

# w e s t v i r g i n i a Construction**NEWS**

March/April 2022

## **WORK ZONE AWARENESS**

Transportation Officials Promote Safety at State Capitol





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### On the cover

West Virginia Division of Highways officials, along with CAWV and law enforcement partners, held a press conference Tuesday, April 12, to promote National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW). Transportation leaders and advocates discussed the importance for motorists to pay attention while traveling through roadway work zones. To read more on West Virginia's work zone awareness initiatives, see page 6. Photo by the Office of Governor Jim Justice.

The Contractors Association of West Virginia is a nonprofit trade organization representing the building, highway, heavy and utility contracting industries in West Virginia. Its services include establishment of a close working liaison with state and federal agencies; worthwhile educational and informational programs; the regular dissemination of pertinent information to its members; strong legislative and media relations; as well as all other activities deemed necessary and proper to promote the general welfare of the construction industry. The CAWV is a certified chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

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# WORK ZONE AWARENESS

## Transportation Officials Promote Safety at State Capitol



PHOTOS BY OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JIM JUSTICE

"Heads up; phones down!" That was the message driven by West Virginia Division of Highways officials, along with CAWV and law enforcement partners, during a press conference held Tuesday, April 12, to promote National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW).

NWZAW is an annual spring campaign held at the start of the construction season to encourage safe driving through highway work zones. This year's theme is "Work Zones are a Sign to Slow Down."

Transportation leaders and advocates discussed the importance for motorists to pay attention while traveling through roadway work zones.

"There is not one empty vest up there that is acceptable, and we certainly cannot have any more," Jimmy Wriston, Secretary of Transportation said, speaking about the 61 empty orange vests on display behind him on the State Capitol steps. The vests represent the 61 WVDOH workers that have been killed in work zones over the years.

Speakers focused on a future of zero

fatalities, stating that even one life lost on roadways, especially in work zones, is one too many.

Cindy Cramer, director of the WVDOH Traffic Engineering Division, referred to a few statistics during her discussion stating that some 80% of crashes in work zones are rear-end collisions; 85% of the deaths in work zones were the drivers or passengers in the vehicles, not workers; and that there are 850 fatalities in work zones on average each year nationally, roughly two percent of total fatalities.

"Even though West Virginia's numbers are slightly better than the national average, there's still much work to be done to ensure that everyone gets home safely," Cramer said.

Cramer also stated that excessive speed is a large contributing factor in vehicle crashes.

According to the WVDOH, in the past five years, a total of 1,794 crashes were reported in West Virginia work zones. Those crashes resulted in a total of 15 fatalities, 509 injuries, and 1,270 reports of personal property damage.

Nationally, there are approximately 850 fatalities in work zones each year, which is 2% of all roadway fatalities. Between 2017 and 2021, West



The West Virginia Department of Transportation held a press conference Tuesday, April 12, to promote National Work Zone Awareness Week. West Virginia Division of Highways officials, along with CAWV and law enforcement partners, discussed the importance for motorists to pay attention while traveling through roadway work zones. The orange vests represent the 61 WVDOH workers that have lost their lives in work zones over the years.



Virginia saw 21 fatal crashes in work zones, just over 1% of all roadway fatalities.

"West Virginia construction workers and WVDOH personnel are hard at work every day to make your commute to work, play, or vacation better," CAWV Executive Director Mike Clowser said at the press conference. "These workers are real people with real families and friends who are putting their lives at risk to benefit the traveling public. Driving is a serious job and preventing crashes that result in injuries or deaths is everyone's responsibility. Let's make sure we get these people back home safely."

Randy Damron, WVDOH Communications, gave an example regarding a job in Beckley where speed collection equipment recorded some 9,300 speeders, with an average speed of 61-mph through a 55-mph work zone. Damron also said that same device recorded a maximum speed of 108-mph during that project.

Bob Tipton, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program, addressed the excessive speeding saying, "we are going to reinvigorate our safety efforts. We need to make the perception a reality in West Virginia that if you go 80-mph, there's a good chance that you're going to get a ticket."

Tipton also said that law enforcement officers will be out in full force to issue citations for speeding to urge motorists to slow down.

