



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents (FACERS). I am grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me, and I look forward to working alongside our dedicated members as we shape the future of county transportation and public infrastructure throughout Florida.

Our profession has never been more important—or more challenging. Florida continues to experience unprecedented growth, increasing demands on our transportation systems, evolving environmental conditions, and rapidly advancing technologies. These challenges

require more than traditional solutions; they demand bold thinking, collaboration, and a willingness to embrace innovation.

During my term as President, I am committed to building upon the strong foundation established by the leaders who came before us. This year's theme, **"Leading Through Innovation,"** reflects my belief that innovation is not simply about adopting new technology. It is about cultivating new ideas, challenging conventional approaches, building stronger partnerships, and developing solutions that improve safety, efficiency, sustainability, and the quality of life for the communities we serve.

Innovation is happening every day across Florida's counties. Engineers and road superintendents are implementing intelligent transportation systems, leveraging data to make better decisions, improving resilience through forward-looking infrastructure design, modernizing asset management practices, and finding creative ways to maximize limited resources. FACERS has an opportunity to become the forum where these ideas are shared, refined, and expanded statewide.

During my presidency, I will focus on four strategic priorities:

- **Strengthening Professional Excellence** by expanding educational opportunities, technical training, and leadership development for professionals at every stage of their careers.
- **Advancing Innovation** by promoting the exchange of emerging technologies, best practices, and practical solutions that improve county operations and infrastructure.
- **Building Strong Partnerships** with state agencies, industry partners, academic institutions, and local governments to address Florida's transportation challenges through collaboration.
- **Developing Future Leaders** by mentoring young professionals and creating opportunities for the next generation of county engineers and road superintendents to lead with confidence and purpose.

FACERS has always been defined by the willingness of its members to help one another. Our greatest strength is not found in the roads we build or the bridges we maintain—it is found in the people who dedicate their careers to public service. When we share knowledge, collaborate across county lines, and embrace innovation together, every county benefits, and every Floridian is better served.

As President, my commitment is to ensure that FACERS continues to be recognized as Florida's premier organization for county transportation professionals—a trusted resource, a respected advocate, and a catalyst for innovation and leadership.

I encourage each member to become actively engaged this year. Share your ideas. Participate in our committees and conferences. Mentor an emerging professional. Bring forward new technologies and innovative practices that can help all of us better serve our communities. The future of our profession will be shaped not by a single leader, but by the collective expertise and passion of our membership.

Together, we have an extraordinary opportunity to transform today's challenges into tomorrow's successes. By leading through innovation, we will strengthen our profession, enhance public trust, and build transportation systems that are safer, smarter, more resilient, and better prepared for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue **Leading Through Innovation** and building a stronger future for Florida.

David L. Ricks, P.E.

President

Florida Association of County Engineers and Road Superintendents

—PROJECT SPOTLIGHT—

LARGE AGENCY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

Sarasota County

Carolyn Eastwood, Capital Projects Director

Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility Expansion and Advanced Wastewater Treatment Conversion

SMALL AGENCY PROJECT OF THE YEAR

City of Sarasota

Nikesh Patel, Public Works Director, and Sage Kamiya, City Engineer

Ringling Boulevard and Pine Place Roundabout

2026 FACERS FALL MEETING



SAVE THE DATE! The FACERS Fall Meeting will be held on December 2-3, 2026 at the *Sawgrass Marriott*. For more information 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](#).



Registered for the 2026 FACERS Fall Meeting?
Please join us for the Social on Thursday evening, 12/3.

Stay tuned for additional details and please RSVP your attendance to **Amy Blaida** at amy.blaida@ergon.com at your earliest convenience.

FACERS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



Is Your County a Member?

CHECK OUT THE 2026 COUNTY MEMBER MAP [HERE](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Trimble

Pavement Engineer, Hillsborough County

Kevin serves as the Secretary of FACERS and the Pavement Engineer for Hillsborough County, bringing over 20 years of public and private sector engineering experience to his

roles. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, Kevin managed a Geotechnical Engineering and Construction Material Testing company in Iowa. His diverse career foundation spans from working as a construction laborer on roadway projects to executing land surveying and civil engineering designs. Over the past decade in Hillsborough County, he has driven corporate growth, specialized in asset management and pavement designs, and dedicated himself to training the next generation of engineers.

