

ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DECEMBER 2024



Director's Comments:

As we close the books on 2024, I find myself reflecting on a year of growth, challenges, and collaboration. Utility construction sectors saw significant activity, fueled by ongoing infrastructure investments and initiatives. From water and sewer system upgrades to projects aimed at expanding broadband access, our members played a critical role in strengthening Alabama's infrastructure.

This year, we also faced challenges. A competitive labor market, rising material costs, and lingering supply chain issues continued to test the resilience of our industry. Yet, AUCA members demonstrated remarkable adaptability and commitment, ensuring projects were completed efficiently and to the highest standards.

On the advocacy front, AUCA worked to represent your interests, engaging with policymakers to secure fair regulations and funding opportunities. Our events have also seen record participation, highlighting the value of collectively coming together as an industry.

Looking ahead to 2025, we anticipate even more opportunities. The continued rollout of infrastructure funding at both federal and state levels is expected to drive demand for skilled contractors. Workforce development remains a top priority, and AUCA is committed to providing our members with resources and forums to ensure we stay at the forefront to help train and equip the next generation.

I would also like to personally thank Jay Holcomb from Lambert, Inc. for his leadership during this year as he served well in the role of AUCA President. Robbie Butler from Cleary Construction will take over as our new President in 2025 with big shoes to fill.

On behalf of Jay, Robbie, and the rest of the AUCA Board of Directors, we would like to wish you all a happy holiday season, and a prosperous and healthy New Year!

Tim

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

Inside This Issue:

Upcoming Events	2-8
News & Notes	9-11
CWCC Report	12-13
Health & Safety	14-16

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings
2025 Dates and Locations To Be Announced

Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day

Thursday, March 6, 2025
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

State House Building
11 South Union Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

This is your opportunity as AUCA members to join together in a unified voice to help educate our Legislators on the concerns of the workforce that supplies, installs, and rehabilitates the infrastructure of water, sewer, gas, electrical, broadband, and other underground utility systems throughout Alabama.

***AUCA 2025 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

Thursday, April 24, 2025
Arrowhead Country Club
Montgomery, AL



***AUCA 2025 Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***
Thursday, October 16, 2025
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

1st Quarter Alabama 811 Hosted Area Damage Prevention Meetings



Alabama 811 would like to again invite you to attend one of the following area underground utility coordination and damage prevention meetings being held in your areas. They are going to continue to meet quarterly and establish these meetings with the intent of helping coordinate damage prevention efforts and give you the opportunity to help get any local issues resolved. Communication is the key in many scenarios, and these meetings are a key piece in the communication process and will help to build and foster relationships.

Please take this opportunity to get involved. They have had success in helping to resolve issues and also provide additional training at previous meetings.

As always, the Alabama 811 staff will provide a brief recap of the previous quarter, and then open the floor up for discussion. They are likely going to incorporate a short training/overview at each meeting and address items such as white lining, positive response, possibly a locator q&a, etc.

Formal purpose

To foster communication and relationships among stakeholders in a round-table type forum by discussing upcoming projects, providing the most up-to-date damage prevention information, and addressing any concerns and areas for improvement.

Who should attend?

Utilities, Excavators/Contractors, Line Locators, State and County Transportation, Engineers, Municipalities, Surveyors and other related groups involved in activities around underground utilities.

**Meal sponsorships are not a necessity, but are always welcome. Reach out to us if interested.

Jefferson County Area

January 23rd | Time 8:30am

Location: Trussville Civic Center 5381 Trussville Clay Road Trussville, AL

Breakfast will be provided.

Shelby County Area

January 23rd | Time 11am

Location: Alabaster Water 200 Kent Stone Blvd Alabaster, AL 35007

Mobile Area

January 28th | Time 8:30am

Location: Mobile Area Water and Sewer System 4725 Moffett Rd Mobile, AL 36618

Breakfast Provided

Limestone, Madison, Morgan Area

January 28th | Time 11am

Location: Greenbrier Restaurant 27028 Old Hwy 20 Madison, AL 35756



Upcoming Meetings & Events:

(Continued from page 3)

Tuscaloosa Area

January 30th | Time 11am

Location: Northport Civic Center Meeting Room 3500 McFarland Blvd Northport, AL 35476

Baldwin Area

January 30th | Time 8:30am

Location: Daphne Utilities 8301 Well Rd Daphne, AL 36526

Daphne Utilities will provide breakfast.

Dothan Area

February 4th | Time 12pm

Location: City of Dothan Utilities 200 Kilgore Dr Dothan, AL 36301

Dothan Utilities will provide lunch.

