Recently at our annual NACE conference, a friend and colleague reminded me of a presentation I'd given several years ago after I had attended a tribal summit in central Iowa. The summit brought together representatives from many different tribes to collaborate with federal, state and local transportation agencies. The summit had a profound impact on the way that I view project development and associated environmental and historical impacts. And as we continue to navigate this crazy world of infrastructure funding, we must be mindful of the work we're doing and take pause to fully understand that our work forever impacts the landscape.

To that end, let's start with the big national headline: we still don't have a transportation reauthorization bill. The current bill, much like a county pickup at 350,000 miles, runs, but only because the crew has developed a personal relationship with it and they refuse to let it give up.

Satire aside, congress has taken concrete steps toward reauthorizing the federal surface transportation law ahead of the current expiration on September 30, 2026. The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (keep swinging Chairman Graves, you can't get a hit without swinging the bat) advanced the BUILD America 250 Act, a five-year, $580 billion reauthorization package. The package features $474 billion in Highway Trust Fund contract authority with an additional $106 billion via annual appropriations.

Highlights include the largest-ever investment in bridges (approximately $9.2 billion per year via the updated bridge formula, plus a $2 billion/year Bridge Completion Fund), expanded discretionary grant programs like the Surface Transportation Accelerator and Safe Streets & Roads for All, provisions to address autonomous commercial vehicle safety, and new electric-vehicle and plug-in hybrid registration fees to bolster Trust Fund revenues. With bipartisan support in committee, it now awaits a floor vote; meanwhile, the Senate is expected to introduce its own version soon.

Yes, another month has rolled by, and I hope you've enjoyed this latest update from the world of infrastructure as I see it where the concrete is rigid, the budgets are…flexible, and the excitement is always at least a steady 0.03 on the Richter scale. More sincerely, we have no idea where this bill is headed but one thing's for sure, it's rewarding to see a version of a bill that has distinct fingerprints of effort put forth by so many members of this great association. Even if this bill never gets signed into law, I'm more than confident that this NACE revolution will grow and continue to assert more influence than we've seen before. The plan is in place, the people are in place, now is our time to bring about the change we've all been waiting for.

I hope to see many of you in the coming months. Until then, stay safe, stay caffeinated, and remember in county engineering, every problem has a solution, some just take a few more meetings than others.

Respectfully,
Andrew J. McGuire, P.E.
County Engineer
Keokuk and Mahaska County, Iowa NACE South Central Region Vice President

# NACE Updates




Welcome to NACE Communities! Communities is a members-only addition to the NACE website designed to help you stay connected and engaged.
Within Communities, you can access committee pages, the national events calendar, a directory of NACE corporate members, NACEbook, NACE Forums, the active member directory, and information on upcoming events. We encourage you to explore the platform and set up your profile in the directory. Profiles are similar to LinkedIn—you can include as much or as little information as you prefer.
If you've volunteered for a committee, be sure to visit your committee page(s). You can also share photos from the Annual Conference or other events on NACEbook. Have a question you need answered by a peer? Post it in the NACE Forums.
If you have any questions or would like to have an event added to the calendar, please contact Dan Ketelsen at dketelsen@countyengineers.org.

**NACE Communities Login Instructions**




The Lunch & Learn Webinar Series is a peer-to-peer webinar series that will be hosted by NACE Committees and subject matter experts. Our inaugural webinar will be hosted by the NACE Emergency Response and Preparation Committee on July 15, 2026.

A program description and registration link are provided below in **NACE Events & Learning**.

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# Meet the Member

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**Name:** Patrick Ginnetti
**Title:** County Engineer, NACE Northeast Region, Vice President
**County:** Mahoning
**State:** Ohio

**College Alma Mater:**
Youngstown State University (Civil Engineering), Columbus State Community College (Land Surveying)

**How long have you been involved in NACE?**
14 years

**What do you enjoy most about NACE?**
The collaboration, the technical resources, and the ability to learn from peers who understand the realities of county infrastructure.

