



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First, I want to thank Clinton “Gator” Howerton as immediate past President and George Gadiel, his predecessor, for everything they have brought to the FACERS Board. I feel I have big shoes to try and fill! I hope I do as well as they did in their turn as President.

At our June Annual Meeting, we had a record number of attendees-119. As usual, Amy Blaida did an extraordinary job bringing sponsors to the event. Our social at the *Black Angus Steakhouse* was amazing! All had a great time!

For first-time participants at the June FACERS Conference, we're thrilled to have you join FACERS. Your participation in our June meeting was truly appreciated—it's through collaboration like yours that we continue to make a positive impact. As a new member, you're part of a dynamic network committed to advancing the field of engineering and road management. Whether you have ideas to share, challenges to discuss, or simply want to connect with fellow professionals, FACERS is here to support you every step of the way.

I hope everyone plans to join us for the Fall Conference in Tampa on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the Tampa Marriott Water Street. Personally, I am looking forward to the next in-person meeting and cannot wait to pass on the “surprise” to Chad Williams. We have another line-up of presentations on tap you won't want to miss. If you know of a great public works project or a terrific public works professional that should be recognized, go to the website and look for the appropriate links to submit your nominations. We recognize great projects and great people for our Awards yearly at our Annual Conference in June. There are opportunities for sponsorships if you or a company you know would be interested in supporting this event. If you know someone who wants to sponsor us, send them to Amy!

Recently, we found a few counties that were members in the past and haven't renewed their memberships. If you know any of these counties, encourage them to renew. Make sure you have sent in your renewal dues, too. We will go through the membership roll soon to update it, and we don't want to miss anyone. If you have friends, colleagues, staff, etc., who 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. In fact, invite them to the Fall Meeting!

Registration for the Fall Meeting is OPEN! Watch your email or check the website. You want to register and get your hotel early so you don't miss getting a room at the conference hotel.

Sincerely,  
**Deborah Snyder**

## —PROJECT & AWARD RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT—

### **Local State Agency Collaboration Project of the Year**

#### **Hardee County – Road and Bridge Department College Hill Bridge Replacement Project**

The bridge construction started in 2019 and was completed in 2022 by Hardee County forces. There were only 20-30 Road & Bridge crews working at that time. Being a fiscally constrained rural county, their manpower and equipment were limited so they relied on their county forces' experience and innovation to complete the bridge work in a timely manner while meeting FDOT specifications and standards.

This Earmark project was only funded with \$325,000 so the County had to fund the remaining balance of more than \$1.5M to complete the bridge reconstruction within a span of 3 years. The total project cost is \$1,866,431.67.



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### **Large Agency Project of the Year**

#### **Sarasota County Capital Projects Dona Bay Restoration Phase 2 Surface Water Storage Facility**

The Dona Bay Phase 2 project is a continuation from the Dona Bay Phase 1 conveyance improvements and wetland rehydration area which directs the flow to a 364-acre Surface Water Storage Facility. The project has successfully diverted the historic flow to the Myakka River, reduced freshwater flows to the Bay, balanced the estuary system, provided nitrogen reduction, and accomplished the goals of the project.

The design of Phase 2, and the construction phase was completed in substantial conformance with the plans, specifications and conditions permitted by SWFWMD in November 2023.

Total cost for design, permitting, engineering, inspection, and construction was \$15M complete. The project was completed within the contract time frames, on-schedule and under budget.



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## Small Agency Project of the Year

### Englewood Community Redevelopment and Sarasota County Capital Projects West Dearborn Street Improvements

West Dearborn Street Improvements Project which was an ambitious vision of the CRA to revitalize the main street business corridor in Englewood, Florida. This project was completed in May 2023 and included improvements such as angled parking, widened sidewalks with decorative pavers, comfort stations with outdoor furniture, low-maintenance landscaping, decorative streetlights, and a stained-glass pervious pavers incorporated into the street intersections.

The Englewood CRA recognized the need to invest in infrastructure improvements that would enhance multimodal transportation, create a sense of place, and address parking needs in the commercial district of Englewood.

Project Management, Engineering Design/Construction CEI, Construction Cost came in at \$9.1 million.



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## Urban Engineer of the Year

### Polk County Angela Spieler, PE (Project Manager)/Lake Wilson Drive

The Lake Wilson Road project consists of the widening of a 1.26-mile segment of Lake Wilson Road from a 2-lane undivided urban collector to a 4-lane divided roadway from CR 54 (Ronald Reagan Pkwy) to CR 532 (Osceola Polk Line Road) with improvements to both the CR 54 and CR 532 intersections. The project includes lighting, a closed drainage system, a joint use pond, the construction of a wet detention pond and a floodplain compensation pond.

The \$2.6 M design included coordinating with over 20 utility companies, Osceola County, FWC (gopher tortoise relocation), SWFWMD and FDEP (skink survey and wetland mitigation). Due to a utility easement, the County spent \$6.2 M to relocate Duke Energy's distribution and transmission lines. Construction costs were \$20.2 M with an additional \$1.8M in CEI costs.



