



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MAY 2017**

Director's Comments:



U.S. Senator Richard Shelby



State of Alabama Finance Director Clinton Carter



U.S. Senator Luther Strange

May was a busy month that included our Spring General Meeting and Golf Tournament in Montgomery, a trip to Washington D.C. for a Clean Water Construction Coalition Conference held in conjunction with "Infrastructure Week," and also the conclusion of the 2017 Alabama Legislative Session.

I can report that the General Meeting and Golf Tournament were a success. State Finance Director Clinton Carter was our guest speaker, and his presentation covered a number of relevant topics. He also noted that reports which recently circulated indicating that the controversial State of Alabama Accounting and Resource System (STAARS) will be replaced were inaccurate.

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As for the success of the D.C. trip, only time will tell. Those of us in attendance learned more about President Trump's proposed Infrastructure Program, as well as Workforce Development goals to put people back to work in the Construction Trades.

Regarding Montgomery, the 2017 Legislative Session concluded with the strong possibility that a Special Session will be required to deal with some of the items that were not passed, including Prison Construction. We will continue to keep you updated.

Tim

AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

Corporate Sponsors:



A Forterra Company



We appreciate the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.

Thanks for your continued support of AUCA!

AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

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Door and Player Prize Items:

**Putting Contest on Practice Green
Sponsored by Foley Products Company**



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CompTrustAGC



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:



1st Place Team:
Southern Pipe & Supply



2nd Place Team:
Forterra Pipe & Precast



3rd Place Team:
Foley Products Company



Longest Drive:
Chris Brannon
Southern Pipe & Supply Team

Longest Putt:
Frankie Howell
Forterra Pipe & Precast Team



Closest to Pin:
Bo Bowen
Southern Light Team



AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



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AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:



Alabama Legislative News:

The 2017 Alabama Legislative Session adjourned Sine Die on Friday May 19th in Montgomery. This brought to close what was a busy and volatile week that included meeting for the final four Legislative Days of the 2017 Session. Filibustering continued over the Redistricting Legislation, and an email that was circulated by Representative Lynn Greer was interpreted to be racist by the Black Caucus Members, and caused an already contentious situation to become even more so. Despite the delays, the House and Senate Redistricting Bills both passed. However, many feel it will end up back in Federal Court.

The Prison Construction Legislation was unable to garner the support to pass, but new Governor Ivey has indicated that she may call for a Special Session to deal with this issue. **SB82**, the Marshall James Walton Highway Safety Act passed the House by a vote of 77-19. It was assigned Act No. 2017-336 after being signed into law by Governor Ivey. **HB179**, the bill that would specify that a water district is exempt from taxation, passed the Senate by a 25-0 vote and has been forwarded to the Governor for signature.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, we saw a new Governor take office, and a total of 1,030 bills were introduced (608 in the House and 422 in the Senate). Below is a status recap of some of the bills that could have an impact on the construction industry:

Bills That Passed:

SB82, the Marshall James Walton Highway Safety Act

HB179, that would specify that a water district is exempt from taxation

HB345, that would establish a new income tax credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer for the rehabilitation, preservation, or development of certified historic structures

Bills That Failed:

HB40, the bill that would allow for bidding preference for local contractors on Public Works projects

HB199, which would allow the Department of Transportation to let contracts for road construction or maintenance involving \$250,000 or less without advertising for sealed bids

HB236, the proposed bill to make provisions for the submission of bids by electronic means

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Alabama Legislative News:

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SB253, the bill that would encourage accelerated private investment in broadband infrastructure by amending the Alabama Renewal Act

SB295, that would include certain specific tax exempt public water or sewer authorities, systems, or boards under the definition of a governmental entity

SB302 and **HB545**, the new Prison Construction Bills

SB386, the bill that would allow a county commission to call for a local referendum to authorize the commission to levy an excise tax on gasoline or motor fuel for specific road and bridge projects

SB401, that would require that proceeds from a municipal excise tax or fee on gasoline or diesel fuel or a municipal business license fee based on the gross receipts from the sale of gasoline or diesel fuel only be expended for the purchase or lease of equipment or purchase of materials essential to specific road or bridge maintenance, improvement, replacement, and construction projects within the jurisdictional limits of a municipality

HB487, the Gas Tax for Road and Bridge Infrastructure improvements

HB530, which amends the Transportation Infrastructure Bank Act (2015-50) to allow the Bank to use certain funds from motor vehicle license and registration fees, the state proceeds of the diesel fuel excise tax and motor carrier fuel tax, and fees on motor vehicle identification markers as a third priority pledge when paying or securing revenue bonds and other financial assistance issued by the Bank

*Should the Governor call for a Special Session,
we will make sure to keep our members informed.*



Washington D.C. Fly-In Recap:



Alabama Senators Luther Strange and Richard Shelby. Definitely the tallest pair of Senators.

The CWCC Fly-In enabled attendees to learn more about Federal Infrastructure Funding and Workforce Development Initiatives.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC

CONGRESS REACHES DEAL TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE FEDERAL BUDGET

Congressional negotiators reached a deal to continue funding the federal government to the conclusion of federal fiscal year 2017 (September 30, 2017). The agreement includes level funding for various water infrastructure capital programs while increasing spending for the military, boarder security and transportation projects. Budget cuts were avoided to the Affordable Care Act, Planned Parenthood, Community development grants and other programs. The agreement is scheduled for a House floor vote on May 3rd followed by a Senate floor vote.