**What sparked your interest in civil engineering?**
My interest in civil engineering started early because I grew up around construction. Being on job sites, watching projects take shape, and seeing how much planning introduced to land surveying. The blend of precision, problem-solving, and fieldwork really clicked with me. I've always enjoyed math, and surveying gave me a front-row seat to the landscapes, structures, and systems that civil engineers help shape. Over

time, all of those experiences came together and made civil appreciation for both the built and natural environment.

**What drew you to public service versus the private sector?**
What drew me to public service, after working the first half of my career in the public sector, is the opportunity to make a direct and lasting impact on the community quality of life for the people who live and work in the county. That sense of purpose and the ability to see the real-world benefits of our decisions is what keeps me co

**What is the most rewarding project you've ever worked on, and why?**
It's hard to choose just one. Every project I've worked on in the county carries its own meaning because each one was truly needed. We don't build or repair anything each improvement directly addresses a problem, enhances safety, or supports residents in their daily lives is what makes the work so rewarding.

**What do you see as the biggest infrastructure challenge facing our county in the next 10 years?**
The biggest infrastructure challenge facing our county over the next decade will be balancing aging assets with limited funding.

**What is the best piece of advice you've ever received about managing a large-scale project?**
The best piece of advice I've ever received about managing a large-scale project is to stay proactive, be consistent and communicate early and often. Challenges are in expectations, keeping stakeholders informed, and addressing issues as soon as they surface helps keep the project on track and builds trust across the team. Breakin' forward smoothly.

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# NACE Events & Learning

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July 8, 2026 - 2pm EST

NACE Connect Presented by

## Breaking Down Silos: How Cities and Counties Are Connecting Project Delivery

Cities and counties face mounting pressure to deliver more infrastructure projects with fewer resources and tighter timelines. Join Jeff Dankenbring, Infrastructure Group Manager at NACE, and Deborah Snyder, Public Works Director for Sumter County, FL, for an insightful webinar on Breaking Down Silos: How Cities and Counties Are Connecting Project Delivery. Our expert speakers will cover:

Rising Infrastructure Demand and Risk
Aligning People, Roles, and Communication for Better Project Outcomes
Limited Resources Make Every Decision Critical
How an Integrated System Changes the Game

REGISTER HERE

(One Professional Development Hour)

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July 15, 2026 - 2pm EST

Lunch & Learn Presented by NACE Emergency Response & Preparation Committee

**NACE in Action: Empowering Counties Through Pre Disaster Contracts**

Traditional, post disaster, individual bidding by a local entity causes delays, high costs, and federal funding compliance risks. The Association of County Engineers of Alabama's leadership recognized the need for a pre-event, unified strategy. Please join us for a discussion of Alabama's framework for developing pre disaster Debris Removal and Debris Monitoring contracts that are available, by choice, to every county in Alabama. Our panel will provide their experience with the Alabama model and their thoughts on how similar partnerships could assist other states within the NACE family.

**REGISTER HERE**

(One Professional Development Hour)

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August 4, 2026 -2pm EST

NACE Connect Presented by




## How Counties Get It Done: A Step-by-Step Project Management Guide to Culvert & Bridge Replacements

Real examples of county engineers coordinating consultants, contractors, and county forces to deliver projects faster.



Many counties already self-perform culvert replacements – but when it comes to bridges, most still rely on traditional delivery methods. The difference isn't capability – it's **project management approach**. In fact, with the right system, a modular bridge can be **as straightforward – or even easier – to install than a culvert**.

In this practical, experience-based webinar, Steven Noble shares a **step-by-step guide** to managing bridge replacement projects using a hybrid delivery model – helping counties take greater control of schedule, cost, and construction.

Drawing on real projects from counties across the nation, **this session breaks down how county engineers successfully coordinated consulting engineers and contractors**, managed construction and installation sequencing, and effectively utilized county forces alongside specialized subcontractors. By aligning these efforts through strong project management, counties were able to deliver projects faster while minimizing road closures and reducing overall costs.

Attendees will gain actionable insights into **how counties are bridging the gap from culverts to bridges**, what decisions have the biggest impact on outcomes, and how to confidently manage projects that were traditionally outsourced.