Montgomery Area

February 6th | Time 8am

No Breakfast Sponsor

Location: Montgomery Water Works 2000 Interstate Park Dr Montgomery, AL 36109

Auburn Area

February 6th | Time 11am

Location: Auburn Hubert and Grace Harris Center-Activity Room 425 Perry St. Auburn, AL 36830

Auburn Public Works will provide lunch.

RSVP by Clicking the Link: [Alabama 811 Area Damage Prevention Meetings](#)

or Scanning the QR Code





Alabama Transportation Assistance Program
presents a workshop

Flagger Training with Field Exercises

Instructed by Scott Tison

Mobile

January 21, 2025

Montgomery

January 22, 2025

Birmingham

January 23, 2025

Huntsville

January 24, 2025

The purpose of this course is to promote safety and the proper use of flaggers for traffic control. Flagger training is important because it promotes safety for you, safety for your work crew companions, safety for pedestrians (including those with disabilities), safety for bicyclists and safety for the motoring public. Much of the information regulating work zone safety is also covered in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The value of the job of a Flagger is VERY often underestimated by the general public. Your job sets up everything else for success or disaster. The job of controlling and directing traffic is extremely important and should be carried out with pride. This class will include outside field activities which will include practice setting up a work zone using signs and cones. We will also review and demonstrate proper flagging procedures.

This workshop should be of interest to contractors, and their employees, safety representatives, local and state employees, and all those whose work involves street and highway operations on or adjacent to the roadway.

This six hour workshop has a **maximum of 40 participants** in each workshop. The cost of the workshop is \$175.00. Please register at www.eng.auburn.edu/atap. The registration fee includes handout materials, break refreshments, lunch and a certificate of participation. Participants completing this workshop will receive 0.60 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), 6.0 Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Certificates of participation will be issued the day of the event. Thank you for your continued support of the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program.

Workshop Topics

- Qualifications for Flaggers
- High Visibility Clothing
- Hand Signaling Devices
- Types and Colors of Devices
- Traffic Control Devices
- Sign Placement
- MUTCD
- Flagger Stations
- Field Exercises
- Outside Work Zone Setup
- Flagger Procedures
- Summary and Review

Workshop Instructor

Scott Tison

Scott Tison, Associate Director of Technical and Training Assistance for the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program (ATAP), is one of the nation's foremost subject matter experts in construction safety (workzones), roadside appurtenances, and transportation materials. Mr. Tison has worked with various LTAP Centers across multiple states. Mr. Tison is a member of several Transportation Research Board Committees, including Traffic Control Devices (ACP 55), Tison is also a member of the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and has assisted the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) with developing their T3 Curriculum.

Cancellation Policy

We understand that circumstances may arise that could require you to cancel your registration, and we make every effort to accommodate your needs. Due to commitments to our instructors and facilities, the registration fee is not refundable if a registrant withdraws less than five working days before the workshop. You may substitute registrants; please notify us in advance if possible. Non-paid, no show registrants will be invoiced for the full cost of the workshop. ATAP reserves the right to cancel or modify any program offering, but will provide registrants the option of a full refund. Auburn University will not be responsible for expenses incurred by a registrant as the result of a cancelled or rescheduled workshop.

Locations

Huntsville, January 24, 2025

Auburn University Innovation
And Research Center
345 Voyager Way NW
Huntsville, AL 35806
571-239-2290

Birmingham, January 23, 2025

Embassy Suites – Hoover
2960 John Hawkins Pkwy
Birmingham, AL 35244
205-985-9994

Mobile, January 21, 2025

Hampton Inn & Suites Providence Park
525 Providence Park Drive
Mobile, AL 36695
251-776-5866

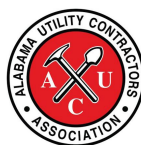
Montgomery, January 22, 2025

Hilton Garden Inn – Eastchase
7665 East Chase Pkwy
Montgomery, AL 36117
334-244-0101

Workshop Times

8:30 am – 9:00 am
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Registration Opens
Workshop
Lunch
Workshop
Field Exercises





Alabama Transportation Assistance Program
presents a workshop

Temporary Traffic Control / MUTCD

Presents a Workshop on

Temporary Traffic Control / MUTCD

Tuscaloosa, AL
February 5, 2025
8:30 AM-3:30 PM

About 100,000 crashes occur in work zones every year, according to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse. An annual average of 764 traffic fatalities and 135 worker deaths occurred in work zones in the U.S. from 2015 to 2017. These numbers are on the rise. In Alabama, there has been an average of 20 work zone traffic fatalities and 5 worker deaths per year. There is room for improvement.

