NACE News
The Voice of County Road Officials
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NACE Committee Update

Ricky Mitchell, PE
Deputy County Administrator, Mobile County, Alabama
NACE Green Book Committee Chair

Greetings from the Gulf Coast.

Well, it is October and some of you are seeing the changing color in the trees and there is a slight cooling in the air, but here in the south, everything is still green as well as hot and steamy. Although we have those differences, we all have one thing in common: it is college football season, and all the rivalries are kicking into gear. I wish all your teams well, unless they are playing against my alma mater, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, "Go Blazers"!

Over the past nearly 25 years, I've been a member of NACE, and I have had the opportunity to serve on numerous committees. Like many professionals, I initially joined NACE as a member who attended events and stayed involved from a distance. However, I quickly realized that the value of membership grows significantly once you actively participate, especially through committee involvement.

There is no substitute for connecting with peers who face the same realities you do such as budget constraints, right-of-way challenges, public expectations, safety requirements, and evolving engineering standards. Committee work creates a forum where county engineers can share lessons learned, discuss common challenges, and identify practical solutions. I can say without hesitation that I've gained much more from this involvement than I have been able to contribute, and I have never regretted a minute of the time and effort invested.

I was honored to serve as Chair of the Safety and Technology Committee for several years. Working with committee members was a rewarding experience, and it reinforced how much passion they bring to safety and innovation.

My greatest privilege has been serving as NACE's representative on the AASHTO Technical Committee on Geometric Design for the past 11 years. I was also fortunate to have a supportive supervisor who had previously served as the NACE representative, and he brought me to committee meetings for multiple years before his resignation.

This committee, often referred to as the Green Book Committee, plays a key role in developing major AASHTO publications, including *A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets* (the Green Book), *Guidelines for Geometric Design of Low-Volume Roads*, and *A Policy on Design Standards - Interstate System*. The committee also supports the Transportation Research Board through the development of Research Needs Statements.

My role on the committee includes representing all counties as we work through the development of the next editions. I have 33 years of experience in both small and large counties, so I understand firsthand how needs and constraints can differ by size and service expectations.

We are currently developing the 8th Edition of the Green Book, which will be structured differently than prior editions. Historically, the manual was organized primarily by road classifications such as local roads and streets, collectors, and arterials. However, experience has shown that the same classification can require very different design choices depending on whether the road is rural or urban. The new edition will be organized by road context as the primary framework, with classification as a secondary factor. The key contexts include Rural and Natural, Rural Towns, Suburban, Urban, and Urban Core. There is also a special context category for locations where conditions can vary significantly, such as college campuses and industrial access roads.

While the Green Book has long allowed flexibility, this new edition places an even stronger emphasis on design flexibility and designing for the road's context. In practice, that means you may not need to automatically widen a roadway or flatten a curve solely to align with a table in the Green Book if it can be demonstrated that there are no safety issues in that area. In short, the approach supports the "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" mindset and helps agencies focus improvements and funds where they are truly needed. Additionally, the Green Book has been mainly vehicle centric. However, the new edition of the Green Book also places great emphasis on ensuring the designer takes all modes of transportation into consideration during their design process.

There is no confirmed publication date at this time, but the committee is working toward publication between 2028 and 2030.

To close, I encourage every county engineer and public works professional to get involved through committee participation, questions, and active engagement. If you ever feel like you may not have enough to add, or that others are more qualified, please remember: your perspective is essential, and your knowledge can only help the profession if you speak up. Your voice matters, your experience matters, and the profession benefits when you share what you've learned.

NACE Updates

NACE Fall Board Meeting





The NACE Fall Board meeting took place in Omaha, October 12 -14, in conjunction with the Short Span Steel Bridge Alliance fall meeting. The board meeting was followed by Gallup Clifton Strengths training.

2027 NACE Membership Dues

2027 Dues (Based on county population and triennial 3% COLA)

Less than 50,000	$495	1 Vote
50,000 - 149,000	$995	2 Votes
150,000 - 249,000	$1495	3 Votes
250,000 - 499,999	$1995	4 Votes
500,000 or more	$2495	5 Votes

Dues renewals will be emailed out in November.

NACE Annual Meeting

Cleveland, Here We Come! NACE 2027 Registration Opens November 9!
Get ready! We're heading to **Cleveland, Ohio, April 5–8, 2027**, for the **NACE Annual Conference & Trade Show**, and we couldn't be more excited!
Why Attend NACE 2027?