Lt. Chris Zirkle of the West Virginia State Police said that he speaks for each member of law enforcement when he said that they would rather issue a traffic citation for speeding than deliver a death message to the family of a driver, passenger or road worker killed in a construction zone.

"This year, you may see one law-enforcement officer sitting out in a construction zone. But what you won't see are the other three or four officers actively working that same construction zone, looking for infractions and writing citations," Zirkle added.

Officials all petitioned for motorists to



Randy Damron, spokesperson for the WVDOH



WVDOH Secretary and WVDOH Commissioner Jimmy Wriston, P.E.



WVDOH Traffic Engineering Division Director Cindy Cramer

"be alert and attentive, put down the cell phones, and just slow down." Lt. Zirkle concluded with, "everybody has one job to do, and that is to get home to their family every day."

Governor Jim Justice announced that the 2022 highway construction season is in line to be the busiest year of roadwork in state history, with a record 51,000 miles of road maintenance planned, breaking the all-time state maintenance record for the fourth consecutive year.

The governor, along with Secretary Wriston, also unveiled the WVDOH's 2022 Statewide Interactive Roadwork Map. The map provides road work locations and real-time statistics on how much roadwork has been completed across a variety of categories, including Gov. Justice's Secondary Roads Maintenance initiative and Roads to Prosperity program.

With a historical amount of roadwork planned for 2022, efforts to crack down on speeding and distracted driving in

work zones will also reach new heights.

The WVDOH has made significant investments in cameras, road sensors, message boards, and other tools to urge drivers to reduce speeds and pay attention.

In the 2022 legislative session, the CAWV developed and supported H.B. 4595, the bill to allow for the use of a camera-assisted speed enforcement system in a work zone. The bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee by the slimmest of margins, 13-11 in favor after two hours of debate.

Supporters of the bill cited safety of workers and the traveling public in the work zone and that West Virginia's surrounding states allow cameras in an active work zone as reason for passage. Those speaking in opposition expressed concern over having photos taken of their license plates as an intrusion by "big brother."

Delegate Josh Booth, R-Wayne, and lead sponsor of the bill, shepherded



Mike Clowser, executive director of the Contractors Association of West Virginia



Bob Tipton, director of the Governor's Highway Safety Program



Lieutenant Chris Zirkle, West Virginia State Police




Delegate Josh Booth, R-Wayne, was lead sponsor of H.B. 4595, the bill to allow for the use of a camera-assisted speed enforcement system in a work zone. Booth advocated for the bill's passage in a segment on West Virginia Public Broadcasting, detailing how the bill is designed to protect construction workers, WVDOH personnel and the traveling public. The bill was passed in committee, 13-11 in favor, but was ultimately moved to the inactive House Calendar where it stayed until the session ended. The CAWV plans to reintroduce the bill in the 2023 legislative session.

the bills' discussion. He detailed how the bill is designed to protect construction workers, WVDOH personnel and the traveling public.

H.B. 4595 was ultimately moved from the House Special Calendar to the inactive House Calendar where it stayed until the session ended. The CAWV plans to reintroduce the bill in the 2023 session.

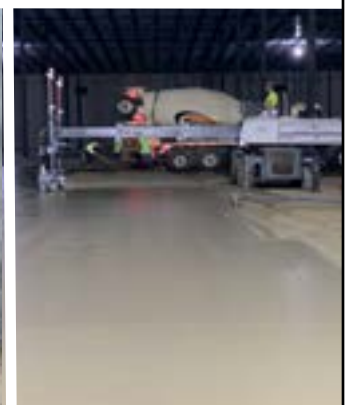
National Work Zone Awareness Week takes place across the United States each spring, with efforts between state departments of transportation, national road safety organizations, government agencies, private companies, and others to remind the public of the importance of work zone safety.

West Virginia recognizes an entire month for the cause after Gov. Justice issued a proclamation, officially designating April as Work Zone Safety Awareness Month in West Virginia.

A full video of this year's work zone safety press conference is available at <https://youtu.be/TOvAtH7gp2E>. 

