

Public Works Makes It Happen

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2021 Virtual Learning Schedule





President's Message

We were unable to hold in-person events in 2020, but we still found a way for "Public Works to Make it Happen!"...2020 was another great year for the Chapter in the awards category, unfortunately we were unable to recognize our award winners in person but plan to celebrate together with all of our award winners when it is safe to do so. The implementation of the New England Chapter Connects Virtual Education Program is a remarkable achievement given all that we have had to manage and adapt to. The Public Works Awareness (PWAC) and Education Committees should be commended for their hard work and perseverance in executing this program over a very short timeframe.

I had the opportunity to listen in on a recent session, "Local Perspective on Managing Operations During COVID-19" and quickly realized how much planning and collaboration was required when dealing with a recent storm during a pandemic. Public Works Officials at both the state and local levels participated and brought different perspectives to the operational challenges that COVID-19 has presented. The most recent session, moderated by Bob Moylan, attracted over 100 registrants from near and far, including Colorado, California, Michigan and even Puerto Rico. I encourage everyone to participate in the exciting sessions planned for the year ahead that keep us informed and connected.

The topic of COVID-19 response is further expanded upon in this issue of the newsletter by member communities, Westwood, MA and Ellington, CT. The articles focus on the challenges of obtaining/distributing PPE, in addition to reorganizing their daily operations and staffing plans, to maximize the safety of their personnel. The work going on behind the scenes is something that we tend to take for granted.

With the fluid nature and challenges presented by COVID-19, we have all

been impacted in some way by its lasting effects. This has, however, presented new opportunities for our ever-adapting industry. There are so many stories of dedicated public works professionals answering the call to service, most often unnoticed. I encourage you to reach out the PWAC or Awards Committee and share your story.

In 2020 we were saddened by the passing of former Chapter President and friend to all, Larry Bombara who had been battling an illness. Larry was a long-time supporter of the Chapter and helped elevate our presence at the national level. He will be remembered by many for the energy and passion he had for planning events, specifically, our very own PWX Chapter Dinner that he chaired for over a decade. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family.

It is an honor and privilege to be involved with such a great organization as witnessed over the past year. With everyone's continued involvement and dedication, the Chapter continues to make great progress fostering public works awareness, encouraging involvement from young professionals, expanding our virtual education program, and promoting the benefits of membership and sponsorship. If you are not participating on one of our many committees I welcome and encourage you to get involved. Feel free to contact me or any of our committee chairs; we can use your help.

As we look ahead, please continue to build on our success and seek opportunities to get involved. In addition, continue to support your fellow members and the community at large, remaining hopeful for all that 2021 has in store.

May health and happiness be with us all in 2021.

Best regards,

Anthony J. Garro
Chapter President

Hello all and happy new year! At last, 2020 is behind us and we start 2021 with a brighter outlook and new aspirations. It is my sincere hope that this message finds you and your loved ones well. Although apart, together we have adapted to a new norm over the past year. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to work alongside Chapter Past President Chip Barrett during these challenging times. I am struck by his leadership together with the energy and optimism that everyone has brought to our organization. This energy serves as a reminder of how important the mission of the APWA is to our future.

Putting pen to paper for this message was not something that came easy to me. I didn't want to dwell on or even mention COVID-19. So, I decided to reminisce a bit about the great events that I have been so lucky to attend. It became very clear to me what the Chapter is all about – the people. Seeing colleagues and friends at events, building relationships, and helping each other with day-to-day issues is what makes this organization special. I also looked at recent Chapter Chatters and wow, we have a lot to look forward to in 2021! With the vaccination process underway, I am very optimistic that we will see each other in person at some point this year. Our committees have already started the planning process for this year's calendar of events and are evaluating options to ensure the most current protocols and guidelines are in place and are followed to keep everyone safe. Our primary goal is your safety.

