



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings from Columbia County, WAY up here in North Florida. I hope everyone made it through the summer with their share of rest and relaxation, and little to no need of a visit from FEMA (knock on wood).

Thank you to the immediate past President, Deborah Snyder. I think we all agree, she did a fantastic job and set a great example.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Summer Conference held at the Hilton Orlando, June 25-26. It was a great location, we enjoyed some great "networking", and the presentations were extremely informative. The FACERS Social was held at the Black Angus Steakhouse, and

once again, Amy Blaida outdid herself with the planning and execution of the event. If you missed it, you just missed out.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 Fall meeting. To register, please visit the FACERS website: <https://facers.net/fall-meeting/> This year, we will be at the Grand Hyatt in Tampa Bay on November 19-20, 2025. If you are looking for sponsorship activities or are interested in presenting at the conference, please visit the website. I encourage all members to attend for the opportunity to obtain PDHs, build connections with other FACERS members, and gain new ideas.

If you are attending any regional meetings in your area and see any of your neighboring counties that are not members of FACERS, please encourage them to look into becoming members. If I can help in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,
Chad

PROJECT & AWARD RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

Local State Agency Collaboration Project of the Year

Sarasota County The Sarasota Smart City Initiative

The Sarasota Smart City Initiative integrates cutting-edge technologies to address urban challenges, enhance mobility, and foster environmental sustainability. It includes:

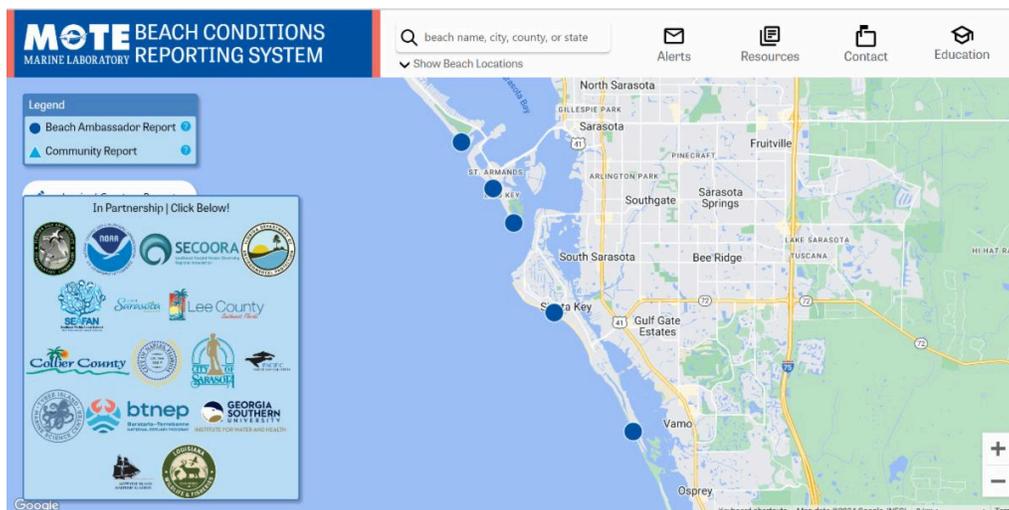
- Traffic Calming Data Program: Real-time data optimizes traffic flow and pedestrian safety, especially during high-density events.
- Red Tide and Sea Level Rise Monitoring: Environmental sensors provide public access to data via VisitBeaches.org, improving public health and coastal resilience.
- Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAV): AI technology monitors and mitigates traffic hazards, improving safety and efficiency.

The project required collaborative leadership between local, state, and research entities:

- The City of Sarasota coordinated efforts across multiple departments to implement traffic and environmental monitoring systems.
- FDOT provided grants and technical expertise for Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) integration.
- Mote Marine Laboratory delivered critical scientific data and resources for environmental monitoring as well as coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

The total project cost to date is \$1.41 million, funded through a combination of City budget allocations, FDOT grants, and technology innovation grants. By leveraging these resources, the City optimized project costs while maximizing community benefits.

Click [HERE](#) to view the "City of Sarasota 2024 Strategic Plan".



