

The

READY-MIXER



Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association
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newsletter

January 2006

Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council Provides Support for Iraq Veteran

By Jim Pratt, Hampton Roads Advisory Council, Vice-Chairman and J. Keith Beazley, Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council members were contacted through Jimmy West of TCS Materials, Inc. regarding a group of volunteers looking for assistance providing a concrete driveway to provide access for Johnathan Bartlett, a 19-year-old Army veteran who lost both his legs in a land mine explosion while serving in Iraq. A committee from the Advisory Council met with Catherine Michele of the Mustard Seed Foundation who advised the committee of the special needs and coordinated efforts to assist Johnathan Bartlett.

At the time, Johnathan was rehabilitating at Walter Reed Hospital. After being fitted with two prosthetic legs, he contracted a flesh-eating virus in both stumps, which delayed his recovery. Catherine Michele became aware of Johnathan's needs through Major General Quinlan, who met Johnathan at Walter Reed.

Upon discharge, Johnathan would be returning to his parent's home in Norfolk. A visit to the house revealed that the community had already rallied to provide handicap access to the home by adding an access ramp and widening the doorways to allow wheel chair access along with other convenience

features. There was, however, no driveway or sidewalk to facilitate ease of access from car to house.

Catherine informed us that although they had no experience, there were plenty of volunteers prepared to pour the drive and walk if someone could provide concrete. Our council offered to not only provide the concrete for this project at no charge, but to arrange the set up, place and finish work to be performed by a qualified contractor. Preparation and

set up labor was donated by Bayside Concrete of Virginia Beach and Croatan Concrete donated the place and finish labor. The Council wishes to thank to both contractors and their employees for their generosity and expertise in this phase of the project. Form materials and 20 yards of concrete were donated by the Hampton Roads Advisory Council and its membership for this worthy cause.

A reception was held in November at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk to give Johnathan the opportunity to thank the

people who came together to help a neighbor who has given so much. He was very appreciative

and announced that upon discharge from the Army, he will attend Old Dominion University. He said that the community's efforts of generosity had inspired him to pursue an education that would allow him to help others.

This project has been one that seems so simple but is one that is bettering the life-style of an individual that has lost so much in the defense of freedom for

us all. The Hampton Roads Advisory Council feels privileged to have been a part of this story. ❖



From left to right: Major General Quinlan, Jim Pratt, Ruth, Johnathan's neighbor and the on-site coordinator and Catherine Michele of the Mustard Seed Foundation.



INTEGRITY: Johnathan explains that through the support of others, his faith in humanity has been restored.

"Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Announces TV Show Dates

by Bob Nablo
Director of Industry Services, Western Region

ABC television has announced the airing date for the recently completed Extreme Makeover Blacksburg project: February 12, 2006. Melanie Mullins of Building Specialists—the General Contractor—tells George Kuhn of Marshall Concrete Products that barring unexpected events the program will run on Sunday evening, and that it is expected to be a two-hour episode instead of the normal one-hour program. The program will begin at 7:00 pm rather than the usual 8:00 pm.

There are several reasons for this expanded program—the unusually bad weather during construction, the first involvement of a major university (Virginia Tech) and that volunteers not only built a new home for Carol Crawford-Smith and her family, but also renovated her downtown dance studio.

As a bonus, ABC will apparently also be showing a special one-hour program documenting the behind-the-scenes work necessary to make the show a success, featuring the extensive volunteer network and many of the suppliers to the project.

This show will apparently air on February 17, but check your local listings and look for an update from VRMCA. We hope the excellent concrete work will be prominently mentioned. ❖



A nightly view of the completed Crawford-Smith home.

Central Virginia Honors Tom Jones for Service to the Concrete Industry

by **J. Keith Beazley**
 Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The Central Virginia Concrete Advisory Council held a special recognition luncheon in December for Tom Jones, Regional Manager of the Ready Mixed Concrete Company. Tom Jones, who retired the last of 2005, and was an active member of the VRMCA and the local Concrete Advisory Council and served as a member on the Board of Directors of the Ready Mixed Association and as Chairman of the Richmond Concrete Advisory Council.

Tom was also active in the committees of the Council and the VRMCA and continued to serve and advise until his retirement. His career began in 1968 with Massey Concrete in Richmond and that company became a part of the Ready Mixed Concrete organization in 1995. Tom was instrumental in the promotion of quality concrete in Richmond and was a key member of the VRMCA Technical Committee and its efforts for a high quality product.

The VRMCA ACI Concrete Technician Certification was a program that Tom championed and he served as a proctor on exam days and furnished his concrete when needed for support of the program.

Testing labs, today in Richmond, are operating at a higher level because of his efforts for certification of field personnel in commercial and VDOT projects. Tom always emphasized the testing of concrete when delivered at the end of the chute instead of the end of the pumping truck. His famous quote was "My concrete will never be made better than when it was shipped from the plant, but it can be made a lot worse by improper handling". Quality control and good product was always one of Tom's top priorities.

Peter Easter, VRMCA Executive Director, presented a plaque from the Central Virginia Council to Tom at the luncheon at Meadowbrook Country Club and expressed his appreciation for the work for the Association. The plaque read: "In recognition, gratitude, and appreciation for continuous and outstanding service unselfishly given to the Richmond Concrete Advisory Council for the advancement of quality concrete and products leading with imagination, ability and inspiration." Tom was also presented with a gift certificate to Dick's Sporting Goods for his other love other than concrete—that is the hunting of wild turkeys.

Ready Mixed Concrete will be led by Ben H. Downing as Regional Manger with the departure of Tom Jones. Ben is well versed in all aspects of the concrete industry with his career going starting in 1977. Ben Downing is also very pleased to be part



VRMCA Executive Director Peter Easter presents Tom Jones with a plaque and gift certificate.



Advisory Council Chairman Diggs Bishop (left) and VRMCA Executive Director Peter Easter (right) with Tom Jones (center).



