

ADVANCING THE CIVIL ENGINEERING PROFESSION

Government Relations 2015 Year in Review



FEDERAL ISSUES

FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT PASSED

As a result of the Society's continued federal advocacy effort on transportation, Congress passed and the President signed the Fixing America's

Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The Fast Act provides the first long-term transportation program authorization in more than a decade with five years of increased funding for federal highway, transit and passenger rail programs. Highway investment increases by 15%, and transit grows nearly 18%. Over a thousand ASCE members made personal visits, sent emails and made personal visits to Congress and promoted the #FixTheTrustFund message, making the FAST Act possible.



FEDERAL WATER FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM MADE MORE FLEXIBLE

ASCE worked with water sector partners to make **this new loan guarantee program more flexible for municipalities.** The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program previously prohibited combining federal low interest loan guarantees with tax-exempt municipal bonds, which left local governments few options for borrowing additional money at low interest rates. ASCE worked to lift the prohibition, and this fix was achieved as part of the FAST Act.

STRONG STEM FOCUS IN THE NEW EDUCATION ACT

ASCE worked closely with Congress as a founding member of the STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) Education Coalition to ensure that the Every Student Succeed Act, the long overdue update of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, **maintained a strong focus on STEM subjects**. The Act promotes STEM education by maintaining standards and tests in math and science, expanding high-quality STEM courses, encouraging development of statewide assessments that integrate engineering and technology concepts, as well as providing STEM funding for both student and teachers enrichment.

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WINDSTORMS

In September, Congress passed and the President signed legislation to **reauthorize** the National Windstorm Hazards Impact Reduction Program (NWHIR) authorizing \$21.1 million for 3 years. ASCE was instrumental in the creation of Windstorm Program in 2004, and continues to lead the effort to renew this program. The reauthorization modifies the program by designating the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as the lead agency. The program ensures coordination on federal efforts to mitigate the impact of severe winds with work split among four federal agencies including NIST, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES

APP MAKES CONTACTING LEGISLATORS A BREEZE

The Save America's Infrastructure phone app launched in May and has been downloaded by more than 2,000 infrastructure advocates. Providing grades and facts about 16 categories of America's Infrastructure as well as the 50 states, the app allows users to easily contact their elected officials.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WINS PUSHED BY ASCE REPORT CARDS

In 2015, ASCE released 5 Report Cards in Utah, Iowa, Arizona, New York, and Alabama. Both Utah and Iowa rapidly passed transportation legislation reforms on the heels of the release of ASCE's State Infrastructure Report Cards. In fact, ASCE has released a recent Report Card in 12 of the 15 states that have taken recent significant action on infrastructure. These states include: GA, ID, IA, KY, MD, NE, NH, NC, PA, SD, UT, VT, VA, WA, and WY. Through continued outreach during and after a Report Card, ASCE members have contributed significantly to changing their state's investments in the future. Start a State Report Card by emailing reportcard@asce.org.



UTAH REPORT CARD CHAIR DAVE ECKHOFF DOING A MEDIA INTERVIEW ABOUT THE 2015 REPORT CARD FOR UTAH'S INFRASTRUCTURE





GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

- Key Contacts are joining with ASCE by sending letters on issues critical to civil engineering and developing relationships with their elected officials.
- In 2015, ASCE advocates sent over 7,000 emails and made phone calls to elected officials.
- In March, 194 ASCE leaders from 46 states came to Washington, D.C., to visit 230 Congressional offices at the ASCE Legislative Fly-In. Participants focused on the need for a long-term transportation bill and the recently passed water resources legislation.

REP. BARBARA BOXER (D-CA) (PICTURED) AND REP. BILL SHUSTER (R-PA) WERE DESIGNATED HONORARY ASCE FELLOWS FOR THEIR WORK ON WATER RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION.



ASCE MAINE MEMBERS MEETS WITH SEN. SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME) ABOUT HOW THE TRANSPORTATION BILL IMPACTS THEIR STATE

ASCE | KEY | CONTACT

SIGN UP TO BE A KEY CONTACT AT asce.org/keycontacts



AS PART OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE WEEK 2015, ASCE JOINED VICE PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AND OTHER LEADERS FOR THE KICKOFF EVENT.



