



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 2018

Director's Comments:



This month the White House unveiled its long-awaited infrastructure plan, fulfilling a signature campaign promise of President Trump. As outlined in the proposal, the Administration would like to leverage \$200 billion of direct federal investment into \$1.5 trillion in output over the next decade for a range of infrastructure.

Of the proposed \$200 billion, the plan sets aside: \$50 billion for rural infrastructure projects in the form of state block grants; \$20 billion for the "Transformative" Projects Program to fund cutting-edge projects deemed too risky to qualify for traditional funding, but which have the potential to fundamentally transform the way infrastructure is delivered or operated; \$20 billion to expand Infrastructure Financing Programs like TIFIA, RRIF, WIFIA, in addition to broadening the use of Private Activity Bonds; and \$100 billion for an Incentives Program that will provide block grants to states and localities as an incentive to invest, capped at 20% of the overall project cost.

The document also outlines proposals to relax some regulatory requirements and bureaucratic hurdles in order to decrease project delivery time and increase cost efficiency.

With the overwhelming majority of the money from the proposed plan to come from state and local sources, it is imperative that we continue to impress the need for infrastructure funding with our legislators to better leverage federal investments. On March 7th, we will have our "Charge the Hill" Legislative Awareness Day at the State House in Montgomery. We encourage our members that have time to show up and help to make a difference for our industry.

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Tim

Upcoming AUCA Events:

**“Charge the Hill” Legislative Awareness Day
Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

2:00 p.m. (following AUCA Board Meeting)

State House Building

11 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130

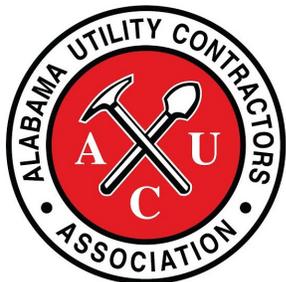


The 2018 Alabama Legislative Session is halfway over, and there have been several bills introduced that could impact our industry.

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, telecommunications, and other underground utility systems throughout Alabama.



Upcoming AUCA Events:



AUCA 2018 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Arrowhead Country Club

50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

**General Meeting & Buffet Lunch - 11:30 a.m.
Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)**



General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Cost: \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a southern buffet lunch and then hear a presentation from our scheduled guest speaker.

**10th Annual Golf Tournament
4-Person Scramble Format
Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual**

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Hole and Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.
Sign up now before the event fills up!



Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil
Cost \$20/Person
(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out and enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



APRIL 19, 2018 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.
A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is April 13, 2018

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT

4-PERSON TEAM - \$600 **INDIVIDUAL - \$150**

Includes: Lunch, Golf/cart, goodie bag, beverage tickets, prizes, and Low Country Boil

1.) _____	Handicap: _____
2.) _____	Handicap: _____
3.) _____	Handicap: _____
4.) _____	Handicap: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$250
Includes: Company logo on event signage and promotional materials, and admission for one (1) company representative to General Meeting & Low Country Boil

HOLE SPONSOR - \$100
Includes: Name recognition on hole signage and may set-up tent on course to network with golfers and distribute company prizes or literature during tournament

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT! Return form and payment to:
Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, AL 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org

To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Upcoming AUCA Events:

**AUCA Quarterly Lunch Meetings
(Tentative Dates - Subject to Change)**

Mobile Area Lunch Meeting

March 20, 2018

Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting

March 21, 2018

Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting

March 22, 2018

Tuscaloosa Area Lunch Meeting

March 28, 2018

May 14-16, 2018

**Washington, D.C. Infrastructure Fly-In
& Clean Water Construction Coalition Reception**

Please contact AUCA Office for additional details

October 18, 2018

***AUCA Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot***

**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
Montgomery, AL**



News & Notes:

2018 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

January kicked off the membership renewal period. We are grateful to the many companies that have already paid their 2018 AUCA dues, as well as to those that have made additional voluntary contributions to our Legislative PAC Fund. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment as quickly as possible.