Supporters of Tom Jones' retirement.

of the industry in Richmond and plans to be very active in our promotional efforts in Richmond.

Advisory Council Chairman Diggs Bishop was present at the meeting and addressed the group on the importance of our promotional work and the support from management and individuals within our industry member's companies.

Focus this year has been on participation, organization and better communication of goals and objectives by the councils. The work of the Association and the promotion of quality concrete and products have been because of the dedication of individuals like Tom Jones and Diggs stated his appreciation for his work and asked that individuals and companies continue to support and work for the good of our industry. ❖

Upcoming NRMCA Training Programs and Courses

March 7-10, 2006, Silver Spring, MD

CCSP Module IV: Professional Sales Skill Workshop: Profitable business is not based on getting the order at any price, but includes solving customers' problems and building long-term, mutually winning relationships. In a highly interactive workshop, mid-level ready mixed concrete staff learn and practice consultative, team-based, cross-selling skills.

Spring 2006

Financial Management Course for the Ready Mixed Concrete Industry: This intense seminar covers financial and accounting basics and uses specific industry examples. Attendees leave with immediately applicable skills. The class is appropriate for mid-level managers who have not been exposed to essential accounting and financial principals, yet must make sound financial decisions.

Spring 2006

Entry-Level Driver's Training Workshop: NRMCA's new seminar for safety supervisors, operations personnel and driver trainers provides in-depth support for understanding and meeting the requirements of the FMCSA Final Rule, 49 CFR Part 380, Mandatory Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators.

For more information, call the NRMCA at 301.587.1400.

Eleven Reasons Why Poured Concrete Walls Are Best

by J. Keith Beazley

Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

1. Water tightness means a dry basement.

That's important to homeowners; they report that their basements are dryer than homes they moved from having different types of basement walls.

2. More fire resistance.

Because of the increased density and joint free construction of poured concrete walls. They offer twice the fire resistance when compared to a hollow block wall.

3. Resistance to rot and decay.

That's been proven by the long years of service life that concrete walls have provided. Builders or homeowners have no concern that concrete will be vulnerable to rot and decay that may occur in wood foundations.

4. Builders appreciate less warranty problems.

A watertight basement means less call backs for the builder or developer. It also means less warranty problems—a cost saving for the builder.

5. Affordability.

That's important to the builder and the homebuyer. Efficient modern construction methods make poured concrete walls cost competitive with block walls.

6. Performance testing for strength.

Testing the compressive strengths of concrete assures the builder and homeowner of specified strengths in the concrete.

7. 40% more concrete.

When you consider a poured concrete wall has forty percent more concrete at competitive prices; the choice is poured concrete walls.

8. Quality aggregates.

Such are an essential ingredient for quality concrete—aggregates that are washed and graded, as well as state and federally inspected.

9. Multi-family dwelling developers appreciate faster construction time.

And that's understandable when you think of their investment. Faster construction time means a quicker return for the owner in rental or sales.

10. A better re-sale on homes with poured concrete walls.

Homeowners know about the dry basement features of poured concrete walls. When they combine the benefits of a stronger, more durable wall, it adds up to more value and thus a better resale on the property.

11. Extended construction season.

Ready Mixed Concrete can also adapt to cold weather construction, which offers builders an extended construction season.

These are eleven good reasons to choose poured concrete walls. When a builder specifies poured concrete walls, he's getting the best.

This information was presented as part of the National Homebuilders Association University of Housing Cast-in-Place Concrete Foundation course sponsored by the Central Virginia Advisory Council. For more information contact J. Keith Beazley, of VRMCA. ♦

2006 VRMCA ADVISORY COUNCIL REGIONALS

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NOTE

• VRMCA lobbyists are monitoring the following legislation currently before the 2006 Virginia General Assembly, which convened January 11. Please see the legislative update enclosed.

• Also, be sure to check out the Virginia Concrete Conference brochure included as well.

Blue Ridge Council Participates in Fundraiser



by Bob Nablo
Director of Industry Services, Western Region



Courtesy of Rockingham Redi-Mix and their portable grill, the Blue Ridge Council recently helped Massanutten Technical Center stage a fundraiser designed to help send students to Skills USA, a competition for specific vocational skills.

Skills USA tests contestants in their particular vocational areas, with winners advancing to district, state and national competitions. In 2005 Massanutten Technical Center was fortunate enough to send two students all the way to the national event in Kansas City.



MTC students selling hotdogs.



Rockingham Redi-Mix employees Don Morris (far left) and Trevor Whetzel (second from far left) with students at the cooker.

School administrators stage fundraisers each year to offset the costs of travel, and this year decided to sell hot dog lunches to raise money.

As a technical school MTC does not have a "regular" lunch period, but for two hours in the middle of the day sold students and faculty hot dogs and drinks. The Blue Ridge Council made a modest financial contribution, but Rockingham Redi-Mix was the hit of the day with the Concrete Mixer Cooker.

Rockingham employees towed the cooker to the school and then acted as cooks for the 480 hot dogs sold. Christine Freeman of MTC reported that students and staff all had a wonderful time and "got their bellies full of delicious hot dogs". The event was successful enough to have MTC plan a similar fundraiser next year, and the Blue Ridge Council certainly expects to again participate. ❖

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Allied Concrete Company

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Easter Associates, Inc.

"Old Time Gospel Hour" Builds New Church Using Tilt-Up Construction

by Bob Nablo

Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia, home of the televised ministry "Old Time Gospel Hour," is in the process of building a new sanctuary to house its ever-growing congregation. With Lynchburg Ready Mix supplying the concrete and Kodiak Constructors of Charlotte, NC acting as General Contractor, the casting beds were placed inside the perimeter of the church in late September and the wall panels were placed soon thereafter.

