



News & Notes

SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings from Lake County, I hope you all had a great summer and enjoyed some time off. We are all going through a tough time with respect to inflation, so I hope everyone is able to maneuver through the increased construction costs and accomplish improvements throughout their Counties.

FACERS continues to support indexing of local motor fuel taxes for the upcoming Legislation cycle and in July 2022 adopted an updated

resolution which addresses road user fees for operators of electric and alternative vehicles.

FACERS has brought back the Signal Committee to address County concerns with the traffic signal maintenance agreement with FDOT. FDOT is considering adding additional equipment to the reimbursement list as Counties continue to add advanced technology to improve signal operation. If you have any concerns with this agreement let us know so we can address them with FDOT.

As a reminder, please make arrangements to attend the FACERS fall conference at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront in Pinellas County from November 30th – December 2nd and I encourage all members to attend as this a great way to network and obtain PDHs. Clinton Howerton Jr., FACERS Vice President, of Highlands County is putting together a great agenda that everyone will enjoy. Also, one of our guest speakers will be FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue. I look forward to seeing each of you there.

Sincerely,

George

2022-2023 FACERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



L to R- Deborah Snyder, Margaret Smith, Judith Clarke, Brian Singleton, Amy Blaida, Clinton “Gator” Howerton, George Gadiel, Ben Bartlett, Scott Herring, David Ricks, Ramon Gavarrete, Chad Williams, Chance Powell. Pictured on the far right – Lake County Commissioner Sean Parks who was present to swear in our new FACERS Board.

2022 FALL MEETING

Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront
November 30-December 2, 2022
Pinellas County

[Register and make your hotel reservation today!](#)



Don't forget to plan to attend our upcoming Fall Meeting! So far, we tentatively have speakers/presentations scheduled to discuss topics such as roadway geotextile design, disaster debris, roadway lighting, aggregate supply issues, bridge design, leadership training, speaker from Board of Professional Engineers, updates from FDOT reps, NACE, and certainly don't miss the presentation and chance to meet FDOT State Secretary Perdue!

EXECUTIVE LIAISON REPORT

FACERS Message Board

The FACERS website now includes a Message Board that will make it easier to post questions and see responses from other members. Questions and other messages may be posted directly on the Message Board, but members are encouraged to continue to send questions to John Goodknight, Executive Liaison (jgoodknight@facers.net), who will post the question and circulate a copy using FACERS's mass email system. Responses should be posted on the Message Board.

First time users of the Message Board will need to register following the simple prompts on the website. There may be a brief delay for approval of the registration, but once approved, posting a response should be straightforward.

Audible /Vibratory Treatments (AVT) for lane markings

At the July LAP Community of Practice meeting, Brenda Young, FDOT's State Safety Engineer, presented the Statewide Rumble Strip Initiative. This initiative focuses on reducing lane departure crashes and reports a Benefit/Cost ratio of 32:1 and 42:1 respectively for applying Audible/Vibratory Treatments (AVT) on state roads and other public roads. It further requests \$80 million to retrofit edge line and centerline rumble strips on county and other local roads. This treatment would apply to rural roads with speeds of 50 mph or greater. FDOT's District Safety Offices will be working with agencies in their districts to develop these projects. Counties should contact FDOT District Safety Offices for details about how this program will be managed in each district.

AVTs are now required for all state funded highway projects with speeds of 50 mph or greater. The preferred treatment includes ground -in rumble strips using a sinusoidal pattern to significantly reduce noise impacts on neighboring development. FDOT has proposed a revision to the Florida Greenbook requiring AVTs on all roads with speeds of 50 mph or greater.

FACERS supports the use of AVTs where appropriate but has expressed concerns about matters such as impact on the community, narrow low volume roads, requirements for long term maintenance, and fiscal impacts. FDOT is working with FACERS to develop alternate Greenbook language that responds to local conditions.

Federal Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law

The recently enacted Federal Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Bill makes federal discretionary grants available directly to local governments. The application process and requirements for administering these grants may not be well understood by local agencies, and FDOT has scheduled a series of webinars and other training sessions to help Florida Cities and Counties understand these processes. More information about these sessions is available at: **Discretionary Grant Information Sessions**.

Recommendations to local share of gas tax and to establish system for EVs to pay a "fair share" of road user costs

FACERS has recommended legislation to adopt the indexing procedure used for state gas taxes to the local share of gas taxes. This annually adjusts the tax to match changes in the Consumer Price Index. FACERS has also recommended legislation to establish a system that would require users of electric and alternate energy vehicles to pay a "fair share" of the cost of operation the road system.

Increasing costs for highway construction and maintenance together with the fact that the local share of gas taxes is based on a fixed "pennies per gallon" continues to reduce the buying power of local gas taxes. This is exacerbated by the fact that electric and alternate fuel vehicles contribute little to no road user fees.

