

# Partners in Quality

A Publication of the Maryland Quality Initiative Steering Committee (MdQI)

Fall/Winter 2009

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## MdQI 2010 Conference

### *Envisioning our Future: Funding, Environment and Innovation*

The 2010 Maryland Quality Initiative (MdQI) Conference will be held on January 27 and 28, 2010 in the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel located at 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. It is a two day conference attended by local, state and federal agencies, as well as the consultant engineering community, highway contractors and suppliers.

### **The Theme...Envisioning our Future: Funding, Environment, and Innovation**

To envision something is to picture it. In this case, picture how transportation will be different in 30 years? To envision is also to realize we are not there yet.

We've all experienced the frustration of traffic congestion. Just imagine what it might be like in thirty years or so when our population has doubled. The need to innovate is a constant necessity and most of the solutions to our desire for expansion and improvement of our transportation system depend on it.

The MdQI encourages designers and contractors to envision our future by taking the extra steps to ensure highways projects throughout the state are designed and built to ensure safety, efficiency, reduce congestion and protect the environment.

### **Funding:**

*"Funding: Lots of uncertainties with the expiration of SAFETEA-LU. The bill that provides the funding for highways and transit expired September 30, 2009. A six-year \$500 billion dollar bill that provides a considerable increase in highway funding has been drafted by the House. The last reautho-*

*ization was 22 months late and this kind of a delay creates significant uncertainties in developing a highway program. The real challenge is identifying funding sources to address present and future highway and transit needs" - Dr. Richard Woo, Director of the Office of Policy and Research*

Across the nation, states are battling budget deficits for fiscal year 2010. States have not been able to spend money on transportation as they had in the past. The State of Maryland, along with the other states, is looking to the federal government to bear a significant portion of the cost to rebuild Maryland's roads and bridges. Designers, engineers and the transportation community need to look for new and creative ideas for solving funding issues.

**Environment:** State Highway Administration Environmental Stewardship's is a mission we must all undertake to incorporate environmental design, compliance and stewardship as a fundamental and integral component of highway planning, design, construction and maintenance, ensuring that all public facilities and operations achieve and maintain environmental compliance with State, Federal and Local environmental permits, laws, regulations, and Best Management Practices. Attend the workshop on "Green Specs for Recycled Materials and Sustainable and Green Initiatives" on Day Two for more details.

The Engineering Consultants are responsible for making sure project designs conform not only to environmental regulations but incorporate the ethic of environment stewardships and sustainability, while integrating the projects into the surrounding communities,

*(Continued on Page 4)*

# Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the 2009 Fall/Winter issue of Partners in Quality! It is with a great deal of pleasure and anticipation that I look forward to the upcoming 2010 MdQI Conference; not only because it is the capstone event commemorating a year of achievements by our industry partners, but also because I know that the MdQI Steering and Sub-Committees are working diligently to make the 17th Annual Conference and Awards of Excellence one of the best yet.

The current times give us opportunities to focus on our core strengths and mission while refining efficiencies of operation and management. A core strength of the Maryland Highway Transportation Industry is the bond of relationships across agencies and firms. These relationships allow us to leverage the strengths of individual firms and agencies into effective partnerships with common goals. One of the benefits of MdQI is the building and strengthening of those relationships. I am pleased to note that the State Highway Administration and Maryland Transportation Authority have reaffirmed and strengthened our commitment to the MdQI process this year.

Therefore it is fitting that the theme for this year's conference is "Envisioning the Future- Funding, Environment and Innovation". It will focus on envisioning what our industry's future will look like in terms of funding, environmental changes and the managerial/ leadership challenges we are all experiencing. The two day event will be held at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel on January 27th and 28th 2010. It will feature some informative technical workshops and panel discussions, along with exciting keynote speakers and exhibits with demonstrations, contests and displays. You will find a table matrix of the workshops offered in this newsletter. They are designed to inform and educate the conference attendees on a broad spectrum of relevant transportation topics while also addressing their concerns and questions.

The workshops and keynote addresses centered around the theme will make up most of the agenda on Day 1 and 2, and the conference will wrap up with the always well received Awards of Excellence banquet to recognize commendable feats in our industry. A host of information about the conference and other initiatives we are undertaking can be found on the MdQI website: <http://www.mdqi.org>. I encourage you to check this website periodically in the days leading up to the conference.