Driven by a lifelong passion for sports and a desire to golf year-round, Kevin eventually relocated to Florida. His athletic background shaped his core philosophy that mistakes are often humanity's greatest learning opportunities. Today, Kevin channels this mindset into extensive mentorship, actively guiding both young engineering professionals in their careers and amateur and high school golfers on the green.



FLORIDA LTAP UPDATE

Florida LTAP Celebrates Innovation, Road Safety Leadership, and New Training Opportunities

The Florida Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Center is proud to celebrate significant achievements in local transportation innovation and professional development across the state.

Broward MPO Recognized in FHWA's Build a Better Mousetrap Program

The Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM) program, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), recognizes innovative, practical solutions developed by local and tribal transportation agencies to improve transportation systems and services.

This year, Florida's 2026 winning entry was submitted by the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The agency earned statewide recognition for its innovative contribution to Florida's transportation system and advanced to the national BABM competition at the LTAP/TTAP National Conference.

Florida Graduates First Cohort of Road Safety Champions

Florida also marked a major milestone in transportation safety education with the graduation of the first cohort of the National Center for Rural Road Safety's Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) Planning and Engineering Career Pathway.

During a special graduation ceremony held at the Florida Department of Transportation District 7 office in Tampa, the Florida LTAP Center recognized 95 Road Safety Champions who completed the program's training requirements. Of those graduates, 73 represented organizations across Florida, while 22 participants joined from other states, demonstrating the program's expanding national reach and impact.

The graduation represents the culmination of months of learning, collaboration, and professional development focused on a shared mission: creating safer roadways and reducing traffic fatalities and serious injuries. Recordings of the RSCP Planning and Engineering Career Pathway sessions remain available, and new participants may begin the series at any time by visiting the Road Safety Champion Program, <https://floridaltap.org/road-safety-champion-program/>.

Upcoming Florida LTAP Training Opportunities

The Florida LTAP Center continues to provide high-quality continuing education opportunities for transportation professionals. Upcoming training offerings include:

Developing and Implementing Transportation Management Plans

3-part series | **Begins August 31**

Registration: <https://floridaltap.org/developing-and-implementing-transportation-management-plans-webinar/>

Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety in Work Zones

In-Person Training - Multiple Locations | **Begins September 22**

Registration: <https://floridaltap.org/commercial-motor-vehicle-safety-in-work-zones/>

Signing, Pavement Markings and the MUTCD

3-part series | **Begins October 9**

Registration: <https://floridaltap.org/signing-pavementmarkings-mutcd/>

Basic Highway Plan Reading

3-part series | **Begins October 12**

Registration: <https://floridaltap.org/basic-highway-plan-reading/>

Through innovation, safety leadership, and ongoing workforce development, the Florida LTAP Center remains committed to supporting transportation professionals and advancing safer, more effective transportation systems throughout Florida and beyond.



— SECOND HARVEST —

FACERS is proud to support the **Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB) of Central Florida** with a \$1,000 Premium-Plus sponsorship of the **18th Annual Lunchtime Concert**, held Thursday, August 6, 2026, in Downtown Orlando.

The annual lunchtime concert is hosted by Steve Ferrell of HDR, a longtime FACERS member and sponsor, to raise funds and awareness for SHFB. Since the event began in 2009, generous sponsors—including companies, families, and individuals—have contributed an impressive **\$308,000** to support Second Harvest Food Bank.

This year marked the first time FACERS participated as a Premium-Plus Sponsor, reflecting our organization's commitment to supporting meaningful causes in our communities in which we serve.

Steve Ferrell and his band **Salted Vine** have also shared their talents with FACERS, providing musical entertainment at the recent FACERS June Annual Meeting Social at Dave & Buster's.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida is a private, nonprofit organization that collects, stores, and distributes food through a network of more than **800 local feeding partners** across seven Central Florida counties: Brevard, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia.

FACERS is honored to contribute to this important effort and help support Second Harvest's mission of ensuring that our neighbors have access to nutritious food.



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2026 Legislative Session wrapped up March 19, 2026. The FAC Public Policy team has created a Sine Die Report, which you can access [HERE](#).

For a comprehensive review of what passed and what did not impacting all areas of local government, you can check out the 2026 Public Policy Webinar on the FAC website [HERE](#).

If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact our Senior Associate Director of Public Policy, Tonnette Graham, at tgraham@fl-counties.com.

