

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone in FACERS. The holiday season is rapidly approaching and will soon be on us all in full force.

I wanted to thank everyone who came to the Fall Meeting in Tampa last month. We had a great time as always and had another stellar lineup of presentations and fellowship at the “world famous” FACERS social. This is a great way to network and get caught up on new technology, laws, and trends for our unique industry. Also, remember that these presentations count for continuing education area of practice credits for anyone needing those for your license renewal (coming again in 2025, so you have time to come to more conferences in 2024). Remember that many of these presentations are or will be available on our website at facers.net so go online and look them up if you were not there, or

were there and wanted a copy of the details presented. While on the website, also be sure to look into other features being added such as information about legislative efforts and initiatives, awards, scholarships, and upcoming meeting dates. One item of note is the membership map which shows which counties have representatives as members of FACERS. If you see one of the counties who is not a member and know someone from that county, please reach out to them and ask them to consider joining and becoming a part of the organization. The more membership we have, the better our representation will be for our state.

As we get ready for travel around the holiday season, I wanted to remind our readers of the statistic that L.K. Nandam, FDOT Dist. 1 Secretary, shared with us that the seatbelt usage has dropped notably, and as a result, the fatalities in serious crashes seems to be trending up. Please encourage your family and friends to always wear your seat belt and obey traffic laws. The lives saved can be those of your own family!

I'll leave you with a reminder of our mission statement:

The mission of FACERS is to foster and maintain a high professional spirit among the members, provide instructive and entertaining

programs of interest to the members, and to provide an organization through which the public works programs may be coordinated among Florida's Counties, Municipalities and other governmental agencies.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Clinton "Gator" Howerton

2023 FALL MEETING RECAP

The FACERS Fall Meeting was held in Hillsborough County at the *Grand Hyatt Tampa* on November 15-16, 2023. The Agenda covered a wide spectrum of topics from Creative Applications of Model Based Design, LAP 101, Electric Vehicles to Autonomous Vehicles and Transportation Funding and included updates from NACE, FDOT District 1 and 7 Offices, as well as an update from the Central Office in Tallahassee. If you missed the Fall Meeting, you can check out the entire program and the presentations [HERE](#).



FACERS Small Agency Award Recipient
City of Holmes Beach



FACES Large Agency Award Recipient
Sarasota County



Senator Jeff Brandes & Chris Evers with
PaveTech, Inc.



FACERS Fall Meeting Class in Session

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— SAVE THE DATE - 2023 ANNUAL MEETING —

FACERS
Florida Association of
County Engineers
& Road Superintendents

Save the Date

2024
ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 26 - 27, 2024
HILTON BONNET CREEK
ORANGE COUNTY

— LEGISLATIVE REPORT —

The 2024 Legislative Session is right around the corner, kicking off on Tuesday, January 9th. A number of relevant bills are already in play through six interim committee weeks, while we expect to see another large batch filed in the first weeks of the new year.

A major theme of this session is reforming the development and building review process. **HB 267** by Rep. Esposito and **SB 684** by Sen. DiCeglie drastically tighten the

timeframes for local review of building permits. HB 267 also shares language with **HB 665** by Rep. McClain and **SB 812** by Sen. Ingoglia, allowing for batch permitting (up to 50% of the total building permits) following approval of a preliminary plat. Lastly, Rep. Griffiths' **HB 579** addresses the use of private providers for plan review and building inspections. Specifically, a local building department is prohibited from conducting its own plan review/inspection if a private provider is used.

Additionally, familiar topics such as electric vehicle license taxes and mobility fees are rearing their heads once again. **SB 28** by Sen. Hooper imposes an annual registration fee on electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles, with 36% of the associated revenues being allocated to counties and municipalities for transportation-related expenses. Meanwhile, a strike-all amendment to the House companion, **HB 107** by Rep. Esposito, abandons the fee language in favor of a special estimating session to determine the revenue impact resulting from the sales tax on electricity used for electric vehicle charging stations. One-twelfth of this estimate is then to be distributed monthly to the State Transportation Trust Fund—no money will be allocated to counties or municipalities.