Welcome to the 1st issue of 2021

Please submit story ideas, articles, or topics of interest to:

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We look forward to hearing from you – Mike

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For more information on sponsorship, please contact Conrad Leger at cleger@beta-inc.com or Adam Yanulis at fyanulis@tighebond.com

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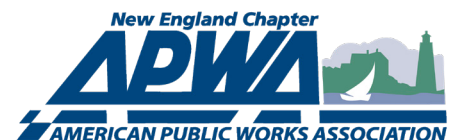
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The NE Connects program is being offered in partnership with the CT T2 Center, with support from the local technical assistance programs throughout New England. To learn more about your state’s LTAP, visit: www.nltapa.org

2021 SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL LEARNING SESSIONS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>COMMITTEE LEAD</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
January 28	PWAC	Selling Your Dept. Budget to Elected Official and the Public
February 18th	Education Com.	Selling Your Capital Improvement Projects to Elected Officials and the Public
March 25th	PWAC	Planning for Public Works Week
April 22nd	Education Com.	Risk and Resiliency Assessments (RRA) for Water Systems
May 27th	PWAC	Hurricane and Storm Preparations/Contracting for Services)
June 24th	Education Com.	Culvert Failures
July 22nd	PWAC	How to Market Your Department
August 26th	Education Com.	Scalable Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS)
September 23rd	PWAC	Young Professionals in Public Works
October 28th	Education Com.	TBD
November 18th	PWAC	Open Session on What’s Hot Now
December 23rd	Education Com.	TBD

Membership Corner



Not a member or trying to recruit a friend? Take advantage of this offer!

**1st Time Member Special Offer:
\$99 USD for your first year**

Get your first year of individual membership at half price! Any employee or official of a governmental agency, manufacturer/supplier, contractor, or consulting firm who is actively engaged in the field of public works and has not previously been an APWA national association member is eligible for the First-Time Member Special Offer. If you have any questions, please contact the National membership team at 800-848-2792 or memberservices@apwa.net.

Why NOW, more than ever, your membership matters...

As Public Works professionals, we are all striving to manage the challenges our communities are facing during these unprecedented times of a worldwide pandemic. As essential workers, we have all worked to support our communities, supplying vital services in a time of crisis. As we look at the long lasting impacts of the pandemic, many communities are facing difficult and uncertain economic times. In an effort to save money and lower expenses communities may look to reduce spending by eliminating covering professional memberships, such as APWA.

Now, more than ever, we need to stand together and support our profession, as well as each other. Membership in APWA is a valuable resource to learn and share how other communities are dealing with “the new normal” resulting from COVID-19. Membership in APWA is a means to accessing information such as:

- How other communities are responding to the pandemic;
- How other communities are protecting their employees;
- How other communities are educating and training their staff; and
- How the best agencies in the New England and the Country are responding to “the new normal.”

As we are faced with difficult economic times, it is now essential to lean on your peers and utilize the benefits of APWA to support your agency. We hope you recognize the importance of maintaining your membership and that you will encourage your municipal leaders to support this important Association.

Town of Lexington Preservation Success Wins National Award for Excellence

Oct. 23, 2020 -- The Town of Lexington, Mass., has been honored with FP²'s *James B. Sorenson Award for Excellence in Pavement Preservation for 2020*.

The award was presented in October at the Lexington Battle Green to John Livsey, P.E., Town Engineer, by FP² President Scott Bergkamp. Lexington Green was site of the first armed confrontation of the American War for Independence, where the "Shot heard around the world" was fired.

The Sorenson Award is presented by FP² to recognize superior pavement preservation practice, usually to a city, township, county or state agency. The deadline for entries for the year 2021 is July 1, 2021. The award encompasses the work of all DPW divisions, especially the Engineering Division of John Livsey, Mike Sprague, Matt Weisman, Wayne Medlin, David Pavlik (now W/S

supt.), Tricia Malatesta, Marissa Ligiero, Meghana Shah and Ross Morrow.

"The application submitted was judged to be exceptional and indicated the commitment that the town and its staff have made in keeping good roads good, and engaging the traveling public in Lexington with the benefits of their program," said FP² executive director Jim Moulthrop, P.E. "Their activities to make constituents aware of the benefits to be accrued using preservation are to be commended."

"If you have less money, if your budget is being cut, or even just not being increased, it's the best time to perform preservation," said Lexington's Livsey. "The less you have, the more critical it is to really stretch your dollars and make sure that the better condition roads just do not slip." The award encompasses the work of all DPW divisions, especially Engineering.

MEETS FOUR CRITERIA

The Town of Lexington met all four of four criteria for an award-winning program, the award committee decided.