At the end of the month the walls were erected. Currently, the building is under roof and the interior structural work to support the 6,000

seats for worshippers has begun. The concrete casting beds are being demolished so that a sloping theater-style floor can be built. The entire building will

have 100,000 square foot of usable space, housing not only the sanctuary, but also a chapel, a play center for children and a coffee and sandwich shop. The largest of the concrete panels are five stories tall and weigh about 100 tons.

"It is such a spectacular thing to see," said the Reverend Jerry Falwell, the church's pastor. "This is the culmination of 50 years of planning and dreaming." Falwell also noted that the new building would be one of the largest church facilities in the country.

The church, designed by North Carolina-based Paul Woody Architecture, will have a brick façade, replicating the look of the original

Thomas Road Baptist Church. It was, however, not practical to copy the octagonal shape of the old building, in use since 1970. It is hoped that the church will be completed in late 2006 or early 2007. ❖



Church walls completed.



Reverend Falwell watches early panel erection.

For Your Information

Transportation-Treasury-HUD-Judiciary Appropriations Signed into Law

On November 30, 2005, President Bush signed the Transportation-Treasury-Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-Judiciary bill. Introduced June 24, 2005, the bill makes "appropriations for the Department of Transportation, the Department of Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, offices and related agencies, for the Judiciary, and for the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes." The bill provides a federal-aid highways program level of \$36.8 billion, an increase of \$1.3 billion over the President's request and \$1.6 billion over the FY 2005 level. ❖

FMCSA Revises Disposition on Diabetes Exemption

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has announced its decision to revise the terms and conditions of its previous decision regarding the issuance of exemptions to insulin-treated diabetic drivers of commercial vehicles. The drivers would be exempt from the diabetes mellitus prohibitions contained in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations. The new decision to revise this exemption is in response to section 4129 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, which required FMCSA to modify its diabetes exemption within 90 days of enactment.

The changes will remain in effect until FMCSA completes a rulemaking to revise the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to allow drivers with insulin-treated diabetes mellitus to operate commercial vehicles in interstate commerce in accordance with the applicable statutory standards and without having to demonstrate safe driving experience while using insulin. FMCSA began accepting exemptions under the new criteria on November 8, 2005. Send exemption application requests to: Federal Diabetes Exemption program (MC-PSP), Office of Bus and Truck Standards Operations, FMCSA, 400 Seventh St., SW, Washington, D.C. 20590-0001, or fax to (703) 448-3077. ❖

ATA Asks States for Primary Safety Belt Laws

ATA president and CEO Bill Graves has asked the governors of 25 states to work on adopting primary safety belt laws. These would allow police officers to stop and issue traffic citations specifically for motorists failing to wear their safety belt. The states with primary laws have usage rates about ten percentage points above those states with only secondary enforcement laws. A U.S. Department of Transportation survey also cited truck drivers have just a 48 percent safety belt usage rate, which is the lowest among highway users. ❖

Department of Labor Issues Final Military Leave (USERRA) Regulations

By John G. Kruchko, Esq. and Jay R. Fries, Esq

On December 19, 2005, the U. S. Department of Labor issued final regulations interpreting the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA"). USERRA is the federal statute which protects the rights of individuals who voluntarily or involuntarily leave employment positions to provide military service.

The Act prohibits employers from discriminating against past and present members of the uniformed services, as well as applicants to the uniformed services. USERRA also creates reemployment rights for individuals following military service, with the exact right to reemployment varying depending on the length of military service.

The Act contains an "escalator" provision which requires reemployment not merely to the position the individual left in order to join the military, but to a position which the individual would have attained with reasonable certainty had that individual not left employment.

Likewise, the Act requires that a veteran seeking reemployment receive not only the seniority and other benefits determined by seniority that the individual had at the beginning of service, but also any additional seniority and benefits the individual would have attained had the individual remained continuously employed, including pension plan benefits.

The Act requires the employer to offer continuous health care coverage for up to 18 months to a person who is absent due to service in the uniformed services.

Finally, upon reemployment the veteran is no longer an "at-will" employee, but may not be discharged, except for cause for one year if the individual's period of service in the military was more than 180 days, or for six months if the period of military service was more than 30 days but less than 181 days.

The final regulations provide an interesting interpretive gloss on the statute. For example, the regulations note that the statutory coverage includes service by an employee as an "intermittent disaster response appointee" under the National Disaster Medical System ("NDMS") or for training in an authorized program under the NDMS.

The National Disaster Medical System was created in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks as a means of providing emergency medical assistance in the event of future attacks. The NDMS was activated this year in response to the devastation created by hurricane Katrina. Also, a member of the ROTC may be protected under the anti-discrimination provisions of USERRA.

Likewise, the term "absence due to military service" includes a reasonable period of time off for an individual called to military duty in order for that individual to put his or her personal affairs in order before beginning an extended period of service. The length of this "reasonable period of time" depends on the specific circumstances of each individual situation.

Generally, an individual who has been called to active service is required to give as much advance notice to his or her employer as possible. However, such notice is not required if prevented by a requirement for military secrecy, or if notice is impossible or unreasonable under all the circumstances. The employee is not required to inform the employer that he or she will seek reemployment after military service.

In fact, even if the employee tells the employer prior to leaving the job that he or she will not seek reemployment, the employee retains the right, after the completion of military service, to seek reemployment with the employer.

The reemployment rights of an employee are not unlimited. The statute provides that an employee is entitled to military leave from a specific

employer for a cumulative period of five years. Therefore, if the employee is absent from work from an individual employer cumulatively for more than five years the employee loses the statutory reemployment rights. Reemployment rights are also destroyed by a dishonorable discharge from military service.

The employer's defenses to reemployment of a veteran are extremely limited. The employer bears the burden of proving that changed circumstances in the workplace make reemployment of the veteran impossible.

Similarly, the employer has a defense if it can prove that the original employment of the individual was for a brief, non-recurrent period, and there was no reasonable expectation that the individual's original employment would continue indefinitely.