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# Workforce Development Takes Center Stage at State Meeting



PHOTOS BY PAT McDONALD

Nearly 200 CAWV members and state and federal contracting officials attended this year's meeting which was held in conjunction with the WV EXPO. Workforce training was at the forefront at this year's CAWV State Meeting held Wednesday, March 23, at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

Workforce training was at the forefront at this year's CAWV State Meeting held Wednesday, March 23, at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, nearly 200 CAWV members and state and federal contracting officials attended this year's meeting which was held in conjunction with the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO.

Clinton Burch with the West Virginia Department of Education spoke to members on the construction programs being offered at technical schools, and how he looks forward to working with the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force in the coming year to develop more training programs throughout West Virginia.

CAWV President Nate Orders, in his introduction of the Senior Officer of Technical and Adult Education, told members that the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force has continued their efforts to offer construction training curriculum and encourage it through the new BuildWV program.

Burch serves as a member of the

West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education System where he lends his 18 years of career and technical experience to support and strengthen the relationship between secondary and higher education programs. He also managed the implementation of the state's nationally renowned Simulated Workplace program. Prior to joining the West Virginia Department of Education, he was the assistant superintendent of schools in Wayne County.

Cindy Bailey, chief of operations for Jobs & Hope West Virginia and director of economic development for the West Virginia National Guard, also spoke at this year's event. In this role, she develops and maintains strategic partnerships with federal, state and local governments with a focus on strengthening the economic opportunities for members of the Guard and the One Guard family. She spoke to members on the Jobs & Hope program which is teaching courses on heavy equipment operations.

Ms. Bailey thanked the CAWV for partnering with the Guard and

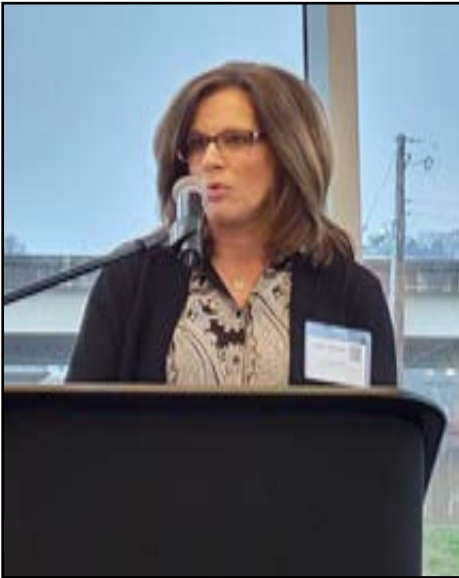
thanked CAWV members for hiring graduates of the course.

Governor Jim Justice hosted a ceremony later that evening on the WV EXPO Demo Stage in the Coliseum



Clinton Burch with the West Virginia Department of Education spoke to members on the construction programs being offered at technical schools. Burch serves as a member of the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education System where he lends his 18 years of career technical experience to support and strengthen the relationship between secondary and higher education programs.





Cindy Bailey, chief of operations for Jobs & Hope West Virginia and director of economic development for the West Virginia National Guard, spoke to members on the Jobs & Hope program which is teaching courses on heavy equipment operations.

to celebrate the newest class of Jobs & Hope graduates. Nine program participants completed the Heavy Equipment Operations course, spending 28 days at Camp Dawson near Kingwood where they received hands-on training from the West Virginia National Guard, earning their OSHA 10 certification. Participants also received interview training and résumé building tips from the program's Transition Agents.

"The Contractors Association of West Virginia, a staple of the EXPO, has also been instrumental to the Jobs & Hope program, conducting on-site interviews for graduates of this class, as well as prior classes of graduates," the Governor's Office noted before the governor urged industry members attending the ceremony to hire the graduates on the spot.

"Hire these people," Gov. Justice said. "These people have done something off the charts – maybe the toughest thing there is to do in life – they admitted that they were screwing up and they asked for help. Every one of you out there could use employees who stand up and are accountable. You've got to hire every single one of them."

Including this class of graduates,

Jobs & Hope has trained 80 individuals in Heavy Equipment Operations, with more than half of these individuals receiving immediate career employment, and with others adding marketable skills to their resumé.

Launched by Gov. Justice in October 2019, Jobs & Hope West Virginia offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in need the opportunity to obtain career training and to ultimately secure meaningful employment. To date, a total of 1,540 West Virginians have achieved career employment by utilizing the tools and services provided through Jobs & Hope.