- **Acceptance of the** pavement preservation concept by elected officials, general public, employees and industry (40 percent award weighting). Elected officials in Lexington have wholeheartedly accepted town engineer Livsey's pavement preservation program as the best long-term strategy for cost-effectively providing residents with good roads, the nominators say.

Starting with a network pavement condition index (PCI) of only 68 ten years ago, the town's Board of Selectmen accepted the engineering department's goal of attaining an average PCI in the mid-80s. Since then the town's Capital Expenditures Committee has support the program and its proposed budget every year.



At Sorenson awards luncheon Oct. 14 are, from left, Trish Malatesta, Town of Lexington engineering aide; Wayne Medlin, engineering inspector; Scott Bergkamp, president, FP² Inc.; Matt Weisman, senior civil engineer; John Livsey, town engineer; Mike Sprague, senior civil engineer; and Chris Lanigan, highway crew chief.

With the number of resident complaints going down, and the number of “thank you” e-mails going up, Lexington leaders are pleased with the growing public support and appreciation for their pavement management efforts. Internally, town employees have also embraced pavement preservation as the new and right way to responsibly manage the community’s most valuable physical asset.

- **Demonstration of the** preservation principles by using the Right Treatment, on the Right Road, at the Right Time (20 percent weighting). Ten years ago, prior to implementing its robust pavement preservation initiative, the Lexington annual work program was like many others in New England, and utilized just three primary treatments.

Most funding was spent doing hot mix asphalt (HMA) mill-and-fill, and full depth reclamation (FDR), and any remaining funds were used for crack sealing. Today, with the adoption of a more optimized pavement preservation approach, the Town of Lexington utilizes as many as eight different treatments, each appropriate at different points in time as an asphalt pavement deteriorates.

These treatments include crack seal, fog seals and rejuvenators, micro surfacing, cape seals, 1.5- to 2-in. HMA “Thinlays,” HMA mill-and-fill, cold in-place recycling (CIR), and FDR, with a heavy emphasis on top-of-the-curve preventive maintenance.

To utilize each of these repair and maintenance tools effectively, Lexington is committed to keeping the data in its pavement management system live and up-to-date. The current condition rating of every road segment is estimated annually, including the severity and extent of pavement distresses.

The pavement management program matches the most suitable treatment strategy to each road segment based on these condition ratings, and the engineering staff then works with local trusted contractors to confirm and fine-tune the software’s recommended treat-

ment solution for each road.

- **Use of communication** techniques to keep the public notified about upcoming preservation road work in the area (10 percent weighting).

Lexington’s public notification process is by far the most comprehensive, and is a big part of why their pavement preservation program has been so successful and accepted by the community.

Lexington’s outreach program answers not only the “where” and “when” questions residents want to know to minimize the construction inconvenience, but also answers the “what” and “why” questions people often have when they see different, non-traditional paving methods being used.

At the start of each construction season, residents with property abutting every road being improved receive a letter and a map detailing all the treatments the town has planned for that year.



In 2018 in Town of Lexington, Sealcoating, Inc., now Indus, places slurry surfacing atop chip seal on Town of Lexington street.

- **Uniqueness of the** program, including documenting tangible benefits such as increased useable life of the pavement, new concepts or applications employed, reduced user delays during treatment applications, and decreased frequency of reconstruction and major rehabilitation or reconstruction (30 percent weighting).

Reducing user delays is paramount to public acceptance of pavement preservation treatments, and Lexington is

unique in that it goes to extraordinary measures to achieve this goal.

Aside from some of the communication techniques described above, other measures include performing treatments in school zones at night whenever schools are in session, and using its Twitter feed to provide updated construction schedules and detour maps to affected motorists.

The real uniqueness of the Lexington program, though, is the astounding success it’s achieved in a relatively short amount of time. Some of the documented tangible benefits of their commitment to pavement preservation have been:

- **Adding net gains** of new service life to Lexington’s network in each of the last four years.

- **Decreasing the network** backlog of all required repairs from a high of \$20.35 million in 2012 to \$7.25 million in 2020.

- **Increasing the average** network condition rating from a PCI of 68 in 2010 to an RSR of 85 in 2020 (Lexington’s original pavement management consultant used a PCI rating system and their current consultant uses a Road Surface Rating [RSR] system, which generally is comparable to PCI).