- Learn from Industry Experts – Gain practical insights into the latest trends, technologies, and best practices in county road and bridge infrastructure.
- Connect with Your Peers – Network with county engineers and public works professionals from across the country who understand your challenges.
- Discover Innovative Solutions – Explore new equipment, products, services, and technologies in the NACE Exhibit Hall.
- Bring Home New Ideas – Walk away with actionable strategies to improve infrastructure, streamline operations, and maximize county resources.
- Explore Real-World Solutions – Participate in technical sessions and discussions focused on the issues facing county infrastructure professionals.

NACE Technical Committees along with the County Engineers Association of Ohio have planned a great program and an unforgettable evening at the iconic Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Mark your calendar, start making your plans, and get ready to join your NACE colleagues in Cleveland.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PRICING

2027 RATES

Choose the registration option that works best for you.

REGISTRATION FEE TIERS

	EARLY-BIRD RATE THRU 2/5	REGULAR RATE 2/5-3/5	LAST CHANCE 3/6-4/8
DELEGATE ALL ACCESS REGISTRATION (INCLUDES BANQUET)	$945	$995	$1,095
DELEGATE STANDARD REGISTRATION (NO BANQUET)	$845	$895	$895
SPEAKER REGISTRATION	$745	$745	$745
GUEST REGISTRATION	$350	$350	$350

DISCOUNTS

NACE County Member	-$100.00
New County Member Discount	-$245.00
Life Member Discount	-$300.00
NACE Former Leader- Ret...	-$600.00
NACE Former Leader - Active	-$350.00

Registration officially opens Monday, November 9! All NACE Members will receive an email with an invitation to register from NACE.
NACE Corporate Members will also be able to sign up to exhibit and sponsor on November 9th. Click here for the official Exhibitor and Sponsorship Prospectus.

A Message from NACE Executive DIrector

Dear NACE Members,

I wanted to reach out to encourage you to attend an upcoming webinar hosted by our partners at the National Association of Counties (NACo): **The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act: What Counties Need to Know about Federal Permitting Reform**.

This webinar is a timely opportunity for county infrastructure leaders to learn more about recent federal permitting reforms and what it could mean for counties. Join NACo staff to learn more about how this bill would modernize the federal permitting process, reduce unnecessary delays, accelerate project delivery and ensure local expertise is incorporated into federal decision-making.

Date: Monday, November 2, 2026
Time: 3 p.m. – 4 p.m. EST
Registration Link: https://member.naco.org/web-registration/?id=4bbba0c8-2ecf-f111-a05c-70a8a59c1601

Learn more and register for the webinar

Additionally, you can gain inciteful information regarding this legislation at NACo's Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026: Permitting Reform County Advocacy Hub.

I encourage all of you to attend this free webinar.



November 4, 2026 - 2pm EST
Webinar hosted by;

CAM CORRECTIVE ASPHALT MATERIALS
Solutions for Long-Term Pavement Performance

Preservation of Asphalt: Solutions for Long-Term Pavement Performance

Roads cost more. Maintenance budgets don't keep pace. And a worst-first strategy quietly guarantees you'll fall further behind every year.

This 45-minute session shows county engineers an alternative path: pavement preservation through Maltene Replacement Technology. You'll learn why asphalt deteriorates the moment resurfacing ends, how rejuvenators differ chemically — and why that difference matters — and what independent data, including a three-year Minnesota DOT evaluation, reveals real-world performance.

You'll leave with hard numbers you can take to your board: 6.45 years of documented service-life extension, $18,574 average net benefit per lane-mile, and a 203% ROI. Stop managing the decline. Start deferring capital. Bring your toughest pavement questions.

Attendees will receive one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for participating in this webinar.

REGISTER HERE



Santa Cruz County Emergency Road Damage Assessment (ERDA):

A Data-Driven Approach to Disaster Recovery and Resilient Transportation Networks

When disasters strike, county engineers and public works professionals must make critical decisions quickly. Join us for an informative webinar showcasing Santa Cruz County's innovative **Emergency Road Damage Assessment (ERDA) Tool**, a transparent, GIS-enabled system designed to evaluate and prioritize road repairs following wildfires, severe storms, and other natural disasters.

Developed through collaboration between Public Works and county leadership, the ERDA Tool combines field assessments with climate adaptation and vulnerability data to create an objective, data-driven framework for prioritizing emergency repairs. By integrating factors such as traffic volume, detour impacts, critical facility access, lane loss, and infrastructure damage, the tool helps agencies allocate resources more effectively while improving transparency and public trust.