The governor noted that these individuals are now contributing to their communities as tax-paying citizens. The program has helped transition 179 households off SNAP benefits, resulting in savings of nearly \$1 million federal dollars. The program has also completed 18 expungements for minor offenses. An additional 1,600 people are currently enrolled in Jobs & Hope as active participants. Assistance through the Jobs & Hope program is not only for those battling addiction. Any person seeking a pathway to more meaningful employment through job training, obtaining certifications, or other types of education may be eligible.

Members of the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force helped develop the heavy operator equipment course curriculum and task force members attend every graduation ceremony usually held at Camp Dawson in Preston County. A number of Jobs & Hope graduates have been hired by CAWV member firms.

At this year's State Meeting, CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson presented the 2022 scholarship award to Cole Moore, a civil engineering student at Marshall University. Moore accepted the \$7,500 top award and thanked his family for their support in helping him get a degree. He is currently a junior at Marshall and is a member of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity, where he recently served as president. Moore has

worked the past three summers as a pipeline laborer and has accepted an internship with CAWV member Kokosing Construction Company.

In addition to Moore, the Foundation presented six other scholarships totaling \$15,000. Students receiving scholarship awards were Shane Griffith, WVU Institute of Technology; Benjamin O'Dell, Marshall University; Asher Bailey, West Virginia University; Avery Costilow, West Virginia University; Chandler Mills, West Virginia University; and Kaden Statler, Fairmont State University. (See related story for more information on the CAWV's scholarship awards program on page 42.)

West Virginia Commissioner of Labor Mitchell Woodrum helped recognize CAWV members for excellence in safety. This year, the CAWV presented awards in 14 categories at the State Meeting. (See related story for more on CAWV's safety awards on page 40.)

"We are pleased to have with us today representatives of state and federal contracting agencies and members of Governor Justice's administration," said CAWV President Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company, St. Albans, in his welcome



CAWV President Nate Orders told attendees that the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force continues their efforts to enhance career and technical training programs and to encourage students to consider a career in construction.



Hundreds gathered during the WV EXPO to watch Governor Jim Justice, Jobs & Hope program leaders and participants, and officials with the West Virginia National Guard – including WVNG Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Bill Crane – to celebrate the latest graduating class of heavy equipment operators. Two of the graduates were also part of the Guard's West Virginia Challenge Academy's Jobs Challenge program.

remarks. "There are some new faces in the past three years. And we are honored to have them with us. Historically, we have said many of these representatives are responsible for the design, bidding and award of over \$1 billion worth of public works construction projects annually. This year,

with passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, we are going to say they will be responsible for billions worth of construction projects," he quipped.

Immediately following the CAWV State Meeting, members went to the

Little Theater for WV EXPO's Opening Session which featured John Faris, vice president and general manager of Nucor Corp., who presented an overview of the \$2.7 billion steel mill project to be built in Mason County. (See related story on this year's WV EXPO on page 14.)

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# EXPO Returns Strong in 2022

## Focuses on Economic and Workforce Development

The West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO returned to Charleston after a two-year hiatus. This year's event drew thousands of industry professionals on March 23-24 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

Nearly 4,000 attendees from throughout the region came to experience the different equipment, products and services of the state's architectural, building, construction and design industries. This year's event featured 259 exhibitors with 410 booths and 17 honor exhibitors.

The focus for EXPO this year was economic and workforce development which was coupled with a number of events highlighting exciting projects, historic funding, and workforce enrichment during the two-day event.

Attendees heard from officials with Nucor Steel and GreenPower Motor Company who laid out plans for their facilities coming to West Virginia that are expected to bring in billions of residual dollars to the state.

This year, EXPO partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to host a reverse job fair in the upper lobby that showcased over 200 career and technical education students.

Day two of the show featured a panel of state department leaders, as well as guest appearances by U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin, who gave insight into West Virginia's share of the federal infrastructure package.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS GOSSES PHOTOGRAPHY

The West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO returned to Charleston after a two-year hiatus. This year's event drew thousands of industry professionals on March 23-24 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

EXPO hosted over 70 quality seminars and meetings, most offering free continuing education credits for specific industry professionals.