Whether you're currently replacing culverts in-house, exploring your first bridge replacement, or have an experienced crew, this webinar provides a **clear, practical playbook** to deliver faster, more predictable, and more resilient infrastructure.

**Learn how counties like yours are expanding their capabilities – and getting it done.**

**REGISTER HERE**

(One Professional Development Hour)

# 2027 Annual Meeting
# Call for Presentations is now Live!

NACE invites county engineers, association partners, and Corporate Members to submit presentation proposals to the NACE Technical Program Committees for consideration for the 2027 Annual Conference in Cleveland, OH (April 5-8).

NACE technical sessions provide Professional Development Hours (PDH) for attendees so all proposals should provide educational content instead of a direct sales pitch. All submissions will be sent to the appropriate committee chair after the deadline which is noon EDT on AUGUST 12.
Preference is given to NACE members. Speakers will receive a $100 discount on conference registration. Speakers are responsible for their own travel and accommodations.

Alternatively, companies can be guaranteed a 1-hour slot by sponsoring one of the technical tracks or participating in the Innovation Breakfast on the last morning. Please contact Staci@countyengineers.org for more information.

The NACE 2027 Exhibitor and Sponsorship Prospectus will be available on September 9th.
Questions? For questions about specific tracks, please reach out to the NACE Committee Chairs.

Unpaved Roads- Brad Ketels- Brad.Ketels@linncountyiowa.gov

Structures & Environment- Alex Davis- adavis@co.buchanan.ia.us

Safety & Technology-Johannes Hoevertsz-
Johannes.Hoevertsz@sonomacounty.gov

Emergency Preparedness- Josh Harvill- josh.harvill@chamberscountyal.gov

Executive Management/Leadership- Andrew McGuire- amcguire@keokukcounty.iowa.gov

Pavement Preservation- TBD

Call for Presentations Submission Form

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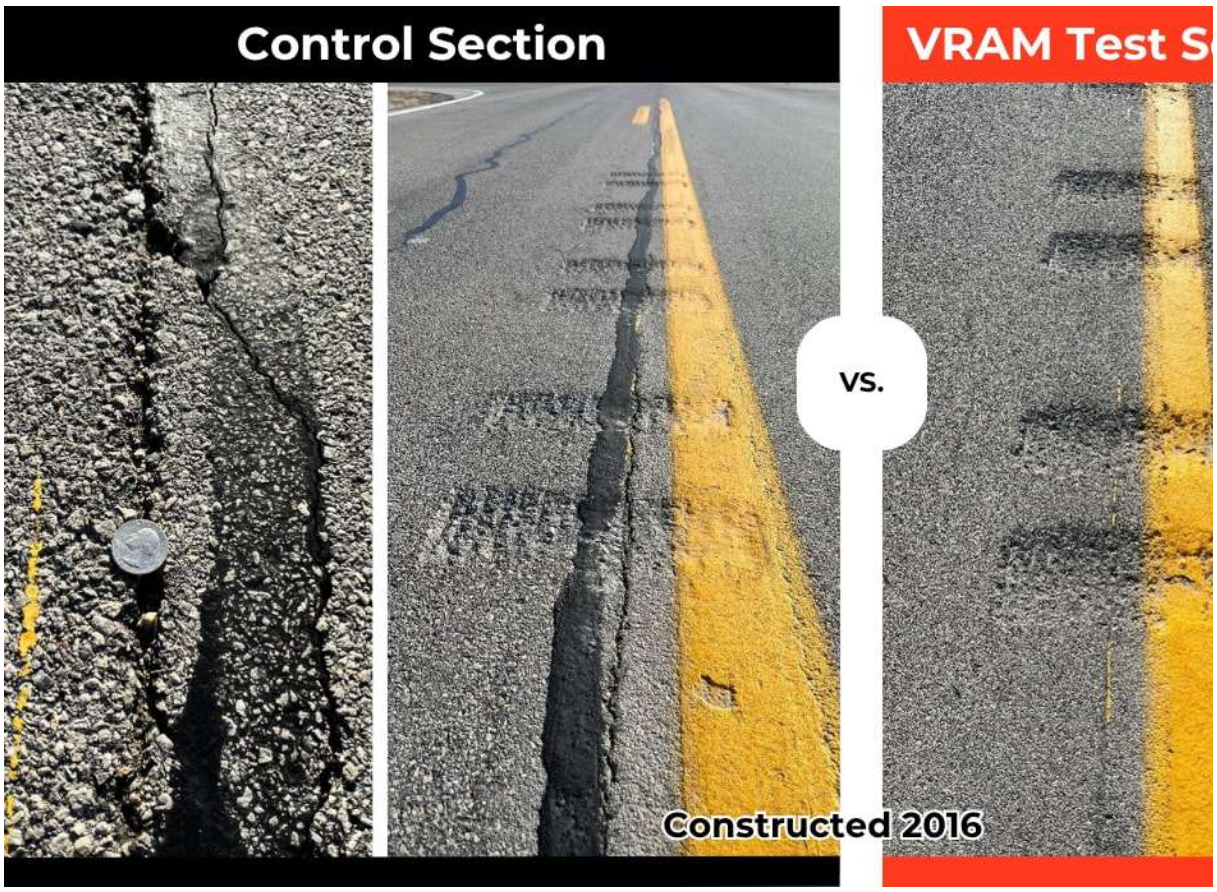