- **Reducing the percentage** of poorer condition roads requiring major rehabilitation or reconstruction from 39 percent of the network in 2010 to only 15 percent in 2020.

Having accomplished its goal of 10 years ago of reaching an average network PCI in the mid-80s, Lexington has determined it could cut its annual pavement management budget by about \$1.2 million and still retain this high average PCI by simply practicing pavement preservation and staying focused on keeping good roads in good condition.

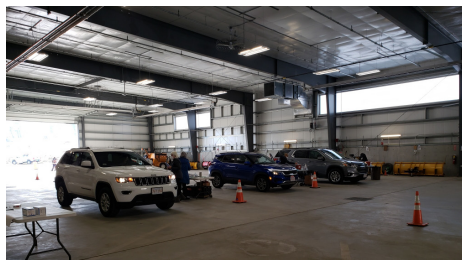
But with residents overwhelmingly supportive of the road program, and excited about the progress made, town leaders have opted to keep the current budget steady and continue to improve their average condition rating.

First Responders Get Vaccine in Orleans

In coordination with Barnstable County and the Town of Orleans (MA), the town's Department of Public Works



(DPW) repurposed their facility to vaccinate first responders from Lower Cape Cod against COVID-19. This clinic is



set up as a drive-through system, making the DPW vehicle storage garage - a one door in/one door out configuration - an ideal location that meets the recommended practice of providing a separate entrance and exit for vaccination sites. Firefighters, police officers, and EMTs from lower Cape Cod are included in the first group to be inoculated; the first responders must register individually on the state website.

https://link.edgepilot.com/s/65a601eb/-UftdYZ_UWfVkfG1w_d0Q?u=https://www.wickedlocal.com/story/cape-codder/2021/01/11/first-responders-vaccinated-orleans/6628335002/

Westwood Covid Response



December 17th Nor'easter bringing over a foot of snow to Westwood, MA

The Town of Westwood has been taking proactive measures throughout the pandemic to provide the safest environment for all employees, while still being able to function, operate, and accomplish seasonal goals. The success has been driven on communication and cohesiveness between all Town-wide Departments.

The Facility's Department, specifically Director James McCarthy and his entire staff, have been instrumental in allowing the Town Departments to still carry on with its day-day operations. Jimmy took it upon himself, very early on in the process (back in February), to start ordering and stock piling PPE, air puri-

fication units, and other necessities that would later be deemed critical. Having the ability to supply these important items allowed for an easy transition back into the offices and workspace. His team also coordinated the reconfiguration of several square feet of office space to allow for functionality while focusing on social distancing.

The Department of Public Works also had to reshape, restructure, and reorganize the daily operations. During the early stages of the pandemic, staff were broken down into separate teams and were placed on rotating schedules allowing for community wide coverage while still minimizing interactions. Each staff member was also designated and assigned to a specific vehicle. After every shift all vehicles were, and still are, sanitized for the next day's use.

While staff was still operating at 50% and the restrictions were still in place, our management team continued to strategically plan for when staff was able to return to full capacity. The ex-

isting facility and employee accommodations had to be addressed ASAP as the primary concern was employee safety and consistency. The Highway Department maintained their existing employee quarters while the Cemetery Department and Fields and Grounds Department were relocated to other facilities. This approach enabled each entity within the Department to socially distance as best it could while keeping the staff consistently with the same co-workers and forming DPW cohorts.

The ever-changing world and current climate is now leading to us all to be as versatile with our decision making as possible. Assistant Director Brendan Ryan has been instrumental in coordinating all snow and ice operations to fit into existing conditions, along with laying these options out in the most flexible and easy to adjust format. Covid has presented several challenges, however, one that any Department of Public Works cannot encounter is a disruption to snow and ice removal. As we enter into the Winter Season, we hope all of the adjustments made thus far, along with our ability to adjust to the ever changing conditions, will allow for our Department to serve the Community and continue to provide front line service.