On a lighter note, this year's conference will also see the return of the pinewood derby track race and feature interesting vendor themes and competitions. A motivational and entertaining speaker is also lined up for lunch on Day 2.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation of the commitment and partnership shown by all the industry stakeholders and sponsors. Your dedication to helping the transportation sector in Maryland stay robust in these tough economic times is nothing short of remarkable and I am confident that we will continue forging ahead as a nationwide leader in safety, quality, innovation and environmental stewardship while keeping the spirit of MdQI alive.



*Greg Welker*

MdQI Co-Chairman, SHA Deputy Administrator/Chief Engineer for Operations

# Industry News & Upcoming Events

## UPCOMING MDQI EVENTS

The 2010 MdQI Conference is fast approaching. Be sure to mark your calendar for our 17th Annual Conference to be held on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel.

## UPCOMING ACEC/MD EVENTS

December 1<sup>st</sup> at the Engineers Club will feature a kick-off for the upcoming General Assembly session with a preview, by respected political commentator Blair Lee, of what promises to be a very challenging Legislative Session. At that time, ACEC/MD will also roll out the organization's Business Agenda for the upcoming year.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> ACEC/MD's member firm representatives and guests are invited to the Baltimore Museum of Industry for a celebration of the holidays.

The ACEC/MD Fellows Committee will host the organization's General Membership Meeting December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Engineers Club. University of Baltimore Economist Richard Clinch will look into his crystal ball and discuss the impending economic recovery.

## SAVE THE DATE

The 10th Annual Concrete Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2010 and will be held at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore (located in Timonium, MD).

Each year, the Planning Committee consisting of representatives from SHA, FHWA, American Concrete Pavement Association and Maryland Ready Mix Concrete Association (MRMCA) solicits the transportation industry for topics and speakers, and develops an agenda and format for a conference that consistently draws nearly 300 attendees. The focus of the conference is to provide useful information and real experiences regarding concrete pavements and structures within the Maryland Transportation Industry.

Registration materials can be found on the web at [www.MarylandConcrete.com](http://www.MarylandConcrete.com) or contact the MRMCA office at 301-694-4899 for more information.

For updates on conferences and other events taking place throughout the year, log on to our website at [www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org).

# JE nvisioning our Future: Funding, Environment and Innovation

## 2010 MdQI Conference - January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

The 2010 MdQI conference is scheduled for January 27-28, 2010 with the Annual MdQI Awards of Excellence presentation and banquet on the last day of the conference. Each year, breakout topics of interest to the Maryland highway industry are identified by the MdQI Steering Committee and discussed at the conference. Each breakout topic is presented by a panel comprised of public/private professional considered experts in the topic area. The presentations on breakout topics are followed by team discussions and brainstorming sessions. Conference attendees participate in the breakout topics of their choice. Vendor exhibits will be on display during conference breaks. More information, as well as conference registration, is available on our website at [www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org).

**Full Registration**  
 \$295 Early Bird (by January 7, 2010)  
 \$320 by January 21, 2010

**Awards Banquet Only (Day Two - January 28th)**  
 \$85 Early Bird (by January 7, 2010)  
 \$100 by January 21, 2010

**Registration Deadline: Jan. 21, 2010**

**Hotel Accommodations**  
 Available at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel for a discounted MdQI Conference rate of \$123.00 per night plus taxes. **For Reservations:** (866) 837-5182 or register on-line at [www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org). Room reservations at this discounted rate must be made by January 8, 2010.

**Conference Registration and Vendor Information**  
 Please contact Shelly Baquol at 410-760-6769.  
 SHA Employees please contact Barbara Smith at 410-545-0360.