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## 2024 FACERS FALL MEETING

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The FACERS Fall Meeting will be held on December 4-5, 2024 at the *Tampa Marriott Water Street* and REGISTRATION IS OPEN! For information and to register, please click [HERE](#).

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](mailto:amy.blaida@ergon.com) and check out sponsorship opportunities [HERE](#).

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## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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On Tuesday, September 3, the Legislature released some of the key dates for the 2025 legislative session.

**November 19:** The Legislature will convene for “Organizational Session” to conduct initial business and select legislative officers.

**December 2-6:** Committee week 1A (**House only**)

**December 9-13:** Committee week 1B (**Senate only**)

**January 13-17, 2025:** Committee week 2

**January 21-24, 2025:** Committee week 3

**February 3-7, 2025:** Committee week 4

**February 10-14, 2025:** Committee week 5

**February 17-21, 2025:** Committee week 6

**March 4, 2025:** Start of Regular session/bill filing deadline

FAC held its Innovation & Policy Conference on September 18-19 in Escambia County. **FAC’s policy committees are expected to consider a number of transportation-related policies for its 2024-25 Legislative Action Plan, including Fuel Tax Indexing and Electric Vehicle Registration Fees.**

All policy documents are available for review at [www.facpolicy.com](http://www.facpolicy.com). If you have any specific questions with regard to the report, you can email Jared at [jgrigas@fl-counties.com](mailto:jgrigas@fl-counties.com).

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## NACE UPDATE

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Greetings from Washington, where we find ourselves under the (unfortunate) thumb of yet another short-term appropriations agreement to keep the governments doors open. With elections fast approaching, Congress has decided to take up the issue again in December,



during the lame duck Congress. Stay tuned....

Counties continue to apply for the various new grant programs within the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the bipartisan infrastructure law). Hundreds of millions of dollars have been directed to counties across the country, and I would encourage you all to apply for what could best assist your county. For example, the Safe Streets For All (SS4A) planning grants have seen every single application receive an award. Yes, you read that correctly.

Preparations are well underway for our 2025 annual conference in Schaumburg, Illinois. Unlike past years, we are working diligently to provide a technical session schedule at the time registration opens rather than later into the next year. We have heard from our members that approvals are much easier when a program is able to be used in their travel request. Registration opens soon, keep an eye out!

NACE recently held its annual Fall Board Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This meeting, attended by FACERS Representative to the NACE Board George Gadiel, dedicated most of its time together to putting together a brand-new strategic plan and vision for the Association. This plan, which has advocacy, membership, financial stability and education as its pillars, will provide a clear vision for NACE moving forward. We look forward to sharing this with you when President McCall visits with you this December in Tampa.

If I can ever be of assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me. As we wrap up 2024 and look to 2025, we could not be more excited for NACE's future and appreciate the support FACERS has shown us.

Best,

**Kevan Stone**

Executive Director

National Association of County Engineers

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



### Summer/Fall Member Spotlight:

**Jay M. Jarvis**

Jay Jarvis is the Director of the Polk County Transportation Division. Jay was born and raised in Saint Albans, West Virginia. He attended the West Virginia Institute of Technology, where he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1985. After graduating Jay worked for various Consulting firms in Pennsylvania and Florida. In June of 1991, Jay was hired by the Parks & Natural Resources Division of the Polk County Board of County Commissioners in an Engineer position to help develop Polk County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit submittal to the

Environmental Protection Agency. In 2001, Jay received his Professional Engineering License from the State of Florida Board of Professional Regulation. Later in 2001, Jay was promoted to the position of Drainage Manager; where he oversaw the Operations and CIP for the County's drainage issues outside of the road right-of-way.

During his time as the Drainage Manager, Jay was involved in addressing several drainage/flooding issues throughout the County. From small local roadway drainage projects to large flooding projects. A couple of the larger projects were the Saddlebag Lake project and the Lake Belle project. Both of these lakes experienced significant flooding after the 2004 Hurricanes.

Saddlebag Lake flooding resulted in approximately 300 mobile homes being flooded. The solution was the installation of a gravity drainage system that interconnected 5 lakes to allow flood waters to go downstream over time. The Lake Belle flooding resulted in approximately 15 homes being flooded.



## FACERS HAPPENINGS





# FACERS ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The FACERS Annual Meeting was held on June 26-27, 2024 at the Hilton Bonnet Creek in Orlando, Orange County, Florida. The two day meeting covered diverse topics and included classroom time for Rules & Laws for Engineers and the required Ethics course. The meeting concluded with the Social which was held at Black Angus. All of the presentations can be found on the FACERS website [HERE](#).

A big shout out to all of the sponsors below who made the meeting a huge success!

*Thank You*

to all our Sponsors for the  
2024 FACERS Annual Meeting

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

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