

**APRIL 2003**

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2002 / 2003**

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**American Society  
Of Civil Engineers**

# North Jersey Branch Newsletter

## 2003 CONSTRUCTION TECHNICAL GROUP FIELD TRIP



### “On the Inside – Quarries”

Would you like to know more about quarries and also get a good overview of the industry and an understanding of the technical side of the business? The North Jersey Branch Construction Technical Group has just the right field trip for you. Come join us on one of our semi-annual field trips to learn “everything you ever wanted to know about the quarry business but were afraid to ask”.

On our itinerary will be a discussion on best asphalt plant practices with a focus on placement of asphalt that will give the attendee a good overview of the business – the geology, costs, calculations, explanation of terms, every thing from rocks to Superpave.

An introduction to the plant practice will be conducted, and a continental breakfast will be served prior to the tour. Tour space is limited, so mark your calendars today, and plan to attend. Attendees will be required to wear safety vests and hard hats, as the sites are teeming with construction activity.

### RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

**DATE:** SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2003  
**TIME:** 8:30 AM SHARP  
**PLACE:** Tilcon - Mount Hope Facility  
625 Mount Hope Ave.  
Wharton, NJ  
**COST:** \$5

**FOR MORE INFO & TO RSVP, CALL A. J. NAYEE @ (973) 491- 8984 OR  
E-MAIL AT anayee@njtransit.com**

*For more info, check out this link: <http://www.tilconnj.com/pages/home.html>*

**PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS**

To follow up on my January address on the TEA-21 reauthorization, here's the latest update of what happened on the "Hill" in March.

Early in March, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee leaders announced their plan to reauthorize the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century at \$375 billion, as recommended by USDOT, ASCE, and other transportation experts. (In 1998, TEA-21 was originally authorized at \$218 B).

The first step in the re-authorization at this amount, is the amendment to the FY2004 budget resolution to increase federal spending for highway and transit programs. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Senate passed the amendment that provides for \$310 billion in funding over the next six years - \$255B for highways and \$55B for transit. I'm happy to report that the senators (D) in my Essex County district both voted FOR the amendment. (To find out how your reps voted, login at <http://www.asce.org/advocacy.html>)

The Senate's endorsement of the \$310 billion spending level still has to contend with Bush Administration proposal of \$247 billion, endorsed by the House. Differences between the two bills should be resolved before April 15, but at least both parties agreed with the \$375 billion TEA-21 funding.

This is good news throughout the country, as state DOT's and transit agencies finalize their FY2004+ capital plans and budgets. To find out what happens in the next few months, you can go to <http://www.asce.org/govrel/tea3/>.

Join us on April 24<sup>th</sup>, for the TTG's 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium. This year's topic is "Smart Growth in Transportation" and the speaker line-up promises an information packed day.



**Mark Your Calendars !**

**North Jersey Branch's  
2003 Annual Awards Dinner  
Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>  
Radisson Hotel in Fairfield, NJ**

**Watch for the flyer announcing this  
year's winners, and join us for our last  
event of the season!**

**NORTH JERSEY TECHNICAL GROUPS**

Join Us! Become a part of one of these groups and get involved with others in your field of interest. Whether you just want to help out, or if you have ideas & speaker contacts, we are always interested in new members and future leaders.

For more information, contact Ali Vaezi, Chair of the Technical Committees, at [avaezi@dewberry-goodkind.com](mailto:avaezi@dewberry-goodkind.com) OR those listed below:

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**SMART GROWTH FOR TRANSPORTATION**

April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 from 10AM until 4PM  
The Newark Club, Newark, New Jersey

**SEMINAR OVERVIEW**

Invigorated by NJ Governor McGreevey's very public anti-sprawl stance, a renewed sense of determination pervades the transportation industry to promote and encourage Smart Growth initiatives. It can be said, however, that the fundamental ideas of Smart Growth are not purely focused on reducing sprawl or responding to increasing congestion on highways and local streets, nor are they focused solely on environmental protection and conservation. A significant underlying idea behind Smart Growth is responding to the evolution taking place in American culture towards a new sense of appreciation for "dense, walkable residential environments." The Congress for New Urbanism cites changes in American tastes, a growth of a "café culture", and an aging population as some of the demographic trends that are driving the housing demand away from car dependent communities. Redevelopment of brownsfields, fostering "Transit Villages", and investing in cultural and economic diversity in existing urban settings, are some of the practical and indisputable tools being used today by public officials with an eye towards Smart Growth. Engineers, Architects and Planners who must respond to the changing transportation needs of the Garden State as a result of this new wave of thinking, are invited to participate in this forward thinking and informative seminar.

Our invited Agency Speakers will reveal the complexities involved in planning, setting policies, and achieving public support for Smart Growth initiatives. Our invited Consultant speakers will discuss specific engineering challenges and solutions typical of these types of projects. In addition, we have invited a town Mayor to discuss benefits and challenges of being designated as a "Transit Village" at the community level. Our invited speakers are:

- ✧ **Joanne Dunn Samson – Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**
- ✧ **Brent Barnes, Director – Division of Systems Planning and Research, New Jersey Dept. of Transportation**
- ✧ **Herman Volk, Director – Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth**
- ✧ **Jack Kanarek, Senior Director – Project Development Planning, New Jersey TRANSIT**
- ✧ **Peter Smoluchowski, URS Corporation – Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link (NERL) Project for New Jersey TRANSIT**
- ✧ **Brian J. McMahon, Edwards and Kelcey, Engineers – "Transit Village"**

**DATE:** Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
**TIME:** Registration 10:00 AM; Presentations begin at 10:30 AM; Lunch @1:00 PM.  
**LOCATION:** [The Newark Club](#), One Newark Center, Newark, NJ (973) 242-0658  
**COST:** \$75.00

For reservations or more information, please contact Jenny Nair @ (646) 252-4745 or [rainair@nyct.com](mailto:rainair@nyct.com)

**DETACH AND MAIL WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$75 PAYABLE TO: ASCE NORTH JERSEY BRANCH**

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**Please forward registration and payment by 04/17/02 to:**

**Jenny Nair**  
C/O NYCT - Number 7  
Extension Project  
2 Broadway, 5th Floor,  
Cube B.5.124  
New York, NY 10004

Check here if a Professional Development Hours (PDH) Certificate will be required.