The event also held the popular After Hours Reception which was held the first evening of the show. After Hours offers a variety of food and beverage stations located throughout all exhibit halls. It gives attendees a chance to mingle and meet with their employees, partners and clients.

On day two of the event, EXPO presented BOB, "Business Over Breakfast," giving exhibitors and attendees the opportunity to meet and interact with businesses across the region over breakfast.

The show is presented by the Contractors Association of West Virginia,

American Institute of Architects – West Virginia, West Virginia Society of Professional Engineers and the West Virginia Utility Contractors Association, along with the support of 24 co-sponsors.

The 44th annual EXPO will be held March 22-23, 2023 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. For full details, sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor information, visit [www.wvexpo.com](http://www.wvexpo.com).

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA

John Farris, vice president and general manager of North Carolina-based Nucor Corp., said at the EXPO Opening Session that a new steel mill is really coming to Mason County, since that is the one ques-





John Farris, vice president and general manager of North Carolina-based Nucor Corp., presented an overview of the \$2.7 billion steel mill project coming to Mason County during EXPO's Opening Session that was held in the Little Theater.

tion he is most asked.

"Since our announcement in January, we have worked really hard to purchase the primary steelmaking equipment for the facility," Farris said. "That's all been purchased, so now we're committed to just under \$1 billion worth of Nucor capital to the project, so hello, West Virginia. We are coming."

According to Farris, some construction activity will begin in 2022, but the bulk will be in 2023. The mill is expected to create over 1,000 construction jobs, but Farris said he anticipates it being closer to 1,600 to 2,000.

"Where we are presently is we are buying all the secondary equipment that we need to make the mill operable," he said. "That would be overhead cranes, water systems and environmental control systems and all of that plethora of equipment we need to finish the mill out. That's where our focus is now."

Farris said the engineering has started.

"We hope by mid-year we will be moving dirt," he said, "and we hope to be in commercial production in 2025."

The project represents the largest capital investment in West Virginia history.



Mark Nestlen, spokesperson for GreenPower Motor Company, also spoke on their plans to lease/purchase a 9.5-acre manufacturing facility in South Charleston, including an 80,000-square-foot building where the company will manufacture zero-emission, all-electric school buses, bringing hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact to West Virginia.

The operation is expected to bring up to 200 new jobs to the state when manufacturing begins later this year,



Mark Nestlen, spokesperson for GreenPower Motor Company, spoke on their plans to lease/purchase a 9.5-acre manufacturing facility in South Charleston, including an 80,000-square-foot building where the company will manufacture zero-emission, all-electric school buses, bringing hundreds of new jobs and millions of dollars in economic impact to West Virginia.

with the potential workforce to eventually reach up to 900 new jobs when full production is reached in 24 months.

Rep. David McKinley, R-WV, was also a keynote speaker at the opening session, where he received recognition and praise for his support of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in November 2021.

CAWV President Nate Orders presented McKinley with a plaque on behalf of the four partners of EXPO: Contractors Association of West Virginia; National Society of Professional Engineers – West Virginia; West Virginia Utility Contractors Association; and West Virginia Chapter of American Institute of Architects (AIA).

"Unfortunately, Congressman McKinley has been criticized by some for voting for the infrastructure bill," CAWV President Orders said. "For those in this room and those in the exhibit halls, we know all too well the importance of that legislation and what it will do for the West Virginians who do not have access to safe roads, clean water, and functional sewer systems. For West Virginia to attract prestigious businesses like Nucor and GreenPower, we have to have infrastructure like that."

McKinley, one of two licensed engineers in Congress and founder of McKinley





Rep. David McKinley, R-WV, received recognition and praise for his support of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November 2021. CAVV President Nate Orders, along with Tim Spradling of WVUCA and Chris Butler of WVSPE, presented Rep. McKinley with a plaque on behalf of the four partners of EXPO: Contractors Association of West Virginia; National Society of Professional Engineers – West Virginia; West Virginia Utility Contractors Association; and West Virginia Chapter of American Institute of Architects.

Architecture and Engineer, has been a member of the Contractors Association since the 1970s. Now in his sixth term in the House of Representatives since winning election in 2011, McKinley is seeking his first term in the new northern 2nd Congressional District.