Large Agency Project of the Year

Orange County Public Works Department Rio Grande Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project, Phase I

The limits of this safety project are on Rio Grande Avenue between Holden Avenue and Gore Street. The scope of the project includes a road diet approach in the section between I-4 and Gore Street, where the outside travel lanes in each direction were repurposed to provide a 7-foot-wide bicycle lane with a 4-foot buffer. The project also included midblock crossings with enhanced raised refuge islands for pedestrians and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB's). Various intersections along Rio Grande Avenue were also modified to accommodate trucks while minimizing pedestrian crossing distances and slowing vehicle turning speeds. Sidewalks and curb ramps were also

retrofitted to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access while meeting American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. New bus shelters and roadway lighting were installed near Jones High School as the north end of the project to better serve the student population using transit and crossing the road during early hours. This project was coordinated with our annual roadway resurfacing program, and Rio Grande Avenue was resurfaced from 33rd Street to Gore Street with new pavement markings.

This project involved a collaboration between our Roads and Drainage Division who implements our resurfacing projects and our Traffic Engineering Division who implements our traffic safety projects. The project was also heavily coordinated through our program liaison for the Accelerated Transportation Safety Program (ATSP), who works directly for our Public Works Director's office. The Public Works and the Central County Communications Teams were heavily involved in the informing the public on the status of this project. In addition, this project was coordinated closely with the City of Orlando and their events team. As mentioned above, this project is adjacent to Camping World Stadium, which holds large events throughout the year.

Funding for these improvements came from a combination of funds from our annual roadway resurfacing program, our Accelerated Transportation Safety Program (ATSP), and Traffic Engineering Capital Improvement Program. The County was able to save a significant amount of funding by coordinating this project across multiple divisions.

Click [HERE](#) for a link to "Saving Lives: Completion of the Rio Grande Avenue Safety Improvements".

Public Works Employee of the Year

**Albert Hoffman, Construction Coordination Division Director
Palm Beach County Engineering and Public Works Department (EPW)**

Albert Hoffman is recognized for the 6th Avenue South Bridge Replacement Project. The 6th Avenue South Bridge Replacement Project over Lake Osborne, replaced a 50 plus year old bridge that was substandard in many areas. The project provided the following improvements:

- Increased Vertical Clearance over Center Drive and Lake Osborne Drive.
- Increased the Design Speed of 35mph to 45mph on 6th Avenue.
- Continuous bicycle lanes throughout the project corridor.
- Continuous sidewalks throughout the project corridor.
- Provided pedestrian access from 6th Avenue to John Prince Park and the adjacent neighborhoods along Lake Osborne Drive.
- Enhanced the horizontal and vertical clearance of the bridge over Lake Osborne frequently used by recreational boaters.

Under Mr. Hoffman's leadership, several hurdles were overcome throughout the project's timeline. The first of which was an unforeseen conflict with overhead power lines that prevented safe removal of the existing bridge. Mr. Hoffman's innovative and proactive solution to allow full closure of the bridge, allowed construction to continue progressing instead of being placed on hold for new electric equipment, with a two-year lead time due to supply chain issues, to arrive. The last major hurdle to surmount was pipe damage that caused displacement of a significant amount of material under the bridge approach that was only found thanks to Construction Coordination Division staff expertise. Resolving the predicament required measuring the bridge approach for voids with ground penetrating radar and filling the voids with flowable fill. If not for Mr. Hoffman's leadership, the bridge would not have been safe for our contractors or the public.

- Project Design Costs: \$912,012.94
- Project Construction Costs: \$13,094,596.32
- Construction Contract Time: 663 days



Interested In Becoming a Road Safety Champion?

Learn more about the Florida LTAP Center's role in supporting communities via the [Road Safety Champion Program](#) [HERE](#).

2025 FACERS FALL MEETING



The FACERS Fall Meeting will be held on November 19-20, 2025 at the *Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay* 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 and check out sponsorship opportunities [HERE](#).

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FACERS Legislative Committee Update September 2025

Building Strategic Momentum for Public Works Advocacy

As we approach the upcoming legislative session, FACERS is proud to share several key initiatives aimed at strengthening our advocacy efforts and elevating the voice of county-level public works professionals across Florida.

