Welcome to Concrete for Life News!

William E. “Bill” Cook
Pavement Engineer

I am pleased to bring you the first 2008 edition of Concrete for Life News.

As the new Pavement Engineer, I have traveled the state from Omaha to Scottsbluff and points in between promoting concrete pavements and overlays.

I had the opportunity to meet many of you at the 29th Annual Concrete Paving Workshop. I look forward to meeting the rest of you very soon.

Enjoy this edition of the rejuvenated NCPA newsletter. As always, thanks for your support as we work to build the use of concrete pavements in our state.

Paying a Little More Up front Can Mean Greater Savings Down the Road

Buffalo County--Riverdale North Paving

Why should we pay more for Brand A when Brand B is cheaper? When paying a little bit more gets us a whole lot more value!

The Buffalo County Board of Supervisors and Highway Superintendent Ron Sklenar know that paying a little bit more for a Portland cement concrete pavement gets them a whole lot more in value. The increased value is longer life and less maintenance costs.

On September 12, 2006, Buffalo County let a paving contract bidding a concrete pavement design against a hot mix asphalt pavement design. Professional engineer Stanley Johnson of Miller and Associates of Kearney developed the project plans and letting documents. The design alternatives were a nine-inch by 22-foot wide Portland cement concrete pavement versus an eight-inch by 22-foot wide hot mix asphalt design.

The concrete alternative came in at $379,014.25, and the hot mix asphalt alternative at $373,310.67.

Even though the asphalt was $5,704 cheaper, the fact the concrete will

Looking South into Riverdale

The project went very smoothly and the paving was done quickly.

Project Manager, Lance Harter

More Buffalo County-Riverdale... see page 2
Buffalo County--Riverdale. . .continued

achieve longer life before needing a major repair caused the Board to choose the concrete option. And the concrete pavement will cost less to maintain to boot!

Local concrete paving contractor Ron Blessing of Blessing Construction began work in late June, 2007 and opened the first mile of road to traffic in July 2007. The second mile’s paving began in late August, 2007, and the road was opened to traffic September 1st, 2007.

Project manager Lance Harter said the project went very smoothly, and the paving was done quickly. Now, Buffalo County residents can use a long lived, easy to maintain concrete pavement for many years to come.

Buffalo County Highway Department Building

PCC Pavements Perform Well in Katrina

Katrina Pavement Damage Assessment

According to “INFRASENSE Update”, Spring 2007 Newsletter,

“In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina flooded New Orleans, Louisiana and devastated the majority of the city. Despite spending several weeks submerged in water, the city’s roadways appeared to be in working order…

“The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development retained Fugro Consultants LP to conduct an independent assessment of 250 miles of DOTD-owned roadways…

“Fugro subcontracted with Infrasense to assist with a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey to determine thickness, moisture, and sub-grade materials. The GPR thickness data was combined with FWD data in order to identify weak pavement sections, while the GPR moisture and materials information was used to indicate areas of future concern…

“Very little relative damage was detected for the PCC pavements”

This information is based upon a report from LTRC that can be found at

http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/pdf/2007/07_2ta

Infrasense, Inc., can be contacted at:

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Successful Workshop Held January 30-31, 2008 in Lincoln

29th Annual Concrete Paving Workshop

Our successful 29th Annual Concrete Paving Workshop was held January 30-31, 2008, at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln with almost 340 registered to attend.

We began with John Craig from the Nebraska Department of Roads, Kurt Fredrichs from the FHWA Nebraska Division Office, Anna Lannin from the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics, and Steve Maraman from the Department of Roads updating us about the funding situation for transportation infrastructure. Funding will be tight for the next couple years, but the legislature and Congress are working on funding enhancements.

Steve Weidenhammer from Thiele Geotech told us of training needs and opportunities, while Geoffrey Kurgan from the FHWA showed us what research was happening on the Federal level, and gave information on the capabilities of the FHWA Mobile Concrete Testing Lab. We were also able to see the lab first hand where it was parked on the north side of the Hotel.

After the Paving Awards Lunch, the breakout sessions allowed us exposure to many technical presentations.

We listened to knowledgeable speakers tell us about dowel bar retrofits, and the future in Nebraska. Several suppliers introduced us to new and innovative products that can speed up paving and make it easier and better.

One breakout session showed us how the granular bases are designed, and the theory behind them. A case study of the I-80 project from US 77 east to I-180 showed how to do it. The breakout ended with us learning how to stockpile and un-stockpile aggregates.

The third breakout session explained why we need IP cements, how maturity testing works, and how paver vibrator monitors operate.

The reception followed the end of the breakout session, with good snack food. For more than two hours we fellowshipped, traded stories, and enjoyed good food and drink.

The next morning began with John Kervan educating us on the design, use, and history of pervious concrete. Scott Steingraber showed us how Kiewit built the new Tacoma Bridge. Rhett Desselle continued with how New Orleans and Louisiana are recovering from the hurricanes.

Kurt Peyton showed how thick airport runways are built, and Ernie Peterson let us know where the oldest pavements can be found in Nebraska and Iowa.

Tom Trumble and Russ Gasper explained how the Fairmont Airport whitetopping project began and finished, and Sam Fallaha finished the presentations with explaining when a bridge deck could be overlaid with concrete and when it should be replaced.