McKinley was among 13 Republicans who supported the IIJA, joining U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito who negotiated and backed the bill.

West Virginia is set to receive over \$6 billion from the bill for hard infrastructure projects, including billions of dol-

lars in investments for broadband expansion, roads and bridges, airports, clean water and wastewater, clean energy research and environmental mitigation.

"I'm an engineer. I'm going to get something done. We identified a problem, we came up with a solution, and we implemented it," Rep. McKinley said. "People universally across West Virginia and across this country will support an infrastructure bill. Just make sure that there's nothing tied into it about social spending."

Rep. McKinley said the Nucor and

GreenPower Motor announcements were great, along with continued expansion at other major manufacturers, such as Hino Motors in Mineral Wells, Mitsubishi acquiring Bombardier's CRJ series aircraft program in Bridgeport, and Northrup Grumman expanding its footprint in the Potomac Highlands. He said these economic development announcements would not be possible without infrastructure.

"I've never seen so much economic revitalization, the noise that is going on, the encouragement in West Virginia - something is happening here," Rep. McKinley said. "Even with all this, this



Mike Graney, executive director of the West Virginia Department of Economic Development, spoke on future development projects.



Nearly 4,000 attendees came to experience the different equipment, products and services of the state's architectural, building, construction and design industries, as well as attend over 70 seminars and meetings, most offering free continuing education credits for specific industry professionals.





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On day two of EXPO, a panel session was held in the Little Theater which featured West Virginia's department secretaries and leaders who discussed over \$6 billion the state is set to receive from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).



Opening the panel were Senators Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito who joined virtually to express their thoughts on the historic bipartisan bill and commend West Virginia's construction industry for their continuous hard work.



is what leads back to the infrastructure. All this would not be possible if we didn't have infrastructure and that's what's been important."

## WEST VIRGINIA INFRASTRUCTURE

On day two of EXPO, a panel session was held in the Little Theater which featured West Virginia department secretaries and leaders who discussed over \$6 billion the state is set to receive from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Opening the panel were U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin who joined virtually to express their thoughts on the historic bill and commend West Virginia's construction industry for their continuous hard work.

"I want to thank all of you who are attending today," Senator Manchin said. "You are on the front lines of rebuilding our state's infrastructure and laying the foundation for our entire state's continued economic success. Last November, Congress passed

the largest investment in our nation's infrastructure since President Eisenhower created the interstate highway system in the 1950s," Sen. Manchin stated. "I am proud of our bipartisan efforts to get this critical investment across the finish line and I thank my colleague Shelly and David McKinley for making this a reality.

"From fixing our roads and bridges, to deploying broadband across the state, to alleviating our water and sewer issues, every single West Virginian is going to benefit from this bill," he said.

Senator Capito, who appeared on Zoom from her Washington D.C. office, mentioned the impact of workforce shortages, inflation, and the COVID-19 pandemic on construction projects.

"In this time of difficulty, we know that inflation is going to weigh into not only your costs, but the federal and state costs of doing projects. This is very concerning. Inflation is at the highest levels it's been where dollars are not

going as far," she said.

The senator also spoke on the funding coming to the state for roads and bridges, stating it will be a game-changer. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, West Virginia is expected to receive over \$500 million for bridges.

"We have a lot of bridges, as you know, that are not in the best condition. They need to be maintained and built. With this set aside for bridges, I think we're going to see real progress being made on that," the senator stated.

Also included in the panel were state Department of Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, West Virginia Water Development Authority Executive Director Marie Prezioso, West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council Executive Director Wayne Morgan, and West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Rob Rice.

The panel discussed the federal infrastructure funding available for West Virginia projects including:

- \$3.7 billion for new highway/bridge construction projects;
- \$487 million to replace undependable water and sewer systems;
- \$600 million to expand and improve internet access;
- \$146 million a year, for 15 years, for abandoned mine land reclamation projects;
- \$46 million over five years to expand the electric vehicle charging network; and
- \$40 million to improve airports.

## CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

One of the key components of this year's EXPO was a Reverse Job Fair that was held on the first day of the show in the upper lobby. Nearly 200





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The West Virginia Construction & Design EXPO partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to host a reverse job fair that showcased CTE Simulated Workplace students who are enrolled in county CTE schools. Employers looking to hire skilled workers got a look at what the students can do firsthand.



career and technical education (CTE) students showcased their skills for exhibitors and attendees. EXPO partnered with the West Virginia Department of Education to facilitate and promote the event to CTE schools throughout the state.

With the enormous dedication of federal dollars coming to the state for infrastructure projects, as well as the decline in qualified construction workforce, the event proved effective in introducing the students to construction firms.

The event was sponsored by the Contractors Association of West Virginia and its new BuildWV program that was unveiled at this year's EXPO.

BuildWV also provided CTE students in attendance with a scavenger hunt app that offered prizes to those that completed the hunt. This allowed students to walk the show floor and vis-

it with exhibitors to learn about their business.

BuildWV was developed by the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force with the purpose of encouraging and recruiting young people to join West Virginia's construction workforce. More information can be found at [www.buildwv.com](http://www.buildwv.com).

Governor Jim Justice also hosted a ceremony in the coliseum on Wednesday evening to celebrate the newest class of Jobs & Hope graduates. Nine program participants completed a Heavy Equipment Operations course, getting hands-on training from the West Virginia National Guard, and earning their OSHA 10 certification.

The graduation ceremony was held at EXPO to provide graduates with the opportunity to network with potential employers. During the ceremony, the

Governor urged employers to hire the Jobs & Hope graduates on the spot.

Including these recent graduates, Jobs & Hope has trained 80 individuals in Heavy Equipment Operations, with more than half of these individuals receiving immediate career employment, and with others adding marketable skills to their resumé.

Launched by Gov. Justice in Oct. 2019, Jobs & Hope West Virginia offers support through a statewide collaboration of agencies that provide West Virginians in need the opportunity to obtain career training and to ultimately secure meaningful employment.

*WVEXPO would like to thank all of this year's exhibitors, honor exhibitors, advertisers and sponsors (see page 22 for the full list of 2022 sponsors.) Exhibitors and Honor Exhibitors can be found on [www.wvexpo.com](http://www.wvexpo.com).*



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# Workforce Development and Job Retention Highlight Successful Midyear Meeting

This year's CAWV Midyear Meeting covered a lot of ground in addressing issues affecting contractors and the construction industry. Much of the discussion centered around a future workforce and getting young people into the construction industry, with passage of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the \$6 billion coming to West Virginia for projects.

Over 150 members attended this year's Midyear Meeting, held January 28 - February 2 at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Aruba. This is the fifth time the association has held its meeting at this popular location but the first time under COVID-19 restrictions.

Tia Reppert, the CAWV's Education Committee chair, shared with members the efforts of the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force to enhance career and technical training programs to get more young people into high paying construction careers. She also unveiled to members the BuildWV program developed by the task force and Education Committee. BuildWV encourages students to consider a career in construction to grow West Virginia's future construction workforce. The website,



Over 150 members attended this year's Midyear Meeting, held January 28 - February 2 at the Hyatt Regency Resort in Aruba.

[www.buildwv.com](http://www.buildwv.com), serves as an online destination for information about training, education and job placement as well as career opportunities for students and military veterans.

"Companies have to be actively involved in recruiting new employees," said Reppert, who is director of Human Resources for Bear Contracting, LLC, Bridgeport.

She said going to schools to talk with students and participating in reverse job fairs are essential in order for contractors to explain the opportunities for young people in the construction industry. Reppert said that most people only see construction as working along the road and not the

other jobs in construction like design, estimating, environmental permitting and accounting.

"We have to show the many options available to people in construction," she told members. "One place to start is with the parents. They need to understand there is so much more to construction and that their children can have a rewarding career without having to repay thousands of dollars in student loans."

"When you go into schools to talk to students, what message do you want kids to remember about your company?" asked Anthony Huey. "What do want them to take away from your presentation?"



Anthony Huey, who spoke at the 2018 CAWV Midyear Meeting in Marco Island, Florida, is a highly-rated speaker who offers attendees pragmatic communications tools, tips and techniques.