The regulations also discuss the "escalator" provisions of the statute. For example, the regulations discuss what position the veteran is entitled to upon reemployment; what seniority, status and rate of pay the individual is entitled to; and what particular seniority rights or employee benefits the returning employee is entitled to.

These final regulations are the first regulatory interpretations of the USERRA. Because of the reliance of our military on reservists and national guard members to fulfill our country's obligations across the world, questions regarding USERRA have been increasingly frequent in recent years. These final regulations provide additional guidance for employers.

However, USERRA is an exceedingly complex statute and one that is often difficult to interpret. Employers who have questions regarding the proper application of USERRA should consult employment counsel who are familiar with these regulations and with past case law interpreting the statute. ❖

For safety related links,
please visit the safety committee section
of the VRMCA website:
www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx



VRMCA Technical Bulletins Available

The VRMCA Technical Committee is developing a series of Technical Bulletins in order to address various issues of interest to the ready mixed concrete industry.

The first two bulletins are now available and can be downloaded directly from the VRMCA website at: www.vrmca.com. You may also contact the Association Headquarters at 434.977.3716 for printed copies.

Please make every effort to distribute these to contractors, engineers, and testing labs in your area.



VRMCA Upcoming Events

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2006 Spring Convention
May 21-23

The Homestead

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2006 Fall Convention
September 10-12
Wintergreen Resort

The Virginia Ready-Mixed Human Resource Consortium

Employee Health Benefit Plans

This won't be the only time the article is written about employee health benefit plans since it is one of the most challenging topics faced by all companies no matter what industry or size.

We will begin however with Medicare Part D and the Creditable Coverage Disclosure. CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) has determined the process for the last piece of the Medicare Part D compliance. Notifying CMS of the "Creditable Coverage Status". The deadline for the first notification to CMS is March 31, 2006.

A few main points are:

1. The notification has to be made on this website: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/ccdisclosure/default.asp>
2. The website is self-explanatory
3. Only one application needs to be made
4. You will need to know the Creditable Status of your RX plan(s). You should have received a letter from your medical carrier indicating whether or not your prescription drug coverage was creditable prior to November 15th.

All employers that sponsor a group health plan must disclose the "Creditable Coverage" status (whether or not the RX plan benefits are equal to or greater than the benefits for Medicare Part D) to CMS on an annual basis and upon any change that affects whether the drug coverage is creditable.

After the initial filing with CMS here is a summary of when notification must take place:

1. Within 60 days of the beginning of the plan year
2. Within 30 days after the termination of the prescription drug program
3. Within 30 days after any change in the "Creditable Coverage" status of the prescription drug program

Please contact Becky Meade at (804) 364-0500 or bmeade@coxreadymix.com if you would like information about our group. ❖

Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council... Off and Running

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by Hessam Nabavi, R.A., Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia and Duane Laughlin, of Crider & Shockey and 2006 NVCAC Council Chairman

This year, "NVCAC" is taking the bull by the horns and is going to the extreme. With 2006 committee goals in place, the NVCAC prepares to kick-off another exciting and successful year of promotion right from the get go.

Historically, establishing committee goals was reserved for the 1st meeting of the year, which ultimately delayed some of the council's activities to February or March. However, in order to get the ball rolling from the first month of the year, the council leaders took the initiative in October of 2005 to put various committee goals, events and activities in place in an effort to raise the bar for their promotional activities.

To accomplish these goals and realize the promotional opportunities, the 2006 council will also place a renewed emphasis on member participation, teamwork, communication, accountability, follow-up and follow through. We believe our team is strong, the sky is the limit and possibilities are unlimited. ❖



From left to right: David Barber, of W.R. Grace and NVCAC 2006 Educational Committee Chairman, Art Nettle of Lafarge and NVCAC 2006 Commercial Committee Chairman, Tom Yendall of Titan Virginia Concrete and NVCAC 2006 Residential Committee Chairman, Hessam Nabavi, of VRMCA and Duane Laughlin of Crider & Shockey Concrete and NVCAC 2006 Council Chairman.



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YOUR CHOICE OF CEMENT,
MAKE THE **RIGHT** CHOICE

THE **RIGHT** PRODUCT & SERVICE
IN THE **RIGHT** PLACE
AT THE **RIGHT** TIME

Roanoke Cement has supplied ready-mix producers and the construction industry with consistent, dependable, high quality cement for over 50 years.

A superior product, backed by excellent customer service, the latest technology, and reliable distribution shows our commitment to serve our customers.

When so much depends on your cement, choose Roanoke Cement. Call 800-782-7622 or 540-992-1501 today.

The Smart Road bridge, at 175 feet tall, is Virginia's tallest bridge. Approximately 9,647 cubic yards of high-strength concrete were used to construct the 2,000-foot long bridge.

ROANOKECEMENT™

A TITAN AMERICA BUSINESS

Virginia Concrete Conference

"Count on Concrete for LIFE"

March 9-10, 2006

Join us for the **2006 Annual Virginia Concrete Conference** for the Virginia Transportation Industry. The Conference provides an annual forum for the exchange of information and technology transfer with focus on concrete pavements and structures, as well as concrete materials. Emphasis will be placed on technical advancements/improvements and the viability of concrete for transportation applications. Industry and government experts will join us to share their knowledge and experiences in their field of expertise.

The Conference is being sponsored by the American Concrete Pavement Association, Mid-Atlantic Chapter, the Virginia Chapter of ACI, the Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Advisory Council, the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia, the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

Don't miss this opportunity to network with the industry's leading professionals as you learn about the latest developments in concrete, pavements and bridges including Pervious Concrete, Virginia's Bonded Concrete Pavement Overlays, Lightweight HPC for Bridge Decks, and Why Precast Concrete.

Please join us and learn why you should **"Count on Concrete for LIFE."**



Call for Exhibitors

This year, vendor exhibit tables will be set up during the Conference displaying products and services from the cement and concrete industry. All breaks and the reception will be held in the exhibit area. Exhibitors will be recognized throughout the Conference. To show industry support and to help offset the event cost, we are encouraging you to purchase exhibit space.