Strategic Planning for Legislative Impact

We are working to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that empowers our members to identify and shape legislative priorities. This initiative will provide a structured framework for members to bring forward strategic proposals that can be elevated to the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) for formal consideration. By aligning our efforts with FAC, we ensure that the needs and insights of county engineers and road superintendents are represented at the highest levels of policy-making.

Building a Bench of Subject Matter Experts

To support real-time legislative engagement, FACERS is assembling a bench of county-level subject matter experts. These professionals will be available to provide technical insights, data, and testimony during the legislative session. This initiative will enhance our responsiveness and credibility when engaging with lawmakers and stakeholders.

Clear and Consistent Legislative Communication

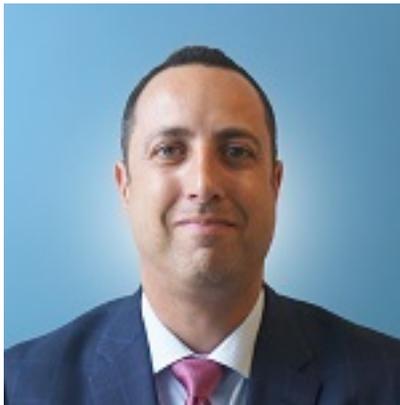
During session, timing is everything. We are standardizing the language used in urgent communications to ensure clarity and prompt action. Members can expect to see consistent terminology such as “**Action Alert**” or “**Legislative Review**” in subject lines and headers, helping ensure that critical messages are not missed or overlooked.

Continuing the Push for Public Works First Responder Recognition

FACERS remains committed to partnering with the American Public Works Association (APWA) and other allied organizations to advocate for the formal recognition of public works professionals as first responders. This designation is essential to acknowledging the vital role these individuals play in emergency response, infrastructure recovery, and community resilience.

Check out the selected policy summaries from 2025 Innovation & Policy Conference that took place in early September [HERE](#).

NACE UPDATE



Greetings from Washington, where we find ourselves already talking about surface transportation reauthorization bill in the infrastructure space. As you may know the FAST Act, which was extended as part of the Infrastructure Invest & Jobs Act (IIJA), expires on September 30, 2026. Congress has said they want to have a bill by the end of the year. As someone who once worked in these trenches, they have a monstrous lift ahead of them, especially in these partisan times.

These events in Washington are a prime example of why our annual fly-in advocacy is so crucial. We had another successful fly-in this past February, meeting

with agency officials at the White House, USDOT and FEMA, we were able to carry the county message on what is most important to your communities. Additionally, we met with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to discuss county priorities in next year’s reauthorization bill. We thank all those, including those from FACERS that attended, for their efforts and leadership.

Preparations are in the final stretch for our 2026 annual conference in Arlington, Texas and we hope you make plans to join us. The host hotel is a most impressive structure, brand new and waiting for NACE to come to town. If you’re a sports fan, you’re basically in heaven. Steps from the hotel is Globe Life Field (home of the Texas Rangers) and a 15-minute walk to AT&T Stadium (home of the Dallas Cowboys). We are currently planning technical sessions that will allow us to take advantage of these unique feats of engineering.

NACE continues its work on its new strategic plan, conceived during our fall Board meeting in Toronto of 2024. This plan, which has advocacy, membership, financial stability and education as its pillars, will provide a clear vision for NACE to move forward. President Thorius briefed FACERS members in Orlando this past summer, and I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress. As always, I was fortunate to attend your conference in June, and it is always a highlight on my calendar each year. I thank all of you for your warm hospitality, even if I am a UCF grad.

If I can ever be of assistance to you or your staff on any issues important to your communities, please do not hesitate to contact me. We could not be more excited about NACE's future and appreciate the support FACERS has continuously shown us.

Best,
Kevan Stone
Executive Director
National Association of County Engineers

FACERS HAPPENINGS



FACERS ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The FACERS Annual Meeting was held on June 25-26, 2025 at the Hilton Orlando, Orange County, Florida. The two-day meeting covered diverse topics, from Dirt to Pave to Bridge Deck Inspections. 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!

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2025 FACERS Annual Meeting

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Coffee Break

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2025 LEGISLATIVE
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NOVEMBER 19-21, 2025 GRAND HYATT TAMPA BAY

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

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