GREG DILORETO SHARES THE REPORT CARD FINDINGS WITH THE DALLAS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SHARING THE REPORT CARD WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY LEADERS

The Report Card for America's Infrastructure continues to draw interest from business and industry groups nationwide. Almost 50 Report Card presentations have been given by ASCE leaders to groups ranging from the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce to the US/Canada P3 Forum to the Association of Actuaries.

HIGHLIGHTING #GAMECHANGERS AND SOLUTIONS

In July, ASCE released Infrastructure #GameChangers report to highlight the innovative ways communities across the country are modernizing infrastructure. The report highlights trends in energy, freight, transportation and water infrastructure that are changing the way we design, plan, and build projects of the future. Find out more at www.ascegamechangers.org.



STATE ISSUES

ASCE WORKING WITH STATES TO SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND LICENSING

- Tracking 1,300+ Bills: ASCE identified 54 priority bills in 31 states, as well as tracked 1,308 bills and 308 regulations during the 2015 session. See the bills in your state at asce.org/advocacy
- Increasing State Transportation Revenues:
 ASCE Sections in 8 states (Georgia, Idaho,
 lowa, Michigan, Nebraska, South Dakota,
 Utah, and Washington) supported legislative efforts
 to successfully raise revenue for transportation
 infrastructure.
- Protecting Professional Licenses: ASCE opposed bills in Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, and Washington that would do away with all professional licenses. ASCE also worked with the Indiana Section to urge their Governor to reject elimination of professional licensure.



- Holding State Capital Events: Legislative advocacy days in Alaska, California, Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia.
- Training ASCE State Leaders: ASCE State Government Relations Staff launched the second State Advocacy Captains training in June with 11 states.
- Educating State Legislators: ASCE exhibited with the Washington Section at the National Conference of State Legislature's Annual Legislative Summit. ASCE also sponsored two Council of State Government Transportation Policy Academies for state legislators and participated in the spring and summer National Lt. Governors Association meetings.



MEDIA PRESENCE

ASCE received 12,933 media mentions in all 50 states and more than 30 countries around the world, including 1,934 Report Card mentions. Stories appeared in 27 major print and broadcast media outlets/wire services including:

- ABC News
- Associated Press
- BBC
- Bloomberg
- Boston Globe
- CBS News
- Chicago Tribune
- CNBC

- CNN
- Los Angeles Times
- National Geographic
- New York Daily News
- New York Times
- Newsday
- Newsweek
- NPR

- Reuters
- Time Magazine
- U.S. News & World Report
- Univision
- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post

TOP TIER MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

HBO's Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (3/2/15) highlighting the state of the nation's infrastructure episode has been viewed more than 5.8 million times on YouTube



- New York Times interview with Greg DiLoreto
 (6/1/15) about nation's aging water infrastructure
- Katie Couric story on Yahoo (5/18/15) spotlighting ASCE's Report Card and the nation's deteriorating infrastructure
- Fix the Trust Fund national radio tour led by Andy Herrmann reaching 11.9 million listeners on 1,814 stations.



asce.org/issues_and_advocacy

ON SOCIAL MEDIA Advancing the Message

ASCE Save America's Infrastructure Facebook: **7,084 Likes**



@ASCEGovRel Twitter: **5,630 Followers**



ASCE Government Relations Facebook: 1,753 Likes

#FixTheTrustFund used on Twitter and Facebook by the Administration and Congressional leaders, including:

Joyce Beatty (OH), Eddie
Bernice Johnson (TX), Earl
Blumenauer (OR), Julia
Brownley (CA), Cheri Bustos
(IL), Tom Carper (DE), John
Delaney (MD), Donna
Edwards (MD), Elizabeth Etsy
(CT), Lois Frankel (FL), Marcia
Fudge (OH), Janice Hahn
(CA), Steny Hoyer (MD), Sam
Johnson (TX), Rick Larsen
(WA), Donald Norcross (NJ),
Scott Peters (CA), Jim Renacci
(OH), Reid Ribble (WI), and
Tim Ryan (OH).



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