Space includes a 6' skirted table, two chairs and a wastebasket. Exhibits will be limited to tabletop displays and standard booth displays that fit into a 10' x 10' space. Booth fee is \$300 and will include one complimentary registration.

If you need electrical service, please check the appropriate box on the Registration Form. Set up time is from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Thursday, March 9, displays may be taken down after 11:00 a.m. on Friday, March 10.

Time is of the essence and space is limited! Please complete the Registration Form and submit to the **ACPA, Mid-Atlantic Chapter no later than February 27, 2006.**

Please complete the Registration Form or call the ACPA, Mid-Atlantic Chapter at (717) 441-3506 for more information or visit <http://www.pavement.com/activities/calendar/main.html>. Feel free to photocopy the form if more than one individual will be attending from your company.

A block of rooms is being held for overnight accommodations at a special rate of \$74/night plus tax. When making reservations, call the Holiday Inn Select-Koger South Conference Center at (804) 379-3800 and ask for the "Concrete Conference" room block. **The deadline for hotel reservations is February 17, 2006.**

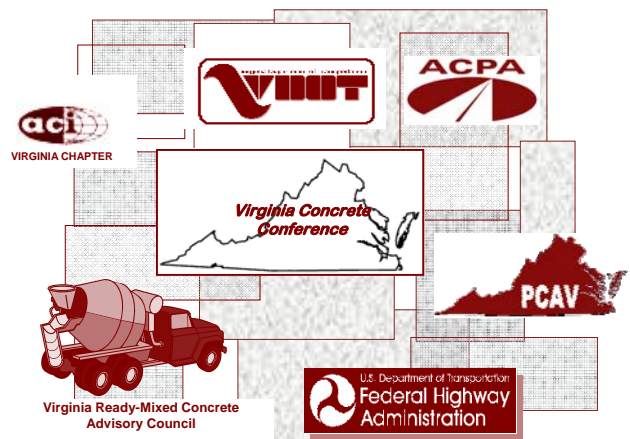
Door Prize Sponsorship

The sponsoring organizations hope that you will consider contributing to the door prizes. The prize drawings at the close of the Conferences in the past have been very well received and provided a fitting conclusion to the Conferences.

All prize sponsors will be widely recognized during the Conference. Please complete the Registration Form and at the minimum we hope you will support the Conference by attending.

Please send an electronic version of your company's logo to:

Sherry Braafhart at sherryb@pavement.com no later than February 27, 2006






Virginia Concrete Conference

March 9-10, 2006

Thursday, March 9, 2006

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| 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Registration (Exhibits Open) | 3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Break (Exhibits Open) |
| 1:00 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Welcome
Bob Long, ACPA | <i>Moderator: Bob Nablo, VRMCA</i> |
| 1:15 p.m.-1:45 p.m. Opening Comments
Mal Kerley, VDOT & Irene Rico, FHWA | 3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Why Precast Concrete?
Ed Page, PCAV/Hanson Pipe & Products, Inc. |
| <i>Moderator: Bob Long, ACPA</i> | 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Woodrow Wilson Bridge Construction Update
Derek Constable, FHWA, Maryland Division |
| 1:45 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Highways for LIFE & Accelerated Construction
Jerry Blanding, FHWA | 4:30 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Pervious Concrete
TBD |
| 2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Reconstruction of I-10 Bridges @ Slidell, LA
Claude Napier, FHWA | 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Reception (Exhibits Open) |
- Dinner on your own.*
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Friday, March 10, 2006

7:30 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast Exhibits Open)

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

PAVEMENT BREAKOUT SESSION

Moderator: Mohamed Elfino, VDOT Materials

- 8:00 a.m.-8:20 a.m. Concrete Pavement Technology Program
Product Implementation
Sam Tyson, FHWA
- 8:20 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Preliminary Findings from VDOT Demo on
Dowel Alignment Using Magnetic Imaging
Tool Scan-2
Mohamed Elfino, VDOT
- 8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Long Life PCC Pavement Design Features
Kurt Smith, APTech
- 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Ten-Year Performance of Bonded Concrete
Pavement Overlays on I-295 and I-85
Michael Sprinkel, VTRC
- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Break (Exhibits Open)
- Moderator: Marie Derby, ACI/Essroc Cement*
- 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. National Center for Concrete Pavement
Technology
Ted Ferragut, TDC Partners, Ltd.
- 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Roller Compacted Concrete Shoulders on GA
Interstates
Wouter Gulden, ACPA-SE Chapter
- 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Lessons Learned, I-64 Mercury Blvd.
Reconstruction Project
Tom Druhot, VDOT

BRIDGE BREAKOUT SESSION

*Moderators: Julius Völgyi, VDOT Structure & Bridge, &
Claude Napier, FHWA*

- 8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. NDE Center and Methods Available for Testing
& Evaluation of Structures
Frank Jalinoos, FHWA Turner-Fairbank
Highway Research Center
- 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Progress of Self-Consolidating Concrete in the
U.S. & the HPC Innovative Bridge Research
Deployment Program
Myint Lwin, FHWA Office of Bridge Technology
- 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Virginia Self-Consolidating Bridge Projects
Celik Ozyildirim, VTRC
- 9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Precast 3-sided Structures
Steve Wonus, Hanson Pipe & Products, Inc.
- 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Break (Exhibits Open)
- Moderator: Ed Page, PCAV/Hanson Pipe & Products, Inc.*
- 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Lightweight HPC for Bridge Decks
Reid Castrodale, Stalite
- 11:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Route 29 (Main Street) over Dan River,
Danville, VA., Open Spandrel Concrete Arches
- New and Old
Bill Davidge, Wiley & Wilson
- 11:30 a.m.-12:00p.m. Preventive Maintenance for Concrete Decks
Michael Sprinkel, VTRC

12:00 p.m.