Ellington Covid Response



DPW's have been challenged by COVID-19 from administration down to the boots on the ground. Here in Connecticut, we had many communities shift their staffing to attempt to slow or monitor the spread and allow them to have necessary resources on hand. Here in Ellington, we shifted to a four-day work week because schools and

athletic fields were closed. By keeping our crews working we accomplished many projects that had been sitting on the back burners, which gave us a big jump on spring and summer projects.

We strongly enforce separate vehicles and equipment to the point of one employee per each, provide hand sanitizer, wipes, and spray to disinfect first thing in the morning and at the end of each day. When working in close quarters masks are supplied and mandatory.

Many of the town facilities were closed to the public so custodian shifts maintained the facilities to meet the demand of the staff working in them. Some offices worked remotely. As the facilities opened to the public additional disinfecting and cleaning stepped up. Currently the only town facility that is closed is our Senior Center. At this time, consideration is being given to

open after the spring of this year.

Mother Nature has been somewhat kind with only three plowing events and a few treatment only events. We have had no real staffing impacts related to COVID fortunately as the crew has been good at following safe practices both in work and out of work.

All in all, we continue to support the community across our bold array of responsibilities reminding staff to protect themselves, their families, and their fellow workers by practicing social distancing, washing hands, and wearing a mask. It is wearing thin on all us, but as they say

Public Works Makes It Happen.

Have Your Streetscape and Treat It Too!

A Rhode Island streetscape design project was recently featured in the APWA's national publication, The Reporter. The Broadway Streetscape Improvement project in Newport, RI is an example of how competing interests, compliance regulations, and other challenges can be overcome if best practices are implemented to achieve multiple goals.



Broadway is a gateway to downtown Newport with its historic buildings, local restaurants, and local businesses. The redesign aimed to maintain the aesthetic of Newport's historic character while also implementing new amenities to provide more safety for vulnerable road users, and environmentally sustainable practices. Stormwater

management was a priority, as catch basins and storm drains in this seaside City lead directly into community waters. The project team incorporated BMP's into the streetscape elements, turning pedestrian place-making spaces into dual purposed urban bio-swales and hardscape features.

The project also incorporates modular bio-swales, pervious pavers in its parking areas, and Flexi-pave tree wells. These stormwater treatment elements are so seamlessly integrated into the streetscape that most visitors do not notice their presence, beyond what they add to the beauty and aesthetic of the area.

Although compliance with mandates can be difficult, taking the extra time to create something beautiful that is also useful can go a long way to improving the environment. Clever design and integration of multi-use spaces can often address the needs and competing interests of the many stakeholders involved in a project. To read more about this site, check out the July 2020 edition of The Reporter, which can be found at <http://APWA.partica.online/reporter/july-2020/flipbook/72/>.

The Birth of the New England Chapter

Sixteen years ago, the Chapter published a 50th anniversary book called “50 Years of Public Works in New England”, from 1954 to 2004. The birth of the New England Chapter took place on Wednesday June 23,

1954 at its first charter meeting, which was held at the Town of Brookline (MA) Incinerator. Lunch was served to approximately 200 people who attended a program of industry speakers and a tour of the facility.

The creation of the New England Chapter was timely because it aligned with a new emphasis on developing municipal infrastructure in the 1950’s. This was a time of rapid expansion in the U.S. that kept engineers and public works officials busy designing and constructing infrastructure to support the exploding populations of cities and towns. It has been said that the building of the nation’s interstate highway system may be one of the most significant public works projects of the last 50 years and perhaps the entire 20th Century. The interstate highway system was a success in bringing the US into a more modern connected age.



New England Chapter 50th Anniversary at the 2004 Summer Workshop at the Lighthouse Inn

Rick Merson a “Life Member” of APWA

On Friday October 2nd, Tim Webb hosted the annual Fall Classic golf tournament at Cedar Knob in Somers, Connecticut. Attendees included various Executive Committee members, Committee Chairs, Co-

chairs and other chapter members. In attendance was Rick Merson who retired on October 1st, 2020 from his position as Director of Public Works for the Town of Needham, MA. Rick has been a member of the

American Public Works Association, New England Chapter since 1981. He has served this Chapter well over 30 years as a 2005 Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year, NEAPWA 2015 Chapter President, 2014 First Vice President, 2013 Second Vice President, and Executive Committee Board Member. Rick was presented a “Proclamation of Appreciation” for being a “Life Member” of APWA and a true inspiration to the Public Works profession.