**Every Road Has a First Failure. Strengthen It Before It Starts.**

Every asphalt pavement has a starting point for failure. Many times, it's at the longitudinal joint. That's where air and water enter. That's where performance starts to decline. And once it starts, it spreads.

That's exactly the problem **J-Band®** was built to solve.

Developed by Asphalt Materials, Inc., J-Band is a Void Reducing Asphalt Membrane (VRAM) applied during construction to seal and strengthen the pavement joint from day one. It targets the location most prone to air and moisture intrusion, delaying deterioration before it has a chance to escalate.

**Preservation Built into Construction**

Agencies have long relied on proven maintenance strategies to extend pavement life; crack sealing, patching and surface treatments all play an important role in keeping roads performing safely and reliably.

But even the best maintenance plans are most effective when deterioration is delayed in the first place.

Early pavement preservation matters even more as agencies expand the use of rumble strips to improve roadway safety. Milled rumble strips and longitudinal joints create narrow zones where stress is more concentrated, and typically in areas that are already prone to early deterioration if left unprotected.

Reinforcing those areas with J-Band during construction helps preserve structural integrity and deliver safer roads, all while saving money by delaying maintenance.

**Why Engineers Choose J-Band VRAM:**

· Demonstrates a 3–5x return on investment
· Proven to extend service life by at least 3-5 years
· Applied hot, but stays where it's placed
· Non-tracking in under 30 minutes to keep operations on schedule

You won't see J-Band after the pavement is placed. But years later, you'll see the results in fewer cracks, reduced maintenance and longer service life.

That proven performance is reflected in updated specifications and why more DOTs are viewing VRAM technology as a best practice, not an upgrade.

Some roads are built different. When preservation is part of the design, roads last longer and budgets go further.

Learn more at thejointsolution.com and reach out to our team for specs, case studies and additional resources.

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[Trump Cancels Signing of Major Housing Bill]

['TIME'S A-TICKLING' ON HIGHWAY BILL, SENATORS ACKNOWLEGE]

[Senators brace for another government shutdown after spending talks stall]

[Stage set for House to take up major GOP veterans bill]

[Judge permanently blocks Trump EO requiring proof of citizenship to vote]

[Trump to ask Congress to make a 15% ethanol-gas blend permanent]

[Let's get America building again]

[DOT Navigator]

[DOT Competitive Grants Dashboard]

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# Career Opportunities

**Organization:** Marin County
**Title:** Assistant Director of Public Works - Regulatory & Environmental Programs
**Location:** San Rafael, California
**Salary Range:** $213,000 - $234,416 Annually
**Job Description:** Assistant Director of Public Works - NACE.docx