Conference Closing: Andy Mergenmeier, VDOT
Door Prize Drawings (Must be present to win.)

Virginia Concrete Conference

March 9-10, 2006

Registration Form





Name:	Job Title:
Company:	District/Office:
Office Address:	Phone: () Fax: ()
City:, State Zip	
Email Address	

Registration Fees

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Student/Universities | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 VDOT/Government/Municipalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$65.00 ACPA/ACI/PCAV & VRMCA Members | <input type="checkbox"/> \$85.00 Non-Member Industry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a check for \$_____. | <input type="checkbox"/> Please bill me. |

Exhibit Booth

- Sign me up for an Exhibit Booth space - \$300. Yes, I will need electric hook-up for the booth.
The fee includes one complimentary registration. Display booths are limited, please call (717) 441-3506 today to reserve your booth space.


 To help us determine our catering needs, please check below which of the following events you plan to attend: 
 Thursday Evening Reception, March 9, 2006 Continental Breakfast, March 10, 2006


Door Prize Sponsorship

- I will donate the following prizes(s) for the Conference "Prize Drawing":
Prize Description: _____
- I do not have a prize to donate, but I will donate \$_____ to be used to purchase a prize(s) for the Conference closing prize drawing.
- Enclosed is a check for \$_____ Please bill me.
- (Please send prizes/checks to the Chapter Office by February 27, 2006 or bring them to the hotel on March 9, 2006.)

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: ACPA, Mid-Atlantic Chapter
800 North Third Street, Suite 201
Harrisburg, PA 17102



A block of rooms has been reserved at the special Conference rate of \$74.00 plus tax. **The cutoff date to register at this rate is February 17, 2006**. Please call the Holiday Inn Select-Koger South Conference Center at (804) 379-3800 to make your reservation. Be sure to ask for the "Concrete Conference" room block.

Registration deadline is **March 2, 2006**. Simply fax or mail your registration today!
Fax toll free to: (877) 204-2626

2006 VRMCA Legislation

VRMCA lobbyists are monitoring the following legislation currently before the 2006 Virginia General Assembly, which convened January 11.

HB 14 - Silviculture practices. Allows local government to fully regulate silviculture activity for land when the owner, or his agent, submits an application for a rezoning, conditional use permit, special use permit, or preliminary subdivision plan approval to convert from an agricultural or rural to a residential, commercial or industrial use. Currently local governments are limited in the regulation of silviculture practices until after the change in zoning or use occurs. Patron: Cole.

HB 18 - Safety inspections; exemption for certain trucks and vehicle combinations. Exempts from the requirement for annual state vehicle safety inspections vehicles that have gross registered weights or gross combination weight ratings of 10,001 pounds or more, provided such vehicles display valid federal certificates of inspection. Patron: Lingamfelter.

HB 76 - Virginia Public Building Authority; bonds to finance capital projects. Authorizes the Virginia Public Building Authority to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$209,462,000 to finance certain capital projects for the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. Patron: Hamilton.

HB 77 - Commonwealth of Virginia Higher Educational Institutions Bond Act of 2006. Authorizes the Treasury Board to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$369,514,400 pursuant to Article X, Section 9(c) of the Constitution of Virginia, for paying costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping revenue-producing capital projects at institutions of higher education of the Commonwealth and repeals certain prior authorizations for the issuance of bonds to the extent that the maximum amount of such bonds has not been issued. The bill has an emergency clause and is in effect upon passage. Patron: Callahan.

HB 165 - Primary and secondary highway construction funds allocations. Revises the formulas used to allocate primary and secondary highway construction funds so that such funds are allocated on the basis of population. Patron: Lingamfelter.

HB 166 - Virginia Defense Facility and Transportation Improvement Fund and Program. Establishes the Virginia Defense Facility and Transportation Improvement Fund and Program. The Fund is to consist of \$250 million of annual collections of state recordation taxes. Its proceeds are to be allocated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board to highway construction districts wherein federal defense facilities or bases are expanded as the result of actions of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, and are to be used for transportation infrastructure improvements. The provisions of the bill would expire on July 1, 2011. Patron: Lingamfelter.

HB 175 - Overweight farm vehicles. Provides that vehicles that are either (i) registered as farm-use vehicles as provided in § 46.2-698 or (ii) exempted from registration as farm-use vehicles may operate at the extended weights authorized in § 46.2-1129 without the application for or receipt of a permit or payment of any fee therefor. Patron: Lewis.

HB 200 - Fees on trucks. Requires the Commonwealth Transportation Board to impose a fee on trucks and combination vehicles for use in maintaining state highways. The Board is to calculate, impose, and collect a fee for damage done to highways by certain vehicles. The amount of the fee is to be based on the difference between the amount received annually by the Commonwealth from the federal government for highway maintenance and the annual cost to the Commonwealth of repairing damage done to the highways of the Commonwealth by vehicles subject to the fee. The amount of the fee and the method of payment are to be determined by the Board. The fee is to be imposed on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis and no vehicle upon which a fee is assessed is to be operated on any highway of the Commonwealth if the fee is not paid in full on or before the date upon which payment of the fee is due. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

HB 201 - Local toll facilities. Allows adjoining counties, cities, and towns to enter into agreements for the construction and operation of toll highways, bridges, and ferries within their boundaries. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

HB 248 - Sales and use tax; exemption for certain contractors. Exempts from paying the sales and use tax any person who contracts on or after July 1, 2006, to perform services for and provide tangible personal property for consumption or use by the Commonwealth, any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or the United States, if the Commonwealth, political subdivision, or the United States certifies that title to such tangible personal property will pass to such governmental entity. Patron: Shannon.

HB 268 - Stormwater regulation. Provides that income derived from stormwater control program service charges shall be dedicated special revenue and may be used only to pay or recover costs for specified purposes, including the enlargement or improvement of dams, whether publicly or privately owned, that serve to control stormwater. Patron: Cole.