Rich Benevento reading the proclamation to Rick Merson at the fall classic

Three New Senior Vice Presidents

BETA Group, Inc. is pleased to announce that three individuals have been promoted to the position of Senior Vice President. Please join us in congratulating **Kevin Aguiar, PE, Marylou Armstrong, LSP, and Richard Bernardo, PE** on this well-earned recognition of their dedication, work ethic, and commitment to supporting the growth of the firm.

Along with the other members of senior management that comprise BETA’s Executive Committee, they are primarily responsible for the overall corporate governance of the firm which include Corporate Visioning/Strategy, Operations/Organizational Leadership, Financial Management, and oversight of the firm’s Business Development Strategies.

Kevin, Marylou, and Richard each bring a unique set of skills to our firm which have resulted in significant contributions to BETA’s current growth and success. Together they bring a wide range of expertise and experience and will provide valuable insight on the many corporate issues and decisions that are addressed each and every day. We are confident that their contributions will be reflected in the firm’s sustainability and growth for years to come.



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Addition of Three Key Professionals

EP is pleased to announce our continued growth and diversification with three key professionals that have joined our staff in Quincy and Woburn.

Conrad Leger joins EP’s Leadership Team as the Director of Infrastructure Asset Management. Conrad is an energetic leader and trailblazer in infrastructure management, and more than 100 communities throughout New England have relied on him to create innovative solutions to better manage their infrastructure assets.

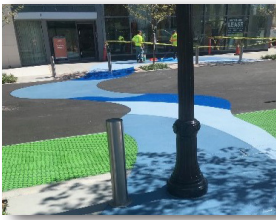
Margot Schoenfelder, PE, ACIP joins us as a Project Manager continuing the expansion of our Transportation group. Margot brings with her diverse skills in transportation design and planning. Her experience has focused on pedestrian/bicycle facilities, urban roadways, highways, and drainage infrastructure.

Christopher Grillo, P.E. joins EP as a Project Manager. Our clients are constantly challenged with navigating the ever-changing demands surrounding emerging contaminants, specifically PFAS chemicals, and their compliance implications. With over ten years of experience in water treatment expertise, Chris complements our ongoing growth as drinking water experts.

EP continues our dedication to provide exceptional services to our clients and expand our portfolio of services to help our clients find **Collaborative Solutions** and **Dramatic Results**. We are thrilled to have these three rising stars join our team.



Comprehensive Pavement Restoration & Maintenance Services & Decorative Surface Technologies



Felix A. Marino Co., Inc. hopes you and your families all have been safe and we offer our well wishes for everyone dealing with the COVID-19 circumstances. FAMCO has been successful in implementing strong safety measures to keep our employees and clientele safe, while continuing to support the community and our clients during these unprecedented times.

FAMCO has introduced a new decorative product Endurablend™, a long lasting, durable polymer cement decorative overlay with better value, flexibility, and unlimited design capabilities. Endurablend™ offers unlimited colors and stenciled applications for traffic calming, pedestrian safety, bike and bus lanes and logo applications. Endurablend™ has been successfully installed and maintained in cold weather climates of NJ and NY for over 9 years and is now installed globally.

FAMCO has added a BOMAG BM 600/15 Cold Planer from *CN Wood* to our fleet. The BOMAG milling equipment provides efficient milling capability to our utility pavement maintenance services to meet our client's needs. FAMCO still performs Infrared Thermal Pavement Repairs, Surface Treatments, and cold crack filling/sealing in addition to our conventional patching. For more information on our services and materials, please see our updated website.



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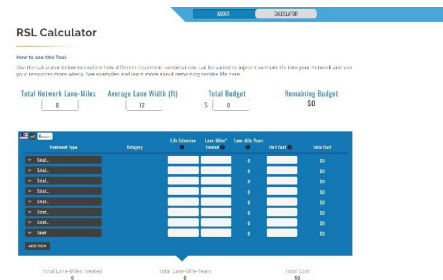
Building a Team of Super Users



The Pavement Preservation and Recycling Alliance (PPRA) website RoadResource.org has become a beacon of education for pavement managers and road owner agencies across North America. The insightful information, interactive tools, and user-friendly experience of this site are enough to keep any industry professional scrolling for hours.