### Day 1 - Technical Sessions (January 27, 2010)

10:00 a.m.	<b>Vendor Exhibits Open</b>	<b>Registration Starts</b>				
11:30 a.m.		<b>Welcome, Overview of Technical Sessions and Keynote Speaker</b>				
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.		<b>Carroll Room</b>	<b>International E</b>	<b>Pratt Room</b>	<b>Poe Room</b>	<b>Mencken Room</b>
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.		Change Orders	Improving your MBE Design Practice	MDE Permits - From Design to Field	Design Project Management	Fraud Detection
		A Marriage Between the Contractor and Engineer - The Design/Build Team	MBE Participation - Construction Projects	Surviving the SWM Act of 2007	Accommodating ADA in Transportation - Construction	I-95 ETL Status & Lessons Learned

### Day 2 - Technical Sessions (January 28, 2010)

7:30 a.m.	<b>Vendor Exhibits Open</b>	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast</b>				
8:30 a.m.		<b>General Session</b>				
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 noon		<b>Carroll Room</b>	<b>International E</b>	<b>Pratt Room</b>	<b>Poe Room</b>	<b>Mencken Room</b>
12 noon		ICC Contract A Opens Fall 2010 - Status Update and Lessons Learned	"Greening" of the Standard Specifications for Construction Materials - "Updates, Changes & Strategies"	Automated Speed Enforcement in Work Zones (It's NOT about the money...really!!)	Building our Employee Farm System - School Outreach Success & Your Involvement	Electronic Bidding
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.		<b>Special Presentations and Lunch</b>				
3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.		ICC Design Coordination Lessons Learned	Context Sensitive Solutions - The Pillar of Sustainable Highways	Highway Construction Staging (Paper Plans meet Reality - Things Designers Should Know)	Utility Football - Game Plan, Handoff and Touchdown	Roadway Safety Audits (Teamwork at it's best!)
5:00 p.m.		ICC Construction Quality Control Lessons Learned	Building a Better Life-Concrete Steps to Success	Work Zone Construction Inspection (We're the Government and we are here to help!)	Intelligent Transportation Systems 511/Intellidrive	Deck Replacement and Rehabilitation of the Thomas J. Hatem Memorial Bridge
5:00 p.m.		<b>Reception</b>				
6:00 p.m.		<b>Banquet &amp; Awards of Excellence</b>				

**REGISTER ON-LINE AT [www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org)**

## MdQI 2010 Conference

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meeting the project need while being sensitive to the environment. For the Contractors, their mission is to provide an experienced team of specialists who focus on quality construction and timely project completion with sustainable, long-range vision for the communities being served.

Contractors uses methods of constructability that support the project goals of environmental Stewardships, by constructing projects that are designed to sustainable and green standards within schedule and budget requirements.

**Innovation:** Innovation means an improvement in our transportation system, a change for the better using existing ideas more effectively. Day Two workshop "Intelligent Transportation Systems 511/Intellidrive", is a good example of new innovations that are being implemented.

### Breakout Sessions

Each year, breakout topics of interest to the Maryland Highway Industry are identified by the MdQI Steering Committee and discussed at the conference. This year's conference focuses on ensuring that state highway projects are designed and built to ensure safety, efficiency, reduce congestion, and protect the environment. The theme of the 2010 Conference is "Envisioning our Future: Funding, Environment and Innovation." The conference will provide attendees with the most current information on new industry trends including MBE Participation in Design/Construction, Context Sensitive Solutions, and Work Zone Traffic Control.

One of the conference goals is to provide an outlet for new techniques and methods. The conference will emphasize practical, innovative, and timely technical and policy approaches to transportation planning, design and construction during the two days of presentations and workshops.

The conference will focus on the challenges involving change order, design build, MBE participation in design and construction, MDE Inspection and regulations, improving project management, as well as innovative strategies for the transportation industry and updates on the Federal and State funding situation. Contractors will have the opportunity to learn vital business strategies required during these times of economic difficulty and gain insights on how innovation can help their business move forward to achieve success and growth. The event will



Breakout Session at 2009 MdQI conference

also provide contractors with the opportunity to network and build relationships with leaders in the transportation industry.

Sessions are focused on many areas such as transportation safety and traffic flow, transportation infrastructure, transportation and the economy, and transportation planning/design and the environment. Conference attendees will also participate in sessions devoted to new technologies and review meaningful ways to educate government officials on industry transportation needs.