HB 282 - Unemployment compensation; effect of failure to maintain employment records. Eliminates a presumption, established pursuant to Virginia Employment Commission regulation 16 VAC 5-32-10, in favor of the party making an allegation. The presumption arises when an employer fails to maintain work records with respect to an individual in its employ. The bill eliminates this presumption only in situations where the employer is a staffing service or professional service organization that is contractually prohibited from interfacing with the entity to which the employee is assigned. Patron: Spruill.

HB 284 - Unemployment compensation; effect of failure to maintain employment records. Eliminates a presumption, established pursuant to Virginia Employment Commission regulation 16 VAC 5-32-10, in favor of the party making an allegation. The presumption arises when an employer fails to maintain work records with respect to an individual in its employ. The bill eliminates this presumption only in situations where the employer is a staffing service or professional service organization that is contractually prohibited from interfacing with the entity to which the employee is assigned. Patron: Marshall, D.W.

HB 390 - Sales and use tax exemption; Energy Star certified products. Exempts certain energy-efficient products from sales and use tax. Patron: Englin.

HB 478 - Small employer health insurance pooling. Authorizes employers with no more than 100 eligible employees to enter into pooling agreements under which a designated attorney-in-fact contracts on their behalf for group health insurance coverage for their employees. The small employers that are party to such an agreement constitute a single employer for purposes of pricing and other terms of the coverage under a group health benefit plan. Patron: Frederick.

HB 479 - Income tax; tax credit for health insurance premiums paid by small business employers. Provides a tax

credit for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007, to employers who pay at least one-half of the annual health insurance premium per employee. The amount of the credit is the lesser of \$500 or the amount paid per employee. The total amount of credits available to each employer annually is limited to \$25,000. The credits are available to employers with 50 or fewer full-time employees. Patron: Frederick.

HB 516 - Estate tax. Gradually phases out the Virginia estate tax by 25% per year over a four-year period. Patron: Armstrong.

HB 519 - Estate tax. Exempts from the estate tax (i) all estates where the majority of assets are an interest in a closely held business, including working farms, and (ii) all estates where the gross estate is worth \$10 million or less. Patron: Armstrong.

HB 539 - Minimum wage. Increases the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$5.15 per hour to \$6.15 per hour effective July 1, 2006; to \$7.15 per hour effective July 1, 2007; and to \$8.15 per hour effective July 1, 2008. For subsequent years, the minimum wage will be adjusted annually on July 1 to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Patron: Callahan.

HB 641 - Overweight permits for coal and gravel haulers. Allows coal and gravel haulers to purchase, without fee, an additional gross weight extension of 6,000 pounds from the Commissioner on application therefor. Patron: Phillips.

HB 724 - State-Local Intersection Partnership Program. Establishes the State-Local Intersection Partnership Program under which the Commonwealth Transportation Board will annually allocate \$100 million to local governments to be used exclusively for the purpose of undertaking highway improvement, construction, reconstruction, expansion, reconfiguration, and alteration projects to address issues associated with intersection congestion and safety by providing funding to counties, cities, and towns, subject to a local contribution of at least 25% of project cost, for the construction of turn lanes, extension of existing turn lanes, and construction of roundabouts and pedestrian safety facilities, including but not necessarily limited to pedestrian overpasses and underpasses. Patron: McQuigg.

HB 761 - Small employer health group cooperatives. Authorizes the establishment of cooperatives for the purpose of arranging group health benefit plan coverage for small employers. Membership in health group cooperatives is limited to employers with not more than 50 eligible employees. A health group cooperative composed only of small employers is deemed to be a single employer for purposes of provisions relating to rates and issuance and renewal of coverage. Group health benefits plans issued by carriers for coverage with a cooperative are exempt from mandates for coverage of a particular illnesses, disease or treatment, except coverage for diabetes treatment. Patron: Hamilton.

HB 857 - Department of General Services; Green Buildings Act. Requires all major facility projects of state agencies and other entities for which the project is funded with state money to be designed, constructed, and certified to meet the LEED silver standard as established by the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environment Design. The bill defines "major facility project" as a building construction project with more than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space, or a building renovation project when the cost is greater than 50% of the assessed value and the project with more than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space. Under the bill, a major facility project may not be required to meet the standard if (i) there is no appropriate LEED silver standard for that type of building or renovation project, (ii) there is no practical way to apply the LEED silver standard to a particular building or renovation project, or (iii) the building or renovation project is an electricity transmitter building, a water pumping station, or a hospital. Patron: Ebbin.

HB 891 - Recording devices in motor vehicles; ownership of data. Deems data that is recorded on a device that records or transmits performance or operation information about the vehicle to be personal property of the owner of the motor vehicle and deems that such data may not be downloaded or otherwise retrieved by a person other than the owner, except (i) with the consent of the owner or (ii) in response to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Patron: Gear.

HB 1094 - Virginia Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act; civil penalties. Authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue special orders requiring violators of the Virginia Post-Disaster Anti-Price Gouging Act to pay civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation per day. Patron: Amundson.

HB 1259 - Virginia Public Procurement Act; performance and payment bonds. Adds a provision that for the award of any construction contract exceeding \$100,000 in which the performance of labor or the furnishing of materials will be paid with public funds, the contractor must furnish to the public body performance and payment bonds. In addition, the bill provides that performance and payment bonds are required for construction contracts exceeding \$100,000 awarded to any prime contractor requiring the performance of labor or the furnishing of materials for buildings, structures, or other improvements to real property leased by a public body. Patron: Janis.

HB 1357 - Liquidated damages for overweight violations. Provides that liquidated damages for overweight violations will be paid to the locality if the violator was cited for violation of a local ordinance. Patron: Bell.

HB 1416 - Virginia Public Procurement Act; methods of procurement; design-build by certain local public bodies. Provides that design-build or construction management projects undertaken by any local governing body when the contract is not expected to cost more than \$2 million shall be exempt from approval of the Design-Build Review Board. As a result, such local governing bodies have authority to enter into contracts on a fixed price design-build basis or construction management basis. Patron: Fralin.