FACERS Supports a NO Vote on Amendment 3

Amendment 3 proposes changes to Florida's constitutional property-tax provisions, including increases to specified homestead exemptions, a reduction in the assessment-growth limitation for specified non-homestead property from 10 percent to 5 percent, and limitations on the use of county and municipal ad valorem revenues.

The amendment specifically identifies road and bridge construction and maintenance and stormwater control as infrastructure expenditures for which county and municipal ad valorem revenue may be used.

FACERS supports a NO vote on Amendment 3 because of concerns that substantial reductions in recurring local ad valorem revenue could constrain the long-term

planning, maintenance and delivery of county and municipal roads, bridges, stormwater systems and other critical infrastructure.

FACERS has developed an Educational Statement and Technical Fact Sheet to provide an overview of Amendment 3 and examine its potential implications for critical infrastructure across counties and municipalities.

Educational Statement

Technical Fact Sheet

Why the Property Tax Amendment Matters to the Business Community

As one of FAC's valued sponsors and exhibitors, you've been an important partner in helping Florida's counties serve their communities. Today, we're asking you to consider supporting the campaign against Amendment 3.

While the debate has largely focused on local governments, the reality is that this amendment will have a direct impact on Florida's business community as well.

Across the state, counties are already delaying or reconsidering capital projects and other long-term investments because of the uncertainty surrounding Amendment 3. Every delayed road project, courthouse renovation, broadband expansion, park improvement, technology implementation, or public safety investment is work that doesn't move forward—and that affects the companies that help deliver those services.

If the Property Tax Amendment (Amendment 3) passes, many economists and policy experts expect the result will be a significant shift of taxes onto businesses, renters, and other property owners as communities work to maintain the services residents expect. Recent coverage and commentary in The Wall Street Journal has highlighted both the growing uncertainty surrounding the proposal and its potential economic consequences.

This isn't just a county/municipal issue—it's a business issue.

If you believe Florida needs strong communities, reliable infrastructure, and a stable business climate, we encourage you to support the campaign against Amendment 3.

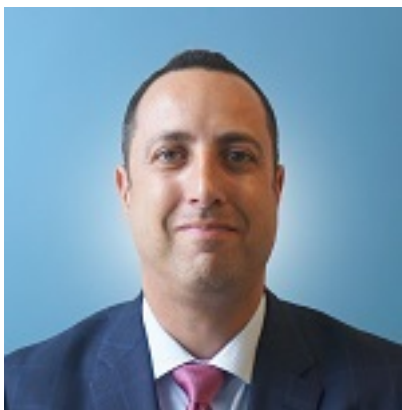
To learn more about making a contribution, please click below or contact FAC's Deputy Executive Director [**Cragin Mosteller**](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and for all you do to help Florida's communities.

[Donate Now](#)

NACE UPDATE

Greetings from Washington, where we find ourselves instead of talking about surface transportation reauthorization bill, but rather a likely extension of the FAST Act. As you may know the FAST Act, which was extended as part of the Infrastructure Invest & Jobs Act (IIJA), expires on September 30, 2026. The House released the Build America 250



Act, a five-year bill with numerous county infrastructure priorities included. This bill, while not perfect, provides unprecedented federal cost share and eligibilities for county projects.

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 EPA, 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

the very same county priorities found in the House Bill. This is no coincidence and proves that NACE advocacy matters and is a respected voice on the Hill. We thank all those, including those from FACERS that attended, for their efforts and leadership.

Preparations are in the final stretch for our 2027 annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio and we hope you make plans to join us. With unprecedented interest from both delegates and our corporate partners, we expect this to be the best NACE conference yet! Our signature conference event at the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame promises to be epic (take it from the guy who went on the site visit earlier this year).

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. With positive results already in place, this plan will benefit all our members. President Dingman briefed FACERS members in Orlando this past summer, which had amazing attendance. As always, I was fortunate to attend your conference in June, and it is always a highlight on my calendar each year. It is incredible that the very same conference I addressed in 2018-2019 had limited attendance and today you are at room capacity. This is a testament to FACERS leadership, and you all are to be commended for making FACERS a powerhouse in Florida.

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 24-25, 2026 at the Hilton Orlando, Orange County, Florida. The two-day meeting covered diverse topics, from AI Innovations to Asphalt 101. The meeting concluded with the Social which was held at Dave and Busters. 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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