

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Finally we made it through the winter and into spring here in Florida! I hope everyone is doing well and getting out to enjoy the many advantages of living in our area this time of year. Get out there and enjoy before it gets too hot! I also hope everyone is making plans to join us in June for the Annual Conference in Orlando. We have another stellar line-up of presentations on tap you won't want to miss. There will be updates from several state agencies, discussion of new laws/rules, and possibly ability to get your laws and ethics credits for the upcoming PE renewal next year. There are opportunities for sponsorships if you or a company you know would be interested in supporting this event. There are also several awards which will be given out and nominations for these are still open. If you know of a great public works project that has been done and should be recognized, make sure you go to the

website and look for the appropriate links to submit a nomination.

Membership!!! Make sure you have sent in your renewal dues to keep your membership current. We will be going through the membership roll soon to update it and we don't want to miss anyone. If you have colleagues that need to join, please send them the information to do that as well, especially new members so they can come to see the great benefits of having the resources of this group.

So, make sure you go online and get registered for the FAC/FACERS conference soon before space runs out! You'll definitely want to plan to stick around for the social on Thursday night at *Black Angus Steakhouse* as well, it's a great time you don't want to miss!

Sincerely,
Clinton "Gator" Howerton

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Palm Beach County's 6th Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

In the heart of the Lake Worth Beach area within Palm Beach County, where east-to-west traffic surges with daily intensity between residential homes, state college and a popular public park, anticipation brewed as plans for the replacement of the 6th Avenue Bridge took flight in February 2022. The scope of work for this over \$11 million vital infrastructure project consisted of the demolition and reconstruction of the entire bridge that spans Lake Osborne, which is a 378-acre lake that is part of a system of once natural freshwater lakes lying along the western slope of the coastal ridge in Palm Beach County just west of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway. It also included the installation of a new stormwater management system, the construction of new sidewalks, curbs and guardrails, the installation of new mechanically stabilized earth retaining walls and the inclusion of a buffered bike lane along 6th Avenue South roadway. On top of this project improving bridge infrastructure within our county, it will also enhance pedestrian accessibility within this residential area.

As construction geared up for the project, conflicts started emerging as the contractor begun demolition of the bridge and found a clearance conflict with the existing overhead utility lines along the north side of 6th Avenue South roadway. Lake Worth Electric company was contacted to relocate these overhead utility lines within this conflict zone of the project. County staff learned that it would cost approximately \$1.5 million to relocate the lines and take up to two years to procure the required materials during which time construction could not continue. It was decided to close the bridge to vehicular traffic to allow construction to continue and that power would be de-energized in the conflict zone. Between March 2023 through April 2023, power was allowed to be shut down during the day to allow work to proceed within the conflict zone. After that date, the load on those power lines were too high to allow for daytime de-energized.

In addition to keep the project moving forward, the contractor needed to perform nighttime work that was expected to last up to 10 weekdays. The Engineering and Public Works Department (EPW) notified the residents within the residing area of the project via a direct mailer about the required night work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 10 a.m. during those 10 weekdays in August 2023. EPW outlined that the work involved driving of sheet piles along the south side of the bridge on both ends. Thankfully between EPW's Construction Coordination Division and the contractor's night crew working diligently and efficiently, they were able to finish the 10 days' worth of night work within just three days. During those three days, they installed 160 feet of steel sheet piles to create a secure foundation for the next phase of construction.

Amidst the inconveniences, they pale in comparison to the transformative impact the new bridge promises to deliver. With the estimated project completion date right around the corner, second quarter 2024, there's a shared recognition that short-term disruptions pave the way for long-term gains within our community. With improved infrastructure comes not only enhanced safety and efficiency but also a renewed sense of pride in our county's resilience and ability to adopt to change.



September 2023



October 2023



November 2023

2024 FACERS ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION OPEN



For detailed FACERS Annual Meeting information, agenda and to register, please click the link ABOVE.

Sponsorship Opportunities still exist! If you are looking to spend some sponsorship dollars, look no further than FACERS. For specifics, please contact Amy Blaida at amy.blaida@ergon.com and check out sponsorship opportunities [HERE](#).