HB 1426 - Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (PPTA). Provides for the granting of concessions under the PPTA and the taxation thereof. Patrons: Wardrup, Callahan, Cosgrove, Jones, S.C., Landes, May, Moran and Reid; Senators: Hawkins, Houck, Howell, Norment, Saslaw, Stolle, Stosch, Watkins and Williams.

HB 1430 Vehicle lengths; exemption. Provides an exemption from the vehicle length limit for tractor-semitrailer combinations where the length of the semitrailer does not exceed 53 feet. Allows the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner to restrict the operations of such tractor-semitrailer combinations from certain roads based on a safety and engineering analysis. Patron: Marshall, D.W.

HJ 18 - Constitutional amendment (first resolution); Transportation Funds. Requires the General Assembly to maintain permanent and separate Transportation Funds to include the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, Transportation Trust Fund, and Highway Maintenance and Operating Fund. All revenues dedicated to Transportation Funds on January 1, 2007, by general law, other than a general appropriation law, shall be deposited to the Transportation Funds, unless the General Assembly by general law, other than a general appropriation law, alters the revenues dedicated to the Funds. The amendment limits the use of Fund moneys to transportation and related purposes. The General Assembly may borrow from

the Funds for other purposes only by a vote of two-thirds plus one of the members voting in each house, and the loan or reduction must be repaid with reasonable interest within four years. Patron: Marshall, R.G.

HJ 128 - Study; feasibility of providing property tax incentives to encourage constructing more efficient buildings; report. Directs the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission to study the feasibility of enabling legislation to authorize localities to provide real property tax incentives to encourage buildings to be constructed using "green building" or "sustainable" designs consistent with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Patron: Ware, O.

SB 28 - Commonwealth of Virginia Higher Educational Institutions Bond Act of 2006. Authorizes the Treasury Board to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$369,514,400 pursuant to Article X, Section 9(c) of the Constitution of Virginia, for paying costs of acquiring, constructing, and equipping revenue-producing capital projects at institutions of higher education of the Commonwealth and repeals certain prior authorizations for the issuance of bonds to the extent that the maximum amount of such bonds has not been issued. The bill has an emergency clause and is in effect upon passage. Patron: Chichester.

SB 140 - Estate tax. Conforms the amount of Virginia estate tax due from an estate to the maximum amount of the federal estate tax credit for state estate taxes, as permitted under federal estate tax law, as such law shall be amended from time to time. Under current law the amount of Virginia estate tax cannot be less than the federal credit under federal law as such law existed on January 1, 1978. Patron: O'Brien.

SB 275 - Department of General Services; Green Buildings Act. Requires all major facility projects of state agencies and other entities for which the project is funded with state money to be designed, constructed, and certified to meet the LEED silver standard as established by the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environment Design. The bill defines "major facility project" as a building construction project with more than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space, or a building renovation project when the cost is greater than 50% of the assessed value and the project with more than 5,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space. Under the bill, a major facility project may not be required to meet the standard if (i) there is no appropriate LEED silver standard for that type of building or renovation project, (ii) there is no practical way to apply the LEED silver standard to a particular building or renovation project, or (iii) the building or renovation project is an electricity transmitter building, a water pumping station, or a hospital. Patron: Whipple.

SJ 40 - Study; Department of Housing and Community Development; report. Requests the Department of Housing and Community Development to study whether the Uniform Statewide Building Code may be strengthened to increase public protection by (i) modifying the sound transmission coefficient ratings for sound attenuation to higher levels, (ii) developing a tiered application of the new ratings according to noise contours, and (iii) the application of advanced methods of sound attenuation through new construction and building materials. Patron: Blevins.

SB 478 - Sales and use tax; exemption for certain contractors. Exempts from paying the sales and use tax any person who contracts on or after July 1, 2006, to perform services for and provide tangible personal property for consumption or use by the Commonwealth, any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, or the United States, if the Commonwealth, political subdivision, or the United States certifies that title to such tangible personal property will pass to such governmental entity. Patron: Colgan.

SB 523 - Vehicle lengths; exemption. Provides an exemption from the vehicle length limit for tractor-semitrailer combinations where the length of the semitrailer does not exceed 53 feet. Allows the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner to restrict the operations of such tractor-semitrailer combinations from certain roads based on a safety and engineering analysis. Patron: Newman.

SB 541 - Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act; review and implementation of qualifying projects; Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council. Requires the review of qualifying projects under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA) by the appropriating body, which is the body responsible for appropriating or authorizing funding for the project. The bill provides that any aspects of an interim or comprehensive agreement requiring an appropriation or continuing appropriation shall not be developed or operated by a private entity until such time that the appropriation is approved by the appropriating body. The bill also requires that the guidelines that must be adopted by responsible public entities include provisions for (i) the financial review and analysis of the proposed qualifying project and the disclosure of such analysis to the appropriating body, (ii) consideration of nonfinancial benefits of a proposed qualifying project, and (iii) a mechanism for the appropriating body to review the proposed interim or comprehensive agreement before it is finalized. In addition, the bill establishes the Public-Private Partnership Advisory Council to review and advise the Governor and responsible public entities on the terms and conditions of proposed interim and comprehensive agreements. The bill contains technical amendments. Patron: Stosch.

SB 614 - Virginia-North Carolina Interstate Toll Road Compact. Establishes the Virginia-North Carolina Interstate Toll Road Compact to set, impose, and collect tolls for use of Interstate Route 85 and Interstate 95. Patron: Wagner.

SB 630 - Sales and use tax revenue dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund. Increases the amount of sales and use tax revenue dedicated to the Transportation Trust Fund from an amount generated by a 0.50 percent sales and use tax, to an amount generated by a 0.75 percent sales and use tax. Patrons: Cuccinelli, Obenshain and O'Brien.