This workshop will strengthen the knowledge base of anyone involved in the design, implementation, inspection, and maintenance of temporary traffic control (TTC). This workshop includes a series of hands-on activities and exercises intended to reinforce learning at a higher level of application. After attending the workshop, participants should be able to use the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), identify relevant state and federal guidelines and practices pertaining to TTC, identify characteristics of traffic control suitable for use in work zones, and select and install appropriate TTC layouts for specific situations. This workshop should be of interest to contractors, and their employees, safety representatives, local and state employees, and all those whose work involves street and highway operations on or adjacent to the roadway. A copy of Part 6 of the MUTCD will be provided.

Workshop Topics

- Responsibilities and Requirements for TTC
- Typical TTC Activities and Applications
- Elements of Traffic Control and TTC Zones
- Tools, Tips, and Resources for TTC

Please register at www.eng.auburn.edu/atap. **CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 100 PARTICIPANTS PER LOCATION. The cost of the workshop is \$175.00.** Registrants are reminded that registration is not complete until payment is made. The registration fee includes handout materials, break refreshments, lunch, and a certificate of participation. Participants completing this workshop will receive .60 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), 6.0 Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Thank you for your continued support of the Alabama Transportation Assistance Program.

Workshop Instructor

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Locations and Time

Tuscaloosa, February 5th
Tuscaloosa County Synergic Center
3500 5th Street
Northport, Alabama 35476

8:30am – 9:00am	Registration Opens
9:00am – 12:00pm	Workshop
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 3:30pm	Workshop



News & Notes:

AUCA Holiday Lunch Meetings

During December, AUCA members had an opportunity to fellowship at lunch meetings held throughout the state in Tuscaloosa, Mobile, Huntsville & Birmingham.



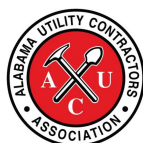
AUCA New Member Company:

SafetyTest and Equipment Company

Shelby, NC

Company Representative: Missy Williams

www.safetytest.net



News & Notes:

AUCA 2025 Scholarship Program:

The application process for our 2025 Scholarship Program is now open. Scholarships will be awarded to applicants that have not previously received an AUCA scholarship. Deadline for submissions will be February 28th, and winning applicants will be selected at the March 2025 AUCA Board of Directors Meeting.

- Scholarships awarded will be worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

<http://www.aluca.org/scholarship-program.html>

Application Criteria:

- Must be a resident of Alabama.
- Must be enrolling in, or attending a community college, technical school, or university in Alabama.
- Open to any field of study, but preference may be given to applicants enrolled/enrolling in an engineering or construction-related curriculum.
- Must be either employed by, or have a parent or grandparent employed by a current AUCA member company.
- Cannot have previously received an AUCA Scholarship.
- Application must be received by February 28, 2025.

Contractor's Group Retirement Planning:

BenSource Employee Benefits, an AUCA member company, is staffed to take your call with any questions you may have about starting a retirement plan, or to compare your current plan with the ***Contractor's Retirement Plan***. BenSource can be reached at (205) 536-9204.

Here are just few of the unique benefits of this plan:

- Eliminates all TPA costs, all audit costs, 5500 costs and document costs
- Greatly reduces employee investment costs - the *power* of group buying
- Eliminates nearly all of the HR tasks typically associated with 401k
- Diverts the significant fiduciary liability away from the business owner

2025 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal:

AUCA 2025 Membership Dues Notices will go out in January. Please be on the lookout for the notice. We appreciate your past support of AUCA, and hope that your company will renew your membership with our group and help us continue to work towards our goals in 2025. We ask that you please return your dues promptly to ensure no disruption in member benefits.



News & Notes:

Utility Worker Training Program:

Lawson State Community College has recently started a training program in partnership with Spire to train underground utility workers. The program is full time for approximately 9 weeks. The introductory program will graduate seven students in January 2025 and those completing the program will have received training or certifications in the following categories:

- CDL A License with Air Brakes
- Skid Steer
- Mini Excavator
- OSHA 10
- Trenching
- CPR
- First Aid
- ACE Certified
- Customer Service
- Knowledge of Plumbing Basics (training but not a certification)

If your company would like to interview any of the graduating students, or to learn more about the program, please contact Josh Caton with Lawson State:

Josh Caton
Workforce Specialist
Lawson State Community College
Mobile 205-266-7202
Office 205-925-2515 Ext: 2075
Email: jcaton@lawsonstate.edu

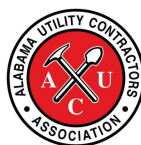
Kelley Lloyd Retires:

Kelley Lloyd, PE has announced his retirement after a remarkable career that spanned over 44 years in the concrete pipe and precast industry.