## WTS/ASCE STUDENT CAREER WORKSHOP A BIG SUCCESS!



**Branch Board Members with the WTS/ASCE Student Career Workshop participants at Cooper Union in New York City**

About twenty students and transportation professionals braved a torrential downpour to make the WTS/ASCE Student Career Workshop a big success at Cooper Union on Saturday, February 22nd. The annual daylong workshop covered important job-hunting skills, how a career is made, and opportunities in transportation industries. Students who reserved came from schools all over the region: Barnard, City College of NY, College of Aeronautics, Cooper Union, Hunter, Manhattan, NJIT, Rutgers and Stevens Tech!

The group -- wet but enthusiastic! -- was welcomed by **Carl Selinger**, Chair of WTS GNY's Student Affairs Committee (SAC), on behalf of co-sponsors, WTS and ASCE North Jersey Branch. The workshop program was outlined by **Catherine Cronin** of Booz Allen Hamilton, with assistance from fellow WTS members **Karen Cournes** and **Stephanie Cassin**.

Our own North Jersey Branch Director **Michael Murno** spoke about highway design in the context of a civil engineering career offering many paths. Choosing your career path may involve a rotational program that gives you a taste of many civil disciplines. For example, you may start with storm water management, move to construction inspection and management, try a little environmental assessment and analyses, and dabble in a bit of highway design and structural engineering. Whichever you finally choose as your career path, whether it be as a specialist or a multidisciplinary project manager, be the best that you can be. For Mike that choice was highway planning and design, and he has been continually rewarded with opportunity and challenge. Mike illustrated his points in reviewing a highway bridge project in New York City.

Mike offered further excellent advice to the students: Don't be afraid of challenges, for wherever you work, they abound. In the highway discipline, as with all disciplines, communication is extremely important. You must be able to express your ideas so that the non-technical person completely understands your intent. And when it comes to building your design, the way you communicate your intent on a set of plans will direct the contractor to actually build what you conceived. Issues that arise may involve politics, public hearings, agency policies and bureaucracy. Seize

the opportunity to address these and other issues, plan your strategies with your colleagues and with a bit of luck your ideas will become reality. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing your idea, your design, actually built.

Students' reactions to the workshop -- An account of the Career Workshop wouldn't be complete without some feedback. Here are some reactions from the students who attended:

**Josh Seelig** of CCNY told us, "I was really impressed by the enthusiasm that everyone brought to the seminar. And, if nothing else, I was simply impressed by the number of you guys that showed up for us -- that alone spoke volumes! Everything was extremely helpful and thought provoking, especially as I am just trying to see what's out there as I attempt to shift careers away from architecture to engineering. Beforehand I was afraid that the seminar might be too specialized for me; however, it really was exactly what I needed right now to give me a great overview."

**Brooke Johnson** of Stevens Tech said, "It was definitely my pleasure to have attended the workshop (and one can never have too much practice at interviewing!). I liked the fact that it was an informal event, where students could freely ask questions and get honest, straightforward answers. The day was full of great tips and worthwhile information not only about careers in transportation, but lessons in life. I especially enjoyed the 'soft skills' techniques and information. Next time I interview with someone, I'll be sure to 'keep it short' and keep my calm (and ask for a business card!)"

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NORTH JERSEY SECTION - YOUNGER MEMBER GROUP

**Springtime Outreach Activity!  
- Habitat for Humanity -**

**Come Donate Your Talents  
to build a home for a deserving family.**



**Paterson Habitat  
for Humanity**

When: Saturday, May 31, 2003

Where: Paterson, NJ

Time: 7:45 AM to 4:00 PM



**SPACE IS LIMITED!  
CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.**



To Register, Please Contact:

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Phone: 973.338.6680  
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Teresa Peterson  
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**Upcoming Events:**

**April 11<sup>th</sup> – YMG Bowling Social**  
 Location: Wallington Lanes in Wallington, NJ. Time: 5:30 – 7:00 PM. For info, please contact [Rebecca.Jansson@EarthTech.com](mailto:Rebecca.Jansson@EarthTech.com)

**REVISED: April 16<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> – CTG 10-Hour OSHA Training**  
 Location: NJ Institute of Technology. Contact Luigi Zecchin @ (201)-797-7400 or [lzecchin@pimie.com](mailto:lzecchin@pimie.com) to make reservations.

**April 24<sup>th</sup> – TTG Full Day Seminar**  
 Topic: Smart Growth in Transportation  
 Location: The Newark Club. See Page 3.

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – CTG Semi-Annual Field Trip**  
 Topic: On the Inside – Quarries  
 See inside for more info.

**May 16<sup>th</sup> – Branch Awards Dinner**  
 Location: Radisson Hotel in Fairfield, NJ  
 Watch for flyer !