**Application Link:**
https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/marincounty/jobs/5343690/assistant-director-of-public-works-regulatory-environmental-programs

**View all Jobs**

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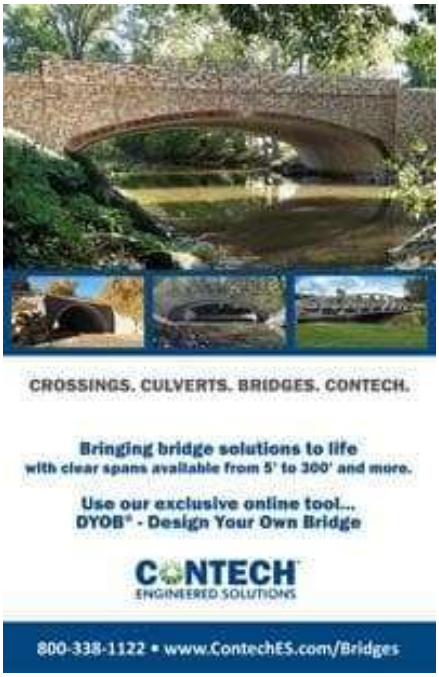


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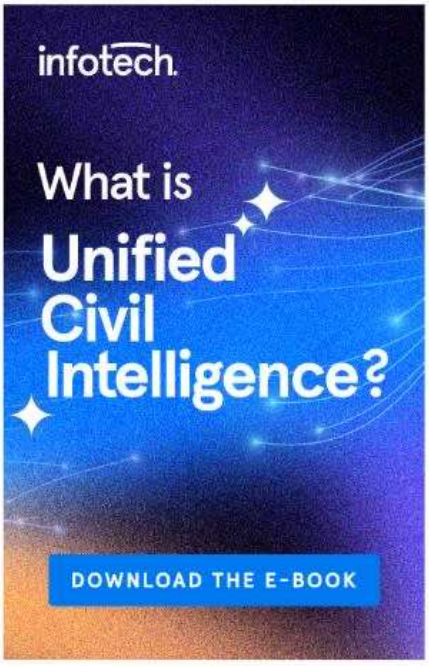
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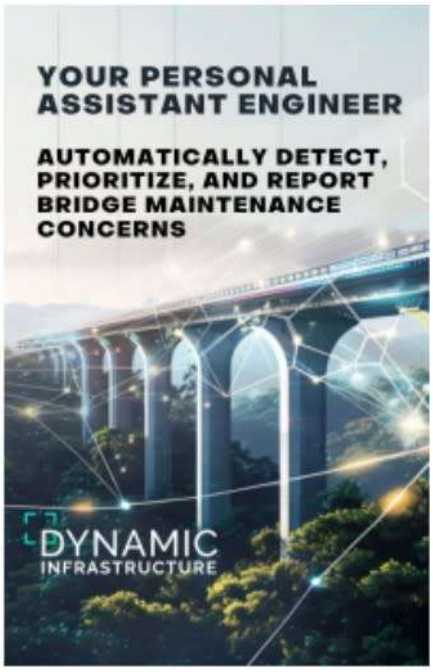
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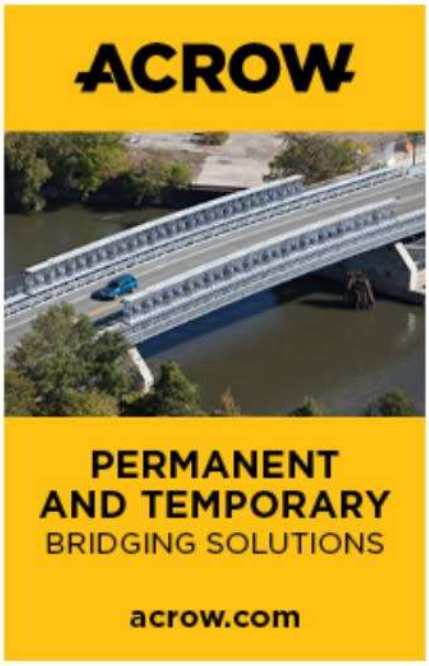
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