HB 479/SB 688 by Rep. Robinson and Sen. Martin, respectively, are the latest attempt at mobility fee reform. They provide that only the permitting local government may charge for transportation impacts on a development. While the bill directs the permitting local government to collect and account for extra-jurisdictional impacts, there is no clarity on how fees for these impacts would be determined or allocated. This presents significant challenges for county road systems that transcend municipal boundaries.

Lastly, the Department of Transportation (DOT) has tabbed Sen. Hooper and Rep. Esposito to carry their DOT agency package. **SB 266** and **HB 287** establish the “Local Agency Program” in statute, with the intent to provide technical assistance/oversight to subrecipient local governments awarded federal funds for transportation projects. It is possible this results in additional state involvement in local transportation policy.

For more details on this legislation, please click [HERE](#).

NACE UPDATE



NACE was once again honored to attend and address the FACERS conference in Tampa last month, with both Southeast Region VP Josh Harvill and Secretary-Treasurer Jacob Thorius in attendance. We extend our thanks to President Howerton and the FACERS members for the invitation and hospitality. Attending FACERS is always one of the highlights of my travel schedule, and I look forward to seeing everyone next year in Orlando.

With the 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 the first two years of NOFO's, remember these programs for FY24 are now rolling out very quickly. NACE members across the country have been the recipients of some of these new discretionary grant programs, providing tangible resources to improve their county's transportation infrastructure.

Our planning for NACE 2024 is in full swing, with many exciting events and educational opportunities to enhance your attendance. If you missed this year's conference, you certainly don't want to miss next year. For those of you who have never attended a NACE Conference or find themselves on the fence about whether to attend, I would invite you to speak with FACERS members who have attended in the past. If they can't convince you of the second-to-none subject matter and technical sessions that only enrich our members each and every year, then perhaps the golf and camaraderie will. Registration is now open, and we have experienced record registration numbers to date. While we have a great overflow hotel next door, act quickly if you want to get lodging at the host hotel,

connected to the Palm Springs Convention Center. As you know, our PDH hours credited at the conference are accepted in and by the State of Florida to satisfy continuing education requirements.

As always, if NACE can be of any assistance to your efforts at home, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Best,

Kevan Stone
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of County Engineers

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The City of Holmes Beach “City Center Improvement Project” was awarded the ***FACERS Award of Excellence for Small Agency Project of the Year*** at the FACERS Fall meeting.

The City of Holmes Beach’s City Center project includes Marina Drive and Gulf Drive around the signalized intersection of Marina Drive at Gulf Drive, located in the commercial center and geographic center of the City. This approximately \$3 million project incorporates roadway improvements including turn lanes, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks at two of the only three roads that access the northern half of Anna Maria Island. Infrastructure improvement includes updating the nearly 70-year-old stormwater infrastructure, as well as improving storm water quality with infiltration trenches and pervious surface treatments. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) will improve multimodal access through the project. Street lighting, bollard lighting, and landscaping provides safety as well as water quality improvements. See below concept sketch.

PROJECT OUTLINE

1. Stormwater Infrastructure upgrades of aging, nearly 70 year old, infrastructure.
2. Water Quality Improvements with stormwater infiltration areas and pervious surface treatments.
3. Roadway Improvements add turn lanes, traffic signal upgrades, and bicycle lanes.
4. Mobility Improvements of countdown pedestrian signals, new and additional crosswalks with RRFBs, new sidewalks, and pervious paver pathways.
5. Water Quality Improvements add infiltration areas and pervious surface treatments.