Funds for water infrastructure programs were sustained at federal fiscal year 2016 levels. EPA's overall budget will be \$8.06 billion (a \$100 million cut from the prior year). The Clean Water State Revolving Loan program will receive \$1.4 billion and the Drinking Water Program will be provided with \$863 million (equal to the fiscal year 2016 levels). The Army Corps of Engineers will receive \$6 billion for its programs (a \$49 million increase) and the WIFIA loan program will increase by \$10 million which when combined with funds from previous Continuing Resolutions, will produce approximately \$3 billion in new water infrastructure projects.

Transportation infrastructure funding received stable or increased funding under the agreement. The federal highway program will receive \$43.3 billion (an increase of \$900 million) and New Jersey will receive an addition \$21 million. The popular Tiger Grant program is provided with \$500 million for the fiscal year and the TIFIA loan program will have \$274 million. The federal public transportation program will receive \$12.4 billion (a \$424 million increase) with Amtrak receiving \$1.167 billion that includes funds for the Gateway tunnel project. The Airport Improvement Program will be flat funded at federal fiscal year 2016 level (\$3.35 billion).

As noted, the fiscal agreement has been approved by the House of Representatives

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Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

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and the Senate. Floor votes will occur in each chamber during the next few days.

PRESIDENT TRUMP CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA

President Trump continues to urge Congress to work with his administration to develop a \$1 trillion, 10-year infrastructure program. As part of the Administration's top three priorities, health care and tax reform, Administration officials continue to meet with Congressional leaders and private sector interested parties to coalesce around a proposal.

Details on the plan have not been finalized however, CWCC representatives have been told that the infrastructure plan will include both public and private funds. Other goals of an infrastructure program may include the creation of an "Infrastructure Commission", cutting the permit process down from 10 years to 1 year, and streamlining other administrative requirements that typically stall infrastructure projects. Timing of Congressional hearings on an infrastructure plan are not clear at this time. Various statements have noted that an infrastructure proposal can be part of the negotiations with Democrats as part of the healthcare bill, inclusion in tax overhaul legislation and as late as next winter as a standalone proposal.

We will continue to update you as events occur on this matter.



Remember -
our fallen heroes.
They are the reason
that we are free.

Upcoming Events:

We are still finalizing the date and details for the next Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting. Also, due to the closure of the Huntsville location of Wintzell's Oyster House, we will be meeting at a new location. Be on the lookout for updates.

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Arrowhead Country Club

Montgomery, AL



**Fall General Meeting
& Sporting Clay Shoot**



October 19, 2017

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club

Montgomery, AL

Mark your calendars today!



Fleet Safety Talks



Provided by: J. Smith Lanier & Co. - a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC Company
Risk Control Services

May 28, 2017

CVSA's 2017 International Roadcheck

The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance's (CVSA) 30th annual International Roadcheck will take place June 6-8, 2017. Over a 72-hour period, CVSA-certified commercial motor vehicle inspectors in jurisdictions throughout North America will conduct inspections of commercial motor vehicles and their drivers.



Each year, International Roadcheck places special emphasis on a category of violations. **This year's focus is cargo securement.** While checking for compliance with safe cargo securement regulations is always part of roadside inspections, CVSA is highlighting cargo securement safety this year as a reminder of its importance to highway safety.

To help prevent violations related to load securement during the inspection spree, CVSA says to make sure the load and all equipment is properly secured, and to inspect tie-downs to check for wear and damage.

CVSA has provided the following resources to help educate drivers, motor carriers and others on compliance, enforcement and various elements of motor carrier, driver and vehicle safety.

- [Cargo Securement Tips](#)
- [International Roadcheck Checklist for Drivers](#) – Download this two-page checklist for drivers containing general safety tips and vehicle safety tips.
- [What Inspectors Are Looking For](#) – Educate yourself on the components of the commercial motor vehicle that the inspector will inspect when conducting a Level I Inspection.



For more information about CVSA's 2017 International Roadcheck, visit their website or click [here](#).

Top Load Securement Violations:

1. Failure to prevent shifting/loss of load
2. Failure to secure truck equipment (tarps, dunnage, doors, tailgates, spare tires, etc.)
3. Damaged tie-downs (unacceptable wear on chain or cuts and tears on web straps)
4. Insufficient tie-downs
5. Loose tie-downs

2016 Results:

- Of the 62,796 inspections performed during the event, 42,236 were Level I inspections.
- **9,080 (21.5%) trucks** were placed out-of-service (OOS)
- **1,436 (3.4%) drivers** were placed OOS

Of the OOS orders issued to vehicles, the top violations included:

- Brake violations – 45.7% (approx. 4,111 trucks)
- Tires and wheels – 18.5%
- Lighting devices – 11.8%
- Cargo securement – 6.1%

Of the OOS orders issued to drivers, the top violations included:

- Hours-of-service – 46.8%
- False logs – 16.4%
- Improper endorsement – 7.7%
- Disqualified drivers – 6.2%

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FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.**

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