Notes From The Director

Well, Congress has managed to put a band-aid on the highway trust fund before taking their August recess. By using silly budget gimmicks, the House allocated $10.9 billion to keep the fund afloat until May of next year and essentially forced the Senate to approve the measure “as-is” with an “all-or-nothing” ultimatum. Such gimmicks may seem clever to the budget wonks that dream them up but they may have serious consequences for taxpayers in future years. Transportation spending is not an “if” proposition but a “when”, and, the longer necessary repairs and replacements are delayed, the more expensive they become. How can states prepare any effective long range infrastructure plans with this kind of uncertainty?

On a more positive note, precasters I talk to are reporting strong volumes this year. This is a good sign that the economy is continuing to improve but it is also a sign that precast is increasingly becoming the method of choice for owners, engineers, and contractors. When you accelerate construction you reduce the impact to affected motorists and local businesses. School construction is often conducted on a tight schedule in order to assure completion prior to the fall semester. The use of precast elements accelerates construction and keeps time critical projects on schedule. Contact me or one of our producer members if you would like more information.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
Taconic State Park

Submitted By: Erin S. Bullard, Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

This project utilized several precast concrete elements to enhance the natural beauty and functionality of the Taconic State Park at Copake Falls, NY. Improvements at the Park were needed to improve vehicular access, provide increased pedestrian mobility and accessibility, and to enlarge the parking capacity of the park for day use visitors. A 5’ x 6’ precast concrete box culvert was installed on the Ore Pit Pond outlet stream, under the improved access drive to the park grounds. The box culvert was set lower than the stream bed elevation, and the bottom filled with local stone fill to provide a continuous natural stream through the culvert, to meet permitting requirements. The upstream and downstream headwalls utilized large precast concrete segmental blocks with a form-lined facing to provide the look of natural stone walls.

Precast concrete was also the material of choice for a retaining wall along the Park entry drive. The 154 ft. long wall was needed to allow a widening of the road and installation of railing and walkway on the opposite side of the road. Large precast concrete segmental blocks and top coping, with form-lined facing to match the box culvert headwalls, were installed to a maximum exposed height of six feet.

Funding for the project was made available through the New York Works initiative to revitalize the State Park System.

Project Credits:

Owner: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (Taconic Region)

Engineer: Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C.

Contractor: Arold Construction Co., Inc.

Precast Manufacturers:

Concrete Systems, Inc., A&R Concrete Products, Unilock, Inc., and Fort Miller Co., Inc.
NYS Route 64 in South Bristol

South Bristol is a quaint resort community on the banks of Canandaigua Lake in Ontario County with NYS Route 64 as its main artery. A protracted shutdown of this road for a much needed culvert replacement could have been a major problem for both travelers and merchants were it not for the rapid installation of precast components. This project included 38.5lf (6 sections) of 15’ span x 8'-6" rise box culvert complete with precast cut-off walls and cantilever style wing walls.

The erection of all components were completed in a single ten-hour day followed by backfill, pavement, and guide rail installation prior to opening the road to traffic. Assembly of the box sections, cut-off walls and wing walls was facilitated by strict adherence to manufacturing tolerances during production.

Project Credits:

Owner: New York State Department of Transportation
Contractor: Slate Hill Constructors, Warners, NY
Precast Producer: Kistner Concrete Products, Lockport, NY

Kistner Concrete Products is a NPCA certified plant approved by the NYSDOT QA/QC program for precast producers. Our thanks to Mike Kistner for submitting this project.

Sorting out ASTM Standards for Precast Culverts

The following standards related to precast culverts fall under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-13:

- C1433 — Precast Monolithic 4-Sided Culverts designed to AASHTO Standard Specifications
- C1504 — Precast 3-Sided Structures designed to AASHTO LRFD Specifications
- C1577 — Precast Monolithic 4-Sided Culverts designed to AASHTO LRFD Specifications
- C1675 — Installation of Precast Monolithic Box Sections

Engineers are encouraged to refer to these standards in their contract documents and should also be advised that ASTM Standards C789 and C850 are no longer in effect.

Another standard currently in the balloting phase under Work Item WK38176 is for precast segmental box sections. This standard finally recognizes “U” shaped culverts, either with a flat top or with a mid-seam joint and provides design guidance conforming to AASHTO LRFD Specifications.

Segmental culverts have several advantages for both manufacturing and installation and should be considered as an approved alternate to monolithic sections provided they are properly designed.
Delta Engineers Announces Promotion and New Hire

PCANY Professional Member, Delta Engineers, Architects, and Land Surveyors, PC. Has promoted Daryl Burns, PE to Director of Precast Services. Ben Cabot III has joined the firm’s Precast Specialty Engineering Services Group.

2014 Bridge Conference

The Statewide Conference on Local Bridges will hold its 2014 Bridge Conference November 5-7 at the Holiday Inn. 441 Electronics Parkway, Syracuse, NY

NYSAOTSOH 85th Town Highway Annual Conference

New York State Association of Town Highway Superintendents of Highways, Inc. will hold its 2014 Conference, Expo, and Education Symposium September 16-19 at the Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center, Callicoon, NY.

NPCA Convention Registration Now Open

The NPCA 49th Annual Convention is scheduled for October 22-25 at Le Centre Sheraton in Montreal. Complete information and on-line registration can be found at www.precast.org/convention. Don’t forget your passport if you are traveling to Canada.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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