INNOVATIVE TREATMENTS

Along the southside of Gulf Drive a trench drain was called for in the engineering plans for roadway drainage. During construction the existing stormwater concrete pipe along the south side of the roadway was found to have numerous failing joints and was determined this run needed to be replaced. The solution to replace the pipe to accommodate the trench drain removed any potential conflicts. Since this area was going to be disturbed it was decided that infiltration media could be used to surround the stormwater pipe to provide treatment in the area to enhance the use of the trench drain, stormwater inlets, replaced stormwater pipe, and adjacent parking lot. This area was then topped with pervious pavers to provide combined water quality with the stormwater management system and a pervious paver path for pedestrians to easily access the area, where none existing prior to the project.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership was required to manage the prime contractor and coordinate with sub-contractors, general public, elected officials, and area businesses. City staff also coordinated with the contractors for an ever-changing evolving temporary traffic control plan to maximize roadwork improvement with maintaining traffic flow on the only three roads to use the northern part of Anna Maria Island.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The long overdue stormwater infrastructure improvements provide increased longevity to the stormwater system and ensure that residents and guests alike can continue to make full use of the roadway including bicycle and pedestrian modes during and after storm events. The addition of walkways provides full pedestrian access around City Center and to the adjacent businesses, trolley stops, and ultimately beach access. The landscaping and lighting provide much needed aesthetics and safety treatments for all modes of travel. The infiltration areas provided water quality to stormwater and help ensure cleaner water runoff to the adjoining environmentally sensitive waterways of the gulf and the bay for future generations to enjoy.

BUDGET IMPACT

To make the City's local funds go further, the City pursued and obtained the significant majority of funds for this project from federal and state grants. The approximately \$3 million project is made up of the following major components.

- \$1.5 million provided by the America Rescue Plan Act

- \$600 thousand from local half cent sales tax funding

- \$500 thousand was provided by the state Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- \$250 thousand provided by mix of funds through the public works operating funds

- \$70 thousand from local option 5th cent gas tax funding



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Winter Member Spotlight: Sage Kamiya

Sage Kamiya is the Superintendent of Public Works and City Engineer for the City of Holmes Beach. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Florida State University and a Master of Business Administration from University of South Florida.

Mr. Kamiya has over 25 years of professional engineering experience in both the public and private sectors and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Florida and a certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer. He is proud to have been a recipient of the ASCE Suncoast Branch's Government Engineer of the Year, ASCE's Project of the Year, and the Florida Section ITE's Transportation Engineer of the Year awards.

As Superintendent of Public Works, he is responsible for leading the department in the operation and maintenance of the City's infrastructure including the city parks, beach accesses, facilities, roadways, stormwater infrastructure, and the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Sage and his wife Sunda' have been married for 27 years and have three beautiful daughters. Kea, 21 is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts degree at Florida State University. Kali, 18 is pursuing her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Education at Florida State University. Kiri, 14 is in high school at the State College of Florida Collegiate School. When they can all get together they enjoy coffee shops in Savannah, GA and outdoor activities like going to the beach and nature hikes. Sage's lifelong goal is to rebuild his 1951 Chevy ¾ ton pickup. Currently it is a work in progress.