Should you have any questions, need another copy of the invoice sent to you, or wish to pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Career Opportunities:

Alabama 811 - Damage Prevention Coordinator

The Damage Prevention Coordinator is responsible for coordinating and promoting the use and growth of the Alabama 811 between non-members and member utility owner/operators and excavators operating in the Alabama. Promoting public awareness and education concerning the use of the Alabama 811 in order to heighten the level of public safety; reduce underground utility damage; minimize utility service interruptions; reduce injuries and fatalities; protect the environment and ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations.

Interested candidates should send a resume to:

Annette Reburn - Alabama 811 Executive Director areburn@al811.com

Contractor Company Positions

AUCA has several Contractor member companies currently looking for employees in various positions, from office to field personnel. Please contact the AUCA office for additional details if you know anyone looking for an excellent new career opportunity.



Legislative News:

Alabama Legislative Session Update:

The 2018 Alabama Legislative Session is at the virtual halfway point, having now met for 14 of the possible 30 Legislative Days. The Education and General Fund Budgets are currently working their way through the system. The consensus remains that once these Budgets are passed, the Session may end early so Legislators can go home and return to the campaign trail since it is an election year, with primaries scheduled for June 5th.

Bills of interest to our industry include the passage of SB71, which has now gone to Governor Ivey's office for signature. This will continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute (ACRI) until 2022. ACRI heads up the "Go Build" campaign to raise awareness for craft training programs in our state. With workloads increasing for many companies, and the talent pool of available candidates entering the workforce dwindling, it is imperative to continue the efforts to raise awareness for the need of skilled tradesmen in the construction industry.

Also making progress is HB35, which deals with sales tax exemption. This bill is now pending its 3rd reading in the Senate after receiving a Favorable report from the Finance & Taxation General Fund Committee. While its passage would not completely solve all of the problems that exist with our convoluted tax exemption process, it should help simplify many situations by including certain specific tax exempt public water or sewer authorities, districts, boards, and systems under the definition of a governmental entity. HB243, that would allow the Department of Transportation to let contracts for road construction or maintenance projects without advertising for sealed bids if the project does not exceed \$250,000 is pending 3rd reading with a Favorable report from the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy. SB289, dealing with Operation of Equipment Near High Voltage Overhead Utility Lines received a Favorable report from Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy, and is also now pending its 3rd reading.

We will continue to update our members on these, as well as any newly introduced bills, throughout the remainder of the Legislative Session.

***Remember to check our weekly
"Legislative Pipeline" email report
for continuous legislative updates***



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

State of the Union: Infrastructure

It came as no surprise to Clean Water Construction Coalition representatives that the President's first State of the Union Address on January 30th included strong language on infrastructure as a national priority. Notably, the President upped the ante from \$1 Trillion to \$1.5 Trillion in total infrastructure spending.

President Trump said: "As we rebuild our industries, it is also time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure. America is a nation of builders. We built the Empire State Building in just 1 year -- is it not a disgrace that it can now take 10 years just to get a permit approved for a simple road? I am asking both parties to come together to give us the safe, fast, reliable, and modern infrastructure our economy needs and our people deserve. Tonight, I am calling on the Congress to produce a bill that generates at least \$1.5 Trillion for the new infrastructure investment we need. Every Federal dollar should be leveraged by partnering with State and local governments and, where appropriate, tapping into private sector investment -- to permanently fix the infrastructure deficit. Any bill must also streamline the permitting and approval process -- getting it down to no more than two years, and perhaps even one. Together, we can reclaim our building heritage. We will build gleaming new roads, bridges, highways, railways, and waterways across our land. And we will do it with American heart, American hands, and American grit."

Infrastructure Plan Released

On February 12th the White House unveiled its long-awaited infrastructure plan. The plan included details not previously released. The full plan be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/INFRASTRUCTURE-211.pdf>

The official announcement from the White House means that the conversation amongst lawmakers can begin in earnest, especially with the new budget deal that creates a level of stability through September 2019.