Kelley began his career in quality control at Sherman Industries then moved into engineering and sales. Along the way, he also worked for Foley Products and the last five years with Alcrete.

In 2023 Kelley and Alcrete were recognized as the AUCA Associate Member of the Year. Kelley is one of the most likeable individuals I have ever worked with, and his institutional wisdom of our industry will be extremely difficult to replace.

Join us in wishing Kelley well on his much deserved retirement!



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Kyle England - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

December 2, 2024

To all CWCC members: we are saddened to announce the retirement of our coalition's lobbyist and key advisor, Sante Esposito, effective January 1st, 2025. Sante will long be remembered for his steadfast advocacy and keen eye for navigating the maze that is Capitol Hill. We tip our caps to Sante for a long, impactful career and wish him well as he begins this new chapter.

Election Wrap-Up

As previously reported, the election results most beneficial for the CWCC's ongoing initiatives would have been a Democratic White House and two-house Democratic Congress. Seeing as the opposite scenario transpired, we can expect to face many challenges through the next four years. We anticipate three issues will remain top priority:

1. Annual appropriations for SRF's and WIIN grants/use of related earmarks.
2. Reauthorization of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which expires at the end of FY26—Should the law not be reauthorized, SRF's could return to funding levels similar to the Bush Administration at \$600M or less. We must work to prevent this.
3. Substantive legislation including the STREAM Act currently awaiting action in Congress.

Per the Key Advocate's analysis attached, early reports from the new Trump administration suggest anticipated support for SRF funding. However, how that falls into place as the budget process evolves remains to be seen.

As for partisan leadership, internal elections are nearing conclusion for the new majority party—Senator John Thune (R-SD) will serve as the new Majority Leader and Speaker Johnson has been nominated to remain Speaker, subject to a vote of the full House when Congress reconvenes. No leadership changes in either House have been floated for the Democrats at this time.

What's Next

On September 25th, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government up and running through December 20th. Aside from funding for Secret Service protection for presidential candidates and FEMA recovery funds, all programs will continue at current FY24 funding levels. It is now expected the CR will be extended until March. Legislative action anticipated for the lame duck session will be subject to the new political landscape.

FY25 Appropriations General Status

Of the 12 FY25 appropriations bills, seven bills have been approved by the House Appropriations Full Committee and five have passed the House. Contrary to the bipartisan spending agreement per the debt limit extension bill, the House approach has been to provide a 1% increase in defense spending over the appropriated level and a 6% reduction in non-defense discretionary spending. The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved 11 bills with no action on the 12th and no floor action



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

(Continued from page 12)

on any of the 11.

The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed a bill that would provide \$1.63 billion in overall spending for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF). Including the reduction from earmarks, Clean Water SRF's are set to receive a total of \$1.27 billion from the Senate. The House has passed a bill that would provide \$1.2 billion to CWSRF, reduced to \$649 million after earmarks.

Safe Drinking Water SRF's are slated to receive \$1.12 billion in funding from the Senate bill, if passed, while the House passed bill appropriates \$883.5 million. Assuming earmarks as a takedown from base funding, allocations for the Safe Drinking Water SRF's project to be \$883.6 million in the Senate bill and \$404 million in the House legislation. The Coalition continues to fully oppose the implementation of earmarks as takedowns. Should Senate and House earmark funding subtract from the overall SRF funding, the states would be left with modest allocations.

FY25 WIIN Grant Appropriations

Of the House and Senate Committee approved appropriations bills, the House has agreed to \$30 million to be allocated for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants, while the Senate has approved \$20 million.

President's FY25 SRF Allocations

Per the President's FY25 budget, \$1.24 billion has been requested for the Clean Water SRF's, \$4 million for the WIIN Grant Program and no funding for the SRF related earmarks.

CWCC Budget Requests

The Coalition continues to advocate for funding at a minimum of \$4.4 billion for Clean Water SRF's, \$4.3 billion for Safe Drinking Water SRF's and minimum \$20 million for WIIN grant funding.