We ended with the door prize drawings of the digital camera, Cabela’s gift certificates, and the Dewalt Power Tool combination.

PowerPoint Presentations presented by the speakers are available for viewing and/or download on our website at www.nebrconc.org/2005_layout/Events_and_Newsl.htm

If you have any questions regarding the individual PowerPoint Presentations, or would like to use all or part of a Presentation, please contact the speaker directly.

A special thanks go to all who helped plan and organize the workshop. A special thanks also to the breakout session monitors and helpers, and the LTAP staff. A big Thank You to all of the speakers.

Mark your calendars for Wednesday and Thursday, January 7 and 8, 2009, for the 30th Annual Concrete Paving Workshop. We will meet again at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln.
29th Annual Concrete Paving Award Winners

Interstate Highways and Expressways

EACNH-80-9(861), I-80 from US 77 Easterly to I-80
Front row (l to r): Justin Morrow; Jeff Johnston; Jim England.
Second row (l to r): Dale Luse; Dan Tello; Tim Yateo; Brian Perry; Dave Olson; Steve Bliss; Willie Hollatz; Martin Perez.

Urban Streets

Pioneers Boulevard Widening From Antelope Crk to Pagoda Ln
Front row (l to r): Brian Dittman; Erika Nunes.
Second row (l to r): Martin Perez; Todd Cochran; Matt Martin; Sheila Martinez; Doug Holle; Dan Tello.

Secondary State Highways & County Roads

STPN-TMT-61-2(111), N-61 over UP RR at Lake McConaughy
Front row (l to r): Dave Neill; Wahed Hassahi.
Second row (l to r): Darrell O’Neal; Jason Nichols; Jim Shea; Cameron Craig; Rich Morell; Matt Johnson; Tom Kellogg; Tony Kessler; Doug Gertsch; Dave Vermillion.

Municipal Streets

STPD-STPM-14-2(118), Highway 14 in Aurora
Front row (l to r): Dave Neill; Bob Nordhues.
Second row (l to r): Glen Bomberger; Jim Shea; Mike Bair; Mayor Marlin Seeman; Dennis Osterman; Ben Merchant; Tracy Thorell; Curtis Probasco.

Concrete Pavement Rehabilitation

RD-77-2(1049), US 77 from I-80 Northerly 7.0 Miles
Front row (l to r): J P. Buck; Babrak Niazi.
Second row (l to r): Dale Lahr; Jason Nielsen; Ron Klaus; Linda Masek; Ben Merchant; Jim Ebeling.

Parking Lots & Miscellaneous Paving

UNL Nebraska Tractor Test Laboratory
Front row (l to r): Dave Edwards; Jason Herr.
Second row (l to r): Gordy Jorgenson; Don McClarvey; David Morgan; Roger Hoy; Scott Kalkwarf; Scott Delgado; Ray Delka.
Steel prices increased 1.8% from January to February. Asphalt prices increased slightly as well, 0.1% from the previous month. Concrete increased 0.4% from January to February. Lumber prices decreased for the seventh consecutive month, declining slightly at 0.1% from the previous month.

Steel prices have increased 4.7% within the last year. Asphalt prices have grown 3.7% and concrete prices grew by 2.5%. Over the last year lumber prices have declined by 8.1%.

Contact Bill at 402-499-7105 or by e-mail at bcook@nebrconc.org to set up a training session.

Interested in learning more about the families of bonded and unbonded concrete overlays?

Bill Cook has an hour and a half PowerPoint presentation on the advantages, design considerations, constructability issues, and traffic control issues on concrete overlays.

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Current Members

Mike Arps  Arps Red-E-Mix
Ernie Peterson  Ash Grove Cement Company
Willie Calderwood  Cedar Valley Corp.
Bob Nordquist  Concrete Industries
Randy Howard  Constructors, Inc
Jim Harder  Diamond Engineering
Sean Leach  Diamond Advantage
Sam Olson  Dobson Brothers Construction Co.
Tom Crockett  Hawkins Construction Co.
Bill Sutton  Headwaters Resources, Inc.
Matt Tondl  HDR Engineering, Inc.
Mick Cristelli  Holcim (US) Inc.
Craig Rhinehart  Iowa Erosion Control, Inc.
Frank Cranston  Kerford Limestone
Roger M. Helgoth  Kirkham Michael & Associates
Bill Schoonover  Knife River West Division
Joel Sedlacek  Lafarge North America
Jim Witt  Logan Contractors Supply
Mark Deetz  Lyman-Richey Corp.
Mike Spohr  Martin Marietta
Jim Musilek  Mid-State Engineering
John Spellman  Murphy Tractor & Equipment
Kirk Keller  Nebraska Truck & Equipment Co., Inc.
Doug Burns  North Central Cement Association
Merlyn Hansen  Overland Sand & Gravel
Dennis Sandrock  Paulsen, Inc.
Mike McCullough  Pavers, Inc.
James W. Ramey  Rose Equipment
Bill Herr  Sarpy County
Joe Delgado  TCW Construction, Inc.
K.R. Buck  Ten Point Construction
Tom Kellogg  TranSystems, Corp.
Nathan Reed  Upper Plains
Dave Brankenhoff  Western Sand & Gravel
Bert Wise  Wise Mack

Concrete for Life
NEWS

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