### Vendor's Theme

"Movies" is the theme for this year's Vendor Exhibit. This requires each vendor to decorate their booth with a specific movie of their choice. Displays will be judged by conference participants based on creativity, originality, and adherence to the movie theme. The best decorated booth will win based on the number of votes by attendees.

The popular Pinewood Race Car Derby is making an encore appearance, due to popular demand. Please come see who will win the "Rose Cup". Registration materials will be available in November. Please check the MdQI website at [www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org) for more details.



"Rose Cup" Derby Race

### So, why should you attend?

The MdQI Annual Conference is the most visible portion of the Maryland Quality Initiative. MdQI efforts occur all year - such as the process improvement teams, leadership meetings, and partnering meetings that our SHA, consultant, and contractor partners participate in. The Conference provides the venue to allow those teams to show all of us what they have accomplished during the year and seek your input into their process improvements, and give you the opportunity to be involved in the decision making process as these various task forces and teams move forward implementing their improvements. If you want to shape the way we do business - our specifications, technologies, and processes, if you want to know in advance the direction that we are heading as a transportation industry in Maryland, you should attend and become involved.

Join transportation officials, contractors, material suppliers and MdQI members at the 2010 MdQI Conference - one of the nation's largest transportation conferences. The conference features exciting and motivating speakers, technical sessions and exhibit areas. Meet other professionals in your specialty area and use this opportunity to network. So, make plans to attend the only conference created for you! This Conference is all about you, your needs, challenges and solutions. We look forward to seeing you there!

## The "New" Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association



The Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association is a new name to some. Two former organizations, Maryland Highway Contractors Association (MHCA) and Maryland Aggregates Association (MAA) joined together to become MTBMA. MTBMA combines the resources, membership and expertise of the two associations to better serve the Transportation Construction and Materials Industries of Maryland. MTBMA's membership is made up of contractors, producers and associates (an individual, firm or corporation of approved standing and responsibility engaged in the manufacture and/or sale of construction supplies or services and engineering and highway construction design firms). The mission of MTBMA is to be the voice of the transportation construction and materials industries in Maryland. Please visit the website at [www.mtbma.org](http://www.mtbma.org).

MTBMA has many committees and enjoys a strong partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Maryland Department of Transportation. Through these committees, the MTBMA tackles industry problems and provides technical and innovative solutions for the industry. MTBMA participates in the SHA Leadership Council where industry leaders and SHA leaders come together to partner advancement of the industry and work on issues facing the industry. MDQI is a focus for MTBMA, who strives

to work with MDQI partner members to provide an informative conference for all attendees.

Currently MTBMA is working with other industry affiliates on transportation funding issues on a State level and is very active with all legislative issues facing our industry. On a national level, MTBMA is affiliated with the American Road and Transportation Builders of America (ARTBA) and the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA) where they are busy working with Congressional Leadership on Transportation Funding.

MTBMA is currently under the leadership of Interim President Jim Russ. Jim brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to the Association from his long career in the construction industry. With a BS in Physics and Engineering from Washington & Lee University, Jim held management positions of President and General Manager for various companies and worked in the mining and ready mix concrete industry for over 43 years and retired as President of Aggregate Industries in 2006. Jim then joined Essroc Cement Corp. as Senior VP Construction Materials Development holding that post until he again retired in January 2009. Jim is a Trustee Emeritus of Prince Georges Community College and a past Chairman of that Board of Directors. Jim has held many association positions over the years including 2002 Chairman of ABC Metro Washington Chapter. He is a past member of the Board of Trustees for Maryland Ready Mix Concrete (RMC) Association, Virginia RMC Association, Massachusetts Aggregate and Concrete Association and is a past president of that association. Jim has served the National Ready Mix Concrete (NRMCA) on numerous committees and activities over the years and as Chairman of the Board in 2003/2004. He continues to serve on that Board. Jim and his wife Rita live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and enjoy spending time with their three children and six grandchildren.

## MdQI's Engineering Outreach Program Attracts Hundreds

Over 300 students and educators from throughout Anne Arundel County converged on Michael's 8th Avenue on October 29th for the most recent MdQI Engineering Outreach event! Interactive presentation stations on various civil engineering and related disciplines kept the kids' attention, and Morgan State University provided information on degree requirements and answered questions. Michael's 8th Avenue graciously provided their facility, and Michael's and the Abundant Life Church sponsored lunch for attendees. This has become an annual event due to the positive feedback from the students and educators.