Traffic Signal Maintenance and Compensation Agreement

Over the last two and a half decades, the FACERS Signal Committee has worked with FDOT to develop and enhance the traffic signal maintenance and compensation agreement. Prior to 2000, FDOT installed traffic signals on state highways only if a local agency agreed to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the systems. In updating the standard signal maintenance agreement, FDOT has assumed responsibility for paying the cost of the signal maintenance.

The most recent version of the standard agreement significantly increased the compensation and benefits to local agencies and includes a provision that allows for transfer of the responsibility for maintenance back to FDOT. However, the evolution of traffic control systems, especially in larger urban areas, has added significant issues and costs not adequately addressed in previous versions of the agreement. During a recent meeting, the FACERS Signal Committee raised concerns about end of life and

obsolescence of equipment, minimizing requirements for documentation, contractor performance, and administrative costs.

FDOT has been responsive to FACERS concerns and the FACERS Signal Committee expects to meet with FDOT soon to discuss potential revisions to the agreement. Agencies who have other concerns about the agreement should communicate these to the Traffic Signal Committee. This communication should be sent to John Goodknight, FACERS Executive Liaison at jgoodknight@facers.net.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

S. County Courts/R. L. Anderson Building Remodel CIP # 83314



Last updated: June 2022

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Design Start
May 2018

Design Finish
July 2022 (Ph. 3)

Construction Start
November 2022 (Ph. 3)

**Construction
Completion**
April 2022
(Court Building)

PROJECT DETAILS

Design Consultant
DLR Group, Inc.

Design Contract Cost
\$2,744,405.75

Contractor
Halfacre Construction
Company

**Construction
Contract Cost**
\$21,828,517.00
(Phases 1 and 2;
Phase 3 TBD)

COUNTY PROJECT MANAGER(S)

Design
Daniel Lee Cruz
RA, CGC, PMP
dcruz@scgov.net

Construction
Daniel Lee Cruz
RA, CGC, PMP
dcruz@scgov.net



COMMON CENTS
Your penny at Work.
This project was made possible
by the one-cent sales tax.

Project Description

The project includes construction of a new, 2-story, 4-court, courthouse and ancillary spaces to serve the Clerk of Courts and Court Administration. The new building will be located on the campus of the existing R. L. Anderson Building, located at 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice Florida.

The reallocation of court functions from the R. L. Anderson building to the new Courthouse building will also include reallocation of spaces within the R. L. Anderson Buildings. This reallocation of space will facilitate the renovations necessary to address immediate and near-term growth in various non-court services resident in the existing R.L. Anderson Buildings including the Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, Veterans Services, Planning and Development Services, and Health Department.

The project includes extensive site work including construction of new parking, stormwater treatment facilities, and landscaping improvements.

Project Progress/Status

The site work phase of the project was approved by the Sarasota County Commission on March 24, 2020. Phase 1 (site work) and Phase 2 (South County Courthouse construction) are now 100% complete and a Ribbon Cutting was held on May 4. The County is in the process of completing design documents for the renovation of the existing R. L. Anderson and adjacent Annex building. Construction on this renovation work is expected to begin in late 2022.



Sarasota County Capital Projects | 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240 | 941.861.5000
www.scgov.net/government/capital-projects/selected-county-projects



PALM BEACH COUNTY HOSTS STUDENTS FROM EJS PROJECT

This August, Palm Beach County Engineering and Public Works (EPW) staff hosted a group of students from EJS Project, a community organization whose core values are to: Prioritize success of teens in school and life, Ensure equitable opportunities for teens and Promote transformation change in individuals, organizations and systems. The County Engineer, David Ricks, was first introduced to the leader of EJS at a Board of County Commissioners meeting where Commissioner Mack Bernard recognized the organization for their positive impact in the community. Appreciating the mission of the organization, Mr. Ricks invited them to have a tour of EPW.



The EPW team didn't want to just provide a tour and showcase the amazing equipment, technology and staff. Our goals were to have the students leave feeling connected to a future career in engineering and public works, educated about how the infrastructure in their communities function and connected to the leadership of the organization.

Prior to the tour we provided the students with an overall presentation on EPW. This time was purposefully designed to be interactive. To help the students feel connected to what we do in EPW, we first had them determine their personality type. The

presentation was set-up to highlight the different personality types that work in our various divisions so that the students could then connect to the various talents that make each division function successfully. Allowing them to connect this way provided them with the chance to ask questions more geared towards their personalities.



They then visited several of our divisions where the engineers, administrative and technical staff, technicians and equipment operators all shared about what they do. The students got hands on experience with the tools we use, saw how signs are made and signals repaired. They got to see the traffic cameras at work and learned how we use them to manage traffic. They learned about what it takes to develop land and also see how we maintain our roads, bridges and

ditches with some pretty cool equipment.