Should earmarks be unavoidable, it is requested they are not used as takedowns, but a separate budget account in the lesser of the House and Senate earmark funding amounts and less than FY24 in total.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency - Southeast Risk Control Services

TEN NEW YEAR'S SAFETY RESOLUTIONS

"I resolve to..."

1. Remain actively involved in our **S**afety **P**rocesses.
2. Actively participate in our **S**afety **T**raining.
3. Remain alert & report **P**otential **H**azards.
4. Take ownership for my **S**afe **B**ehavior.
5. **M**ake **S**afety **S**uggestions.
6. Know what to do in an **E**mergency.
7. **S**low **D**own and do it the **S**afe **W**ay – the **F**irst **T**ime.
8. **G**et **H**elp when I can't do something safely.
9. **N**ever **T**ake **C**hances.
10. Make my personal **S**afety and the safety of those I work around **A** **T**op **P**riority!



PROTECT WORKERS IN TRENCHES

Prevent trench collapses and save lives:

SLOPE or bench trench walls,

SHORE trench walls with supports, or

SHIELD trench walls with trench boxes



U.S. Department of Labor

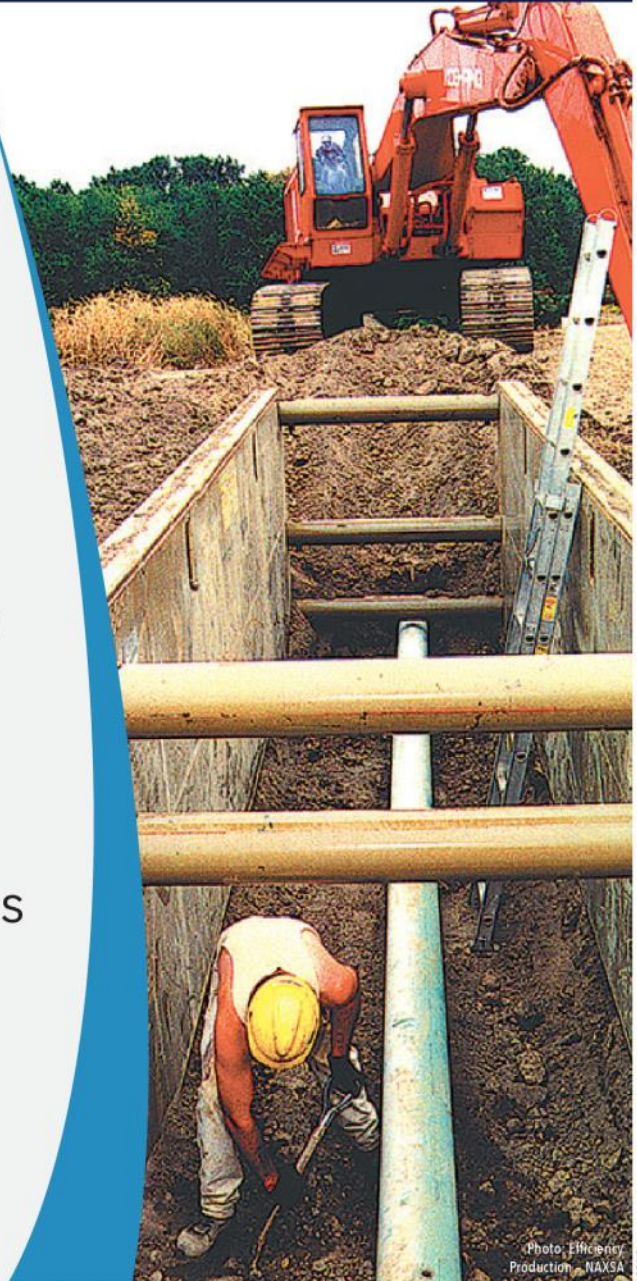


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OSHA 3215-06R 2018

WWW.OSHA.GOV/TRENCHING • 800-321-OSHA (6742) • TTY 877-889-5627

TRENCHING SAFETY

5 Things You Should Know to Stay Safe



1 Ensure there's a safe way to enter and exit.
See 1926.651(c)



2 Trenches must have cave-in protection.
See 1926.652(a)

3 Keep materials away from the edge of the trench.
See 1926.651(j)



4 Look for standing water or other hazards.
See 1926.651(h)



5 Never enter a trench unless it has been properly inspected.
See 1926.651(k)



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**AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.**

**We're on the Web!
www.aluca.org**

**Please print out this newsletter to share with
others in your company. And, if you are
receiving this for the company owner,
please print out a copy for him/her.**

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Training Needs**

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