Notes From The Director

To get some idea of the construction industry outlook in New York for 2019, I took a look at Governor Cuomo’s proposed budget for this year’s infrastructure. Initiatives include design build legislation for Rikers Island Jail and Brooklyn Queens Expressway reconstruction. Local roads and bridge allotments are slated to be the same as last year including $478M for CHIPS & Marchiselli programs and $100M for PAVE NY & Bridge NY. Increases include $65M for extreme winter recovery roadway repairs and $25M for transit systems other than MTA.

Dodge projects only a modest 0.2% increase nationwide in construction starts for 2019. While we may not see any significant increases in overall construction spending this year, 2018 was not a terrible year for most producers and I think it is safe to say that precast will continue to increase its share of the pie.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
NYS Route 8 Over Genesee Street—New Hartford, NY
Accelerated Bridge Deck Replacement Project

Submitted by Joshua French of The Fort Miller Co., Inc.

The challenge to this bridge deck replacement project was executing it over the course of just a few days. Route 8 through Utica & New Hartford serves as a major artery in the central New York area. Minimizing the interruption to the traveling public was very important. Because a cast-in-place option would take several weeks, a precast concrete solution was designed and constructed.

Closed on Friday August 17th and reopened to traffic on the morning of Wednesday August 22nd, Vector Construction Corporation (Cicero, NY) proved beyond a doubt the precast solution was the best option. Vector removed the existing bridge deck and replaced it with (24) precast decks (with integral parapet), (14) precast approach slabs, and (3) precast sleeper slabs. All precast components were fabricated in Fort Miller's Easton, NY.
Interior Liner Systems Provide Long Term Corrosion Protection

By: Ronald Thornton, P.E.

Precast concrete has proven to be the material-of-choice for water and wastewater construction due to its strength, durability, and watertightness. However, it is not uncommon for sewage manholes, grease interceptors, lift stations, and other containment tanks to show signs of deterioration over time when subjected to attack from chemicals such as sodium & ammonium hydroxides, sulfuric & nitric acids, and from certain microbes. It is important to understand that corrosion can occur both above and below liquid levels, which means that protection measures need to be continuous throughout the interior of the structure.

Fortunately, there are corrosion protection measures that can be taken to improve long-term durability and extend the service life of these structures. Such measures include concrete admixtures, surface applied coatings, and cast-in liner systems. This article focuses on liner systems.

Liners are typically manufactured from inert materials such as HDPE, acrylic PVC, or specially coated polyester knit fabric, all of which can be placed directly onto precast formwork and each with a means to secure the liner firmly to the concrete when cast. Liners allow for the strength and durability of precast concrete coupled with the corrosion resistance of synthetic materials.

Seams within precast sections and joints between sections can be completely sealed through welding or with specialized joint forming. Liner systems provide a continuous interior layer of protection in both round and rectangular structures. Each manufacturer provides complete product literature with installation instructions and product specifications.

We should also note that corrosion protection products are not a substitute for proper hydraulic design to reduce turbulent flows and to the venting of sewer gases, where appropriate.

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Capital District Engineers Week
E-Week this year will be held at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Rd, February 14-15, 2019. The focus of Engineers Week is create awareness of the contributions of engineers to society. (information and registration)

NPCA Manual for Jointed Concrete pavement
This comprehensive technical reference is available for download at www.precast.org/jprcp-manual

The Precast Show 2019...
Will be held at the brand new Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, KY Feb 28 to March 2, 2019. Visit www.precast.org/theprecastshow for information and to register.

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