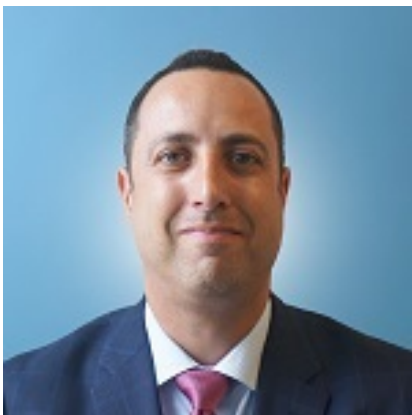


Registered for the 2024 FACERS Annual Meeting? Please join us for the Social on Thursday evening at the Black Angus Steakhouse at 6:00 pm. Stay tuned for additional details and please RSVP your attendance to **Amy Blaida** at amy.blaida@ergon.com at your earliest convenience.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2024 Legislative Session wrapped up March 8, 2024. Jared Grigas, with FAC Public Policy has created a legislative report specifically for FACERS. You can access that report [HERE](#). For a comprehensive review of what passed and what did not affecting all areas of local government, you can check out the 2024 Public Policy Final Report and Presentation on the FAC website [HERE](#). If you have any specific questions with regard to the report, you can email Jared at jgrigas@fl-counties.com.

NACE UPDATE



Greetings from Washington, where election season has now gone into full swing. With both sides of the political spectrum opposed to giving their friends across the aisle any sort of “win”, gridlock will continue to top the DC menu.

The past two years has shown why the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was so crucial to county road professionals. No other sector of the economy had a landmark bill signed into law during the Biden Administration’s first term, where, like most new presidential administrations, have 2 years of a “friendly” Congress to work with. Much like President Obama’s

Affordable Care Act and President Trump's tax reform package, one significant piece of legislation is signed into law in a first term. Record funding amounts and record funding opportunities for local governments will be the biggest legislative achievement during the past 4 years. The advocacy of NACE and other infrastructure focused groups can take great pride in knowing their hard work resulted in unprecedented opportunities for local infrastructure investment. I can assure you the direct relation of NACE advocacy and favorable legislation is no coincidence.

Ironically, while infrastructure funding was passed, Congress's main function has not been easy nor pleasant. At the end of the day, the core function of our legislative branch is to appropriate and authorize funding for the federal government, known as the appropriations process. Congress has limped through the past three months by passing short-term extensions to keep the dollars flowing. NACE members know that is no way to run a budget, as financial certainty is vital to planning for new projects and maintenance. As I write this, there is yet another short-term extension in place. Hopefully, by the time we see each other in Orlando this June, we will have more certainty that we do today (but please, don't hold your breath).

In 5 short weeks, the nation's local road professionals shall descend upon Riverside County (Palm Springs), California for our Annual Conference. While last year's conference was on the Gulf closer to home, we hope many of you are making the trip out west for a conference packed with educational opportunities, continuing education credits, peer exchanges and of course comradery to important to our members. Many NACE members tell us later it was simply the time to chat with your colleagues across the country yielded ideas that brought innovation and cost savings back home with them. When you consider the cost of a NACE conference and yearly membership dues, the value proposition is immeasurable. I encourage all of you to take advantage.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Orlando this June. As many of you know, growing up in South Florida and attending UCF (Go Knights!) make the FACERS conference all the more special for me each year. Each year, I look forward to seeing old friends while making new ones as well. I would also encourage you to become more involved with NACE. Florida has a rich history of national leadership, with former Palm Beach County Engineer George Webb and Alachua County's Public Works Director Ramon Gavarrete both former NACE Presidents. Even today, Lake County's George Gaidel continues to make valuable contributions to NACE, serving as a committee chair.

If I can ever be of assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing many of you in Palm Springs next month look forward to catching up with everyone in June.

Best,

Kevan Stone

Executive Director

National Association of County Engineers

— 2024 FACERS AWARDS —

It's that time of the year to nominate for the annual FACERS awards. For detailed information on the awards criteria, and to nominate, please click [HERE](#). An email blast went out to the membership this week so don't forget to nominate for 2024!



2024 FACERS Awards

NOMINATIONS OPEN

MARCH 11 - APRIL 30, 2024

FACERS AWARDS

Do you have a completed public works project in your county or city that you are proud of? Has your city or county engineer or public works director collaborated with state or local agencies to enhance your community? Now is the time to recognize them, we want to see your projects!