Special thanks to the scheduled presenters from SHA and local firms who came together to deliver the presentations: Valerie Kowalski (WRA), Angie

Strevig (WRA), Mark Crampton (SHA), Ryan Barth (STV), Nora Bucke (SHA), Bob Cooper (SHA), Reggie Graves (SHA), Mike Mussomeli (SHA), Gregory Knoyer (SHA), Celine Kalembo (SHA), Ira Helms (Specialized Engineering), Melanie Matton (WRA), Lauren Waesche (WRA), Rebecca Thomas (URS), Graham Young(Sabra-Wang), Robert Milstead (Brudis), Preeti Harris (WRA), Damilola Kehinde (SHA), Robert Healy (SHA), John Seifert (JMT), Joseph Challburg (PENNONI), Dilapia Patel (SHA), Kim Volz (WRA), Daykaker Karter (Michael Baker Corp.), Dan Sain (SHA), Tom Orisich (WBCM), Scott Knieriem (SHA), Jerry Feldman (JMT), Marty Hof (JMT), Jennifer Murno (URS), and Steve Andraka (DFI).

Special thanks, also, to Melanie Husted (Whitman, Requardt, and Associates), Glenda Barrow (SHA/OMT), and Monica Elliott (MdTA) for their work in coordinating the event. Ray Streib (DFI) was instrumental in establishing this event due to his efforts with the Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce, and Anne Arundel County Schools.

Please plan to join us for the MdQI Conference session "Building our Employee Farm System- School Outreach Success & Your Involvement" on Day 2 of the conference. You will learn more about our outreach efforts (both for construction and engineering), as well as your opportunities to get involved to help our entire industry. For more information, contact Barry Catterton at [bcatterton@sha.state.md.us](mailto:bcatterton@sha.state.md.us), or at 443-572-5051.

## Exciting & Informative Upcoming ACEC/MD Events

The American Council of Engineering Companies/Maryland (ACEC/MD) closes out the year and begins a new one with some exciting, informative events for its members.

Upcoming 2009 events include a kick-off meeting for the upcoming General Assembly session on December 1st, a holiday celebration at the Baltimore Museum of Industry on December 3rd, as well as ACEC/MD Fellows Committee's General Membership Meeting to be held on December 17th. Further details of these events can be found on Page 2 - "Industry News and Upcoming Events".

In addition to these year-end events, on January 21, 2010, member firm representatives are invited to Annapolis for ACEC/MD's annual Legislative Action Day, featuring visits with influential legislative leaders. At that time, participants will address issues such as transportation and other important infrastructure funding, STEM education and third party indemnity. Following the targeted visits, all members of the General Assembly are invited to the Governor Calvert House for an informal luncheon with their constituents in the engineering community.

Recognizing the current transportation crisis in the state, ACEC/MD is embarking upon a program to elevate the issue to the top of the political agenda. The beginning stages include development of an off the shelf educational program for ACEC/MD member firm employees. This program is designed to raise awareness among firm employees about the dire situation facing the industry and steps they can take to get involved in the political process.

ACEC/MD's leadership is also holding discussions with influential legislative leaders and continues to coordinate efforts with other important associations such as the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Baltimore Committee and MTBMA.

With recent poll numbers indicating that: only 3% of respondents consider transportation as the most important issue facing the state; and reducing state funding for transportation projects is the top step that could be taken to deal with the budget deficit, it is imperative that ACEC/MD and its member firms' employees deliver a message to the state's elected officials.

While this continues to be challenging times for the industry, ACEC/MD continues to deliver the message for the industry, and provides solid programming interspersed with networking opportunities.

The MdQI Steering Committee is jointly sponsored by representatives of the following agencies



**The MdQI Mission** - "To provide the Maryland Highway Industry a forum that fosters Coordinated and Continuous Quality Improvement in order to ensure Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sensitive Highways which meet the needs of all Transportation Stakeholders"



Don't forget to visit our [website at www.mdqi.org](http://www.mdqi.org)