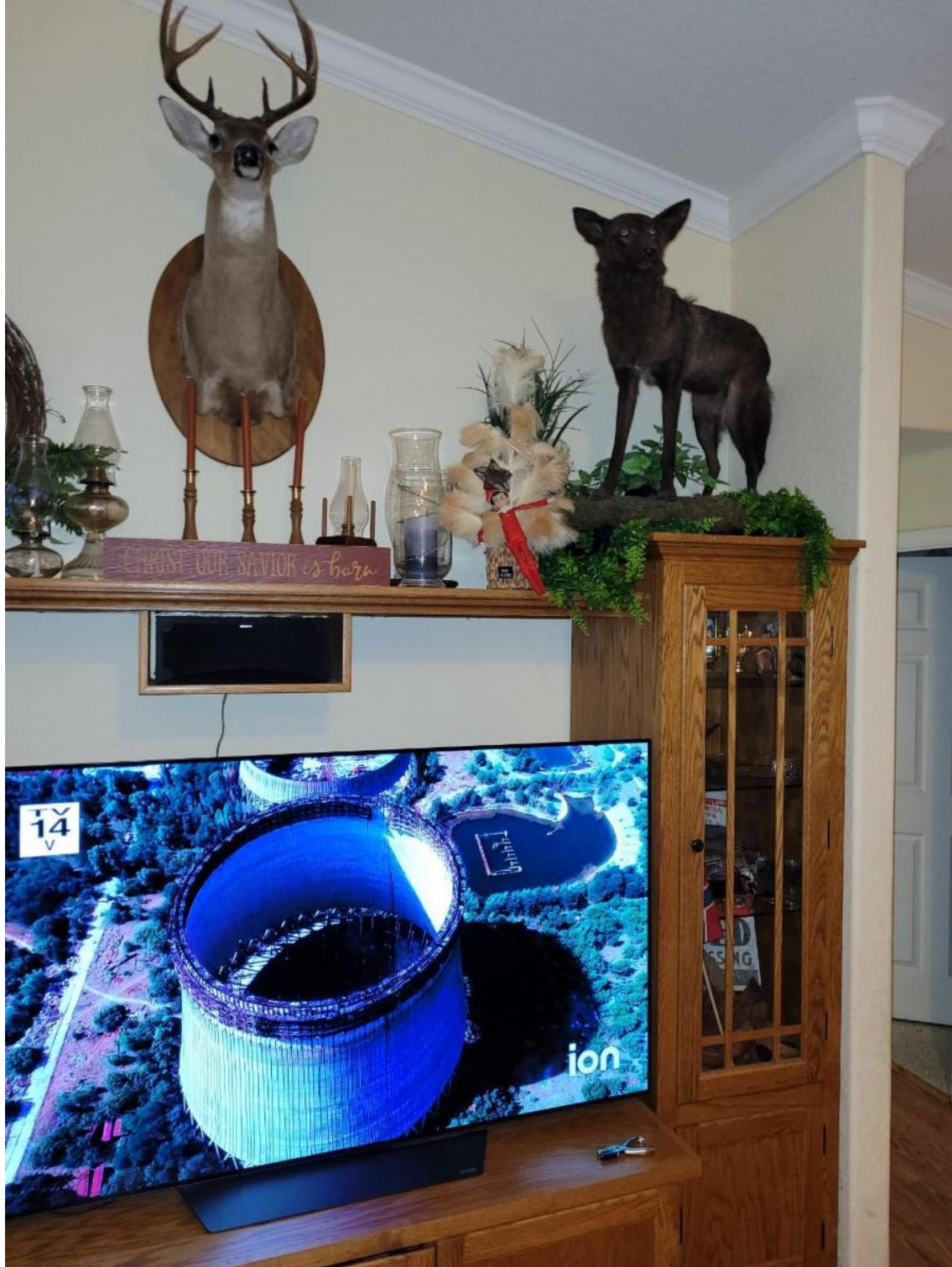


HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

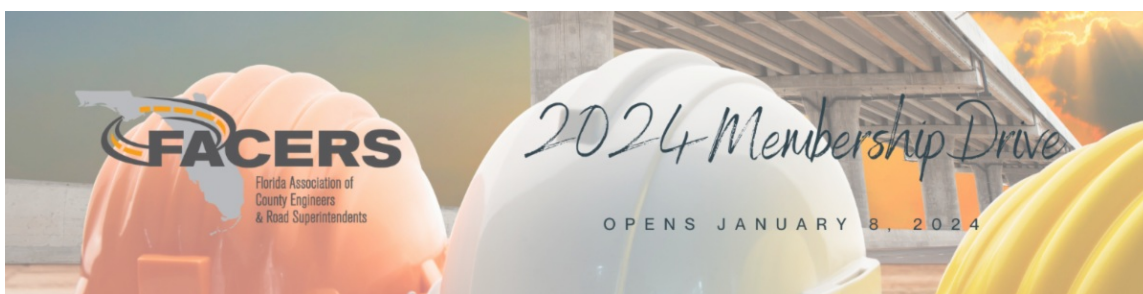
FACERS has held a Christmas tradition for 15+ years, and we call it the **Passing On of the FACERS Christmas Decoration**. Each year, a “unique” Christmas decoration has been passed on from one FACERS member to another.

The rule is that whoever receives this great honor at the Fall Meeting must display it prominently at the property of the FACERS member for the entirety of the Christmas holiday. For historical purposes, the decoration(s) consisted of very large blow up decorations that were displayed in front of a house. Unfortunately, those decorations have been laid to rest.

Last year, the **FACERS Tree** sprung into existence as the replacement. Clinton “Gator” Howerton, FACERS President, was the recipient of the first **FACERS Tree** in 2022:



Gator gifted the **FACERS Tree** to Deborah Snyder at the recent FACERS Fall Meeting in November.



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