Awards are available in each of the following categories:



URBAN ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

(COMMUNITIES LARGER THAN 150,000 POP)

RURAL ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

(COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 150,000 POP)

PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

LOCAL/STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION

PROJECT OF THE YEAR

LARGE AGENCY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

SMALL AGENCY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

For detailed information on the awards and to nominate, please click the button below.

PLEASE SUBMIT AWARD NOMINATIONS BY:

APRIL

30th

2024

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Spring Member Spotlight: Chris Evers

Chris Evers is a Technical Representative with Pavement Technology Inc. a company he joined in 2012. He also serves as the Executive Coordinator of the Florida Pavement Preservation Council (FPPC). He has 28 years of experience in the heavy highway construction industry. Chris has been involved in all facets of the Asphalt Industry from binder supplier to contractor – consultant to association leader. He is the Past President of the



American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter where he founded the Public Works Director Roundtable. He makes his home outside the comfort zone in any number of ways, poetry, rapping, media appearances, public speaking and lastly FEMA arbitration cases.

As an active educator for the public works industry, he has spoken at over 50 conferences and is the author of 30 magazine articles on Public Works and Pavement Preservation and over 35 hours of recorded webinars through Florida LTAP and FPPC. Last year APWA National honored Chris with their Top Ten Public Works Leaders of 2023.

Chris is married with 15 year old twins and lives in Vero Beach, FL. He enjoys travel and has fallen in love with exotic, faraway lands such as Iceland. Chris is on a mission to make this world a better place so that others who come after have the opportunities he's had. That means more than just preserving pavements; it involves helping PTI launch their new smog eating roads products. So breathe easy, he's on it!

FACERS HAPPENINGS



BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP COMPETITION

Are you interested in showcasing your innovative solutions to transportation problems? The Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center at the University of South Florida (USF) is hosting the Florida Build A Better Mousetrap (BABM) competition, which awards the winners in the Florida competition based on cost and savings, benefits to the community and the environment, transferability, ingenuity, and effectiveness.

To enter, complete a web form with contact details, a write-up, and a photo or video. From these entries, the Florida LTAP will select winners from each of the following four categories: Innovative Project, SMART Transformation, Bold Steps, and Pioneer. The winners from the Florida competition will be

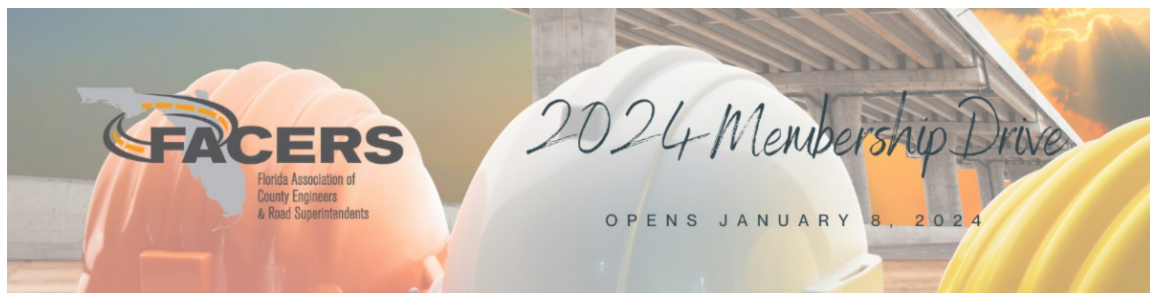
announced in the Florida LTAP summer newsletter and on social media, along with other recognition.

Winning entries from the Florida competition will be submitted to the national competition, which will recognize innovations among other states' local agencies and tribal submissions to compete for prizes and national recognition at the annual LTAP/TTAP national conference. Florida's own Seminole County was the national winner of the Smart Transformation Award in 2021.

Take advantage of this opportunity to gain recognition and prizes and receive state and national exposure for your creative work.

Applications are due to the Florida LTAP Center by May 17, 2024. For more information about the Build a Better Mousetrap competition, please visit <https://floridaltap.org/mousetrap/> and contact the Florida LTAP at FloridaLTAP@usf.edu to start your entry today!

FACERS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



If you have not joined FACERS for 2024, don't miss out! The membership drive is open NOW and new members are welcome. For detailed information on FACERS, check out the membership pamphlet [HERE](#) or the [FACERS website](#). If you are a renewing member, please sign-in to your FAC portal and renew [HERE](#).

Is Your County a Member? Click [HERE](#) to see.



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

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