Recently, indus enrolled 19 of our employees and sponsored 16 municipal clients to participate in PPRA's virtual Super User training program. In this program, users take a deep dive into all of RoadResource.org's tools and join in some group exercises to share pavement management knowledge and experiences. The six-hour, two-day course covers everything from matching existing pavement conditions with appropriate repair and maintenance techniques, to calculating the environmental sustainability of the different treatment options. And the Treatment Resource Center of the site offers a comprehensive reference on 18 various treatments covering everything from candidate selection to construction inspection guidelines.

From VP to Mechanic, our indus team had a resoundingly positive experience, and we would highly recommend this training for anyone looking to make Pavement Preservation and Recycling a team cornerstone in 2021 and beyond. Keep an eye out for upcoming Super User training sessions.



Bringing an Improved Service to Southern New England

TEC is thrilled to announce the next step in our continued growth in 2021 and beyond. **Fran Conroy** has joined our Business Development team to support a corporate initiative to better service our clients in the Southern New England region. Fran brings **over 16 years of experience in the Public Works industry** and a keen understanding of how to execute practical solutions that align with municipal budgets. As a leader in pavement management and preservation, his expertise will add another dimension to support our municipal clients and their infrastructure projects. Fran will immediately contribute to the Public Works community and improve TEC’s ability to deliver **high-quality design services with an exceptional client experience** in the Southern New England region. Welcome Fran!



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Transforming Worcester’s Kelley Square

With bumper stickers reading “This Car Survived Kelley Square,” this Worcester intersection was famous for all the wrong reasons. Kelley Square consistently ranked as one of the highest crash locations in Massachusetts, confusing and endangering motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists alike. VHB worked with MassDOT and the greater Worcester community to develop a Hybrid Roundabout, the first of its kind in Massachusetts, which clearly defined traffic patterns, added traffic calming efforts for 40,000 motorists a day, enhanced safety, and increased bicycle and pedestrian accessibility.

While a traditional roundabout consists of a single circle, a Hybrid Roundabout is made up of two circles joining several roads together. Dubbed a “Peanut Roundabout,” the redesigned Kelley Square allows motorists to navigate seven intersecting roadways over the course of a single, merged intersection.

One primary challenge for VHB was introducing this novel solution to the community, who were somewhat endeared to the unique character of their twisting intersection. VHB’s approachable visualizations helped the public envision how the new design would improve traffic flow and safety while retaining the square’s unique urban character. These efforts won the Kelley Square project the 2019 Jane Jacobs Award for its outstanding public process.



Michael Richard, PE Promoted to Practice Leader in the Facilities Group

Weston & Sampson is pleased to announce that **Michael Richard, PE** has been promoted to Practice Leader in their Facilities Group. Michael, who has been with Weston & Sampson since 2004, is a civil and environmental engineer with more than 25 years of experience in the permitting, planning, and design of municipal and solid waste facilities throughout New England. His project experience includes multi-phase public works facilities for the Needham DPW, including a salt storage facility, vehicle storage building, and season storage building. He has also planned and facilitated the design of municipal facilities for the towns of Rockport, Hopkinton, and Orleans, Massachusetts; Saco, Maine; and Middlebury, Vermont. Michael earned his BS in Civil & Environmental Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and is a Registered Professional Engineer in Massachusetts. He is also a frequent presenter on best practices related to public works facility design and construction issues.



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Thank You



Fuss & O'Neill would like to thank all public works employees whose services have always been essential, but who have braved and carried on through these especially difficult times. You keep our cities and towns working, which keeps our communities and families safe. Thank you for all you do.



Hoyle, Tanner is excited to announce that Joanne Theriault, Environmental Coordinator, is now a **Certified Wetland Scientist** after passing the New Hampshire written exam in the spring and the field exam this fall. The knowledge this training provides allows us to support our clients with wetland and surface water boundaries delineation, vernal pools assessment, wetland resources classification, wetland functions and values assessments preparation, and wetland mitigation solutions design.

Joanne's experience spans over a decade in wildlife biology, environmental permitting, and wetland science after she received her Bachelor's in biology from Northeastern and her Masters in Natural Resources from UNH.



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