During this webinar, attendees will learn:

- How Santa Cruz County developed and implemented the ERDA Tool.
- How GIS technology and climate vulnerability data are integrated into emergency response planning.
- The scoring methodology used to assess and prioritize damaged roadways.
- How the tool supports equitable decision-making and faster recovery efforts.
- Lessons learned and opportunities for replicating the ERDA framework in other counties and jurisdictions.

Who Should Attend?

County Engineers, Public Works Directors, Transportation Officials, Emergency Management Professionals, GIS Specialists, Infrastructure Planners, and local government leaders responsible for disaster response and transportation resilience.

Why Attend?

Discover how a practical, data-driven approach can improve post-disaster decision-making, strengthen transportation resilience, and help communities recover faster while ensuring limited resources are directed where they are needed most.

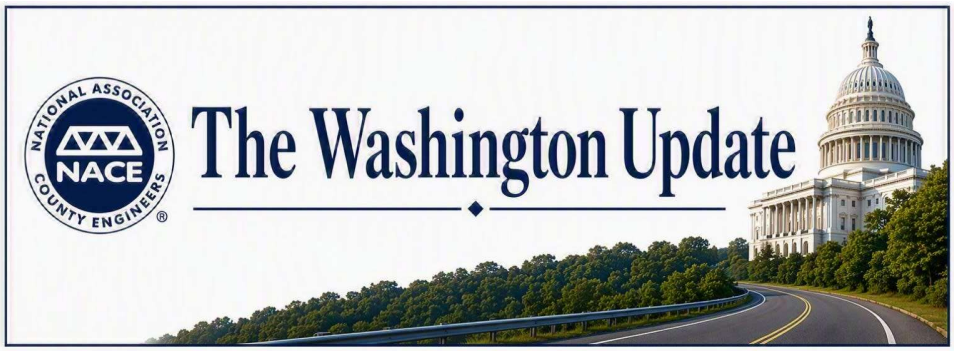
Attendees will receive one (1) Professional Development Hour (PDH) for participating in this webinar.

Register Here

NACE Job Board

Organization: City of Port Angeles
Title: Project Manager
Location: City of Port Angeles, WA
Salary Range: $98,715 - $140,720
Deadline to apply: November 9, 2026

View All Jobs



The race for Congress: 2026 midterms

Trump kills methane rule days after a plume was found near his rally

Trump, Congress set to clash over Hegseth, Iran war, Ukraine after election

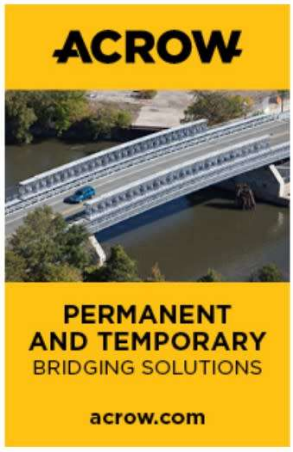
US reportedly warns Gulf nations to prepare for possible Iran offensive

'This is America!' Mike Waltz says as he and Cuban delegation get into shouting match at UN

How much income Americans need to retire comfortably in every state

U.S. Senators introduce bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program through 2029

DOT Navigator



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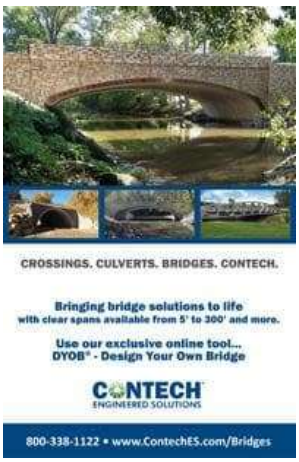
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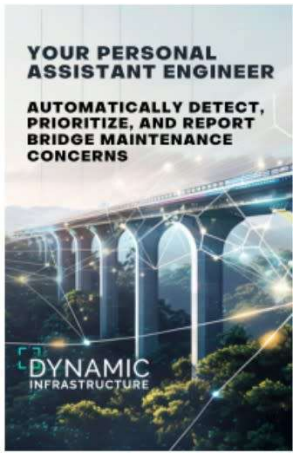
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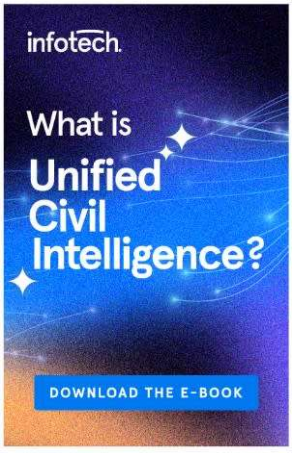
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