

AASHTO NEWS

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials

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AASHTO Annual Meeting to Address Transportation Act, Accelerated Construction

The nation's new six-year highway and transit act, strategies for expedited highway and bridge construction, making roadways better fit local needs and providing children with safer routes to school will be among topics discussed by state DOT directors at the AASHTO Annual Meeting, to be held September 16-19 at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee.

On the heels of the enactment of a new six-year, \$286.4 billion surface-transportation bill, U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta will address the meeting's Plenary Session on Sunday, September 18 at 10:15 a.m. There will be in-depth briefings on the new act in several sessions at the annual meeting.

"This will be a great opportunity to dig into the details of the nation's new highway and transit reauthorization act, and look ahead to our plans to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Interstate Highway System in 2006," said John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO.

David Billington, PhD., a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Princeton University, will also demonstrate why his courses in the relationship of engineered structures to the broader culture attract hundreds of students per semester and are rated as "must-take" even among non-engineering majors. Billington will address the Sunday Plenary Session.

The meeting also will feature a trade fair, the investiture of AASHTO's new president for the year 2006, and a ceremony honoring AASHTO award-winners.

Also to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting will be meetings of AASHTO's Standing Committees on Highways, Planning, Boards and Commissions; its Reauthorization Steering Committee and its councils on Project Delivery and Operations. There also will be a workshop for new state DOT chief executive officers.

This year's "tracks," or themed discussions delivering expertise on several topics, include State Gas-Tax Campaigns, Innovations in Construction, Context-Sensitive Design, and Safe Routes to School. There will also be sessions on emerging financing approaches used by transportation departments and a roundtable on accelerating project delivery.