Funding levels for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's announced in the President's FY19 Budget were:

- CWSRF - \$997 Million
- SDWSRF - \$863 Million



Fleet Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

AVOIDING REAR END COLLISIONS

It is a scenario repeated every 17 seconds in the United States—a squeal of tires and brakes followed by the sound of vehicle impact. Most of us will be involved in a rear end collision at some point in our driving careers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, estimates that over 40% of road accidents annually are rear end collisions. These accidents account for over 1,700 fatalities and 500,000 injuries annually. Injuries from rear end collisions can lead to a lifetime of pain and suffering. But, the chance of this type of accident can be greatly reduced by utilizing basic driving skills.

Distracted Driving is the leading cause of all types of vehicle accidents. Anything that takes your eyes and mind off of driving, even if just for just a second, greatly increases the risk of an accident. Alert and focused drivers are much more likely to identify sudden stops in traffic, maintain correct following distances, and make more gradual stops.

Using a cell phone while driving increases the risk of an accident by six times. Cell phone usage in a vehicle, even hands free use, should be limited to a stopped vehicle that is out of traffic. Other distractions such as adjusting a radio, talking to passengers and eating and drinking should be minimized when driving.

Scanning ahead is a basic driving skill that greatly decreases the risk of collisions. By watching the entire traffic situation, especially in heavy traffic, a driver can anticipate the need to adjust driving speed, following distance and monitor traffic flow to slow down and avoid a rear end accident.

A safe following distance involves keeping the proper distance between yourself and other vehicles. Leaving more distance between vehicles allows for more reaction and stopping time, and reduces the chance of initiating a rear end collision. A following distance of at least three seconds should be maintained between vehicles. This



Fleet Safety:

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distance may need to be increased due to adverse road conditions, poor visibility, the weight and condition of brakes and tires, and other factors.

Gradual stops decrease the risk of rear end collisions. A lead vehicle making an unexpected or sudden stop allows the rear vehicle less time to react and stop.

You should See the rear wheels of the car in front of you when at a stop light or stop sign. If you can see the wheels of the lead vehicle, you are less likely to be pushed into the front vehicle if struck from behind and also have more opportunity to maneuver around the front unit if it is stalled.

Unfortunately, your vehicle can still be struck from behind, even if all preventative steps are taken. However, the chance of serious injury is greatly lessened by wearing seat belts and adjusting head rests to provide the proper neck and head support.

Although the chance of rear end collisions may be lessened as vehicle avoidance collision technology improves, following basic driving skills is the best way to avoid becoming another accident statistic.



A Solution For Employers

Contractors Retirement Plan *Features:*

Employer

- No cost to employer, no TPA or audit fees
- Fiduciary relief from most 401k liabilities
- Powerful recruiting and retention tool
- Association leadership oversees the plan operation

Employee

- Reduced "group" costs on investments
- High focus on *Retirement Readiness*
- Easy enrolling, daily investment changes
- Call center is both live and 24/7 voice response
- Brand name, diverse investment options

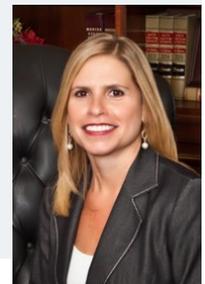
Plan administrator

- We track eligibility and mail enrollment kits to home address
- Participants call vendor for all issues
- New compliance process eliminates costly errors
- Arduous paper notices mailed by vendor
- Loans, hardship, etc., all handled by vendor!



For more information please contact
**Linda Smith and Jodi McMahon at
205-536-9204**

Linda Smith and Jodi McMahon are registered Investment Advisors Representative, with Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., A broker dealer, member FINRA/SPIC. Cambridge, BenSource Employee Benefits, and AUCA are not affiliates.



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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.

**Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your
Training Needs**
Contact the Association Office for more information



@AlabamaUCA