The students and chaperones agreed that they learned a lot. Some commented that they didn't know what a civil engineer was, or that the



traffic cameras weren't for catching red light runners. One young lady wants to be a mechanical engineer and connected with Mr. Ricks. Other students spoke with the technicians and asked them questions about how to get a job doing what they do: "Can I apply after I graduate?"..."Do I need a degree?" It was such a great opportunity for our team to inspire these students to work in public service just like them.



And for that one student who didn't think there was a role for her because she didn't want to be an engineer, a staff member took her on a personal tour through the division to show her that there is a place for her too.

Here is a note from the EJS Director Dupree:

Good Morning, I wanted to say thank you for hosting such an amazing tour that you and the engineering and public works department presented to our students. It was so well organized and engaging. I truly appreciate the work that you and the team put in to make it happen and would again like to thank everyone for their time and undivided attention

We all left feeling like we had learned a lot and made some great connections.

I have a newfound respect for your department and hope we can find ways to collaborate on something like this again in the future. (or in other ways)

With appreciation,

Dupree



UPDATE FROM NACE



NACE is in full swing as we approach the stretch run of 2022. With a new infrastructure bill has come many new funding opportunities, which I know many of you have already applied. If you chose to remain on the sidelines this year, remember these programs will all be available for FY23 as well. While the advocacy portion of our job has ended successfully, we now turn to ensure the implementation goes as intended, and to safeguard counties are aptly placed to make informed decisions when deliberating possible grant applications. Regardless of the new Bill, we are keenly aware that administrations may change, but our message does not, and we continue to advocate for more funding, more funding that counties can apply for directly, and a streamlining of the federal permitting process while not compromising environmental regulations.

As always, I was thrilled to join you all in Orlando in June. As we mentioned in person, we are now officially certified by the Florida Board of Professional Engineers as a certified professional development provider. A special thanks to former NACE President Ramon Gavarrete for his assistance in making this possible. This news couldn't have come at a more opportune time as we prepare for our 2023 Annual Conference, a mere three miles from the Florida border in Orange Beach, Alabama. FACERS members will be able to apply their professional development hours from our event for official credit. For those of you who have debated attending a NACE conference, this is your year! We expect Delegate Registration to open in November and we expect to sell out quickly.

As FACERS will once again be gathering in person in a couple months, NACE is looking forward to joining you as well in St. Petersburg for your November event. When we see each other again, I look forward to updating you on some

staffing changes and internal improvements we are making to provide even more value for our members. Between now and then, always feel free to reach out to NACE if there is something we can assist you with. See everyone in a couple months.

Best,

Kevan Stone
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of County Engineers

REMEMBERING BILL STEVES



Many of us knew Bill Steves over the years. He and his wife Carolyn attended all the FACERS meetings for decades. Carolyn served as the FACERS Sustaining Member Director for years while Bill attended as an engineer and sponsor (always watching over Carolyn). They both made an impact on all the lives they reached. Bill passed away on July 1, 2022. Bill was a great engineer, a great husband, a great father and grandfather, and just a fantastic overall human. The world is a better place because Bill was in it. May we always remember his witty

dry sense of humor that he brought with him to the FACERS meetings. RIP Bill.

William Mattis Steves
NOVEMBER 18, 1946 – JULY 1, 2022

William Mattis STEVES “Bill”, age 75, of Bradenton, Florida, passed away on Friday, July 1, 2022 due to complications from pancreatic cancer.

Bill was born November 18, 1946 in Camden, NJ to Wilbert Luther Steves and Virginia Mattis Steves. At the age of 2, the family moved to Tampa, FL where Bill spent most of his life. He graduated from Hillsborough High School in Tampa in 1964, then in 1966, during the Vietnam War, decided to join the US Air Force. After that, he went on to receive his BS Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of South Florida in Tampa in 1973.

Bill was married to Carolyn Gail Castellano on July 21, 1977; they were married for nearly 45 years.

Bill worked as a Civil Engineer for over 50 years; working at several companies including Heidt & Associates, Genesis Group, RS&H and eventually starting his own company, Steves Engineering, which he was President of, and worked till the end.

He enjoyed attending Tampa Bay Rays games, smoking a good cigar, and spending time with his beautiful family and beloved dogs. He was also actively involved in the organizations FACERS and APWA.

He was an advocate for Veterans associations such as the Wounded Warriors Project and the Tunnels to Towers Foundation.

Bill is survived by his Wife, Carolyn G Steves; Children, Michael W Steves, Darla Delgado, & Darren Delgado; Grandchildren, Ava Steves, Ethan Steves, Spencer Delgado,

Isabella Delgado, Sophia Delgado; Great Granddaughter, Olive Delgado; and his Sister, Helen Joanne "Jo" Williams.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Bill's Honor to any of the following:

National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation www.npcf.us
<http://www.pancan.org/>

Florida Association of Counties | c/o Florida Association of Counties, 100 South Monroe Street,
Tallahassee, FL 32301

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