Huey's presentation was interactive. He interviewed and videoed members talking about their companies and extolled members to express themselves by having "strength of statement" in order to give them "believability and credibility." Huey told members that retention of current employees is another challenge contractors are facing today.



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Matthijs Bijen, managing director of Aruba's leading infrastructure construction company, Aruban Roadbuilding Company, shared with members how construction is performed on the island, noting equipment, material and labor challenges.



Tia Reppert, CAWV Education Committee chair, updated members on the efforts of the CAWV Workforce Development Task Force to enhance career and technical training programs to get more young people into high paying construction careers.



Rick Johnson, West Virginia Paving, Inc., Dunbar, showcased construction of U.S. Route 35 which was completed in 2021 following 53 years of development and construction. The final cost of the completed roadway is approximately \$750 million.



Leslie Myles, Encova Commercial Lines Business Director, presented a new program that will allow CAWV members that place commercial lines of insurance with Encova to benefit from free safety training programs throughout the year.

Huey is a highly-rated speaker who offers session attendees pragmatic communications tools, tips and techniques they can use immediately. Huey's 20-year career includes tenures as a news reporter, magazine senior editor, crisis management specialist, media relations consultant and executive speech coach. He spoke at the 2018 CAWV Midyear Meeting in Marco Island, Florida.

"What message do you want potential employees to remember when you talk to them about your company," Huey asked attendees. "Your primary goal when recruiting is not to answer their questions about the job. Your goal is to engage them more effectively in order to give them a reason to go to work for you. How well you communicate helps with your primary purpose, whether you're talking with a student in school or someone that's already in the industry."

Huey told members there's another challenge contractors are facing today.

"Retention of key talent is becoming more and more of an issue," he said. "Have you communicated your plan for their future in your company in order for them to know they are a vital part of your business? Many times, key personnel will leave because a company owner hasn't provided specifics on the purpose of their organization and how employees fit into that purpose."

Huey's presentation was interactive.

He videoed members talking about their companies and why young people should go to work for them. He exorted members to express themselves by having "strength of statement" in order to give them "believability and credibility."

He said employers must have a tone of conviction that makes people want to come to work in their companies.

"All members are looking to hire people but sometimes we don't concentrate on retaining the people we have," said CAWV Senior Vice President James Ridgeway, March-Westin Com-

pany, Inc., Morgantown. "Everyone at the Midyear Meeting benefited from Anthony's comments. Because some members had to cancel attending the Midyear Meeting due to COVID and travel restrictions, Anthony has graciously agreed to conduct a seminar for CAWV members so everyone can benefit from his insights. I encourage all CAWV members to listen and learn when the CAWV schedules the seminar."

The Tuesday General Business Session featured construction projects. Rick Johnson, West Virginia Paving, Inc., Dunbar, showcased construction



The Building Division meeting provided an update on West Virginia School Building Authority activities, discussed the "Escalation Clause" that was developed to help with increases in material costs, as well as several other industry issues that will be placed on the agenda of the next CAWV Joint Architects Committee Meeting.



Highway/Heavy Division members discussed significant changes made to the WVDOH's Standard Specifications, which included 75 in the 2022 Supplemental, in addition to 34 Project Specific Special Provisions, and discussed the division's new Prequalification and Bid Analysis programs, noting that all subcontractors and DBE's must now be prequalified, including prequalification in advance of the letting to perform specific items of work.



of U.S. Route 35 which was completed in November 2021 following 53 years of development and construction.

The final cost of the completed roadway is approximately \$750 million. Johnson detailed the last projects, a 14.6-mile section by Bizzack Construction and Kanawha Stone which required 16.8 million CY of excavation, 7.3 miles of pipe, five bridges, and a \$50.9 million paving project.

"The four-lane paving project, consisting of two 12' lanes, a 10' shoulder and 4' shoulder in each direction, required 564,500 tons of asphalt," Johnson noted. "West Virginia Paving used a paver which allowed us to pave a 28-foot-wide single pass which resulted in no longitudinal joints," he told members.

How construction is performed in Aruba was shared by Matthijs Bijen, managing director of Aruba's leading infrastructure construction company, Aruban Roadbuilding Company.

"You can imagine the logistics of work-

ing on an island," the Dutch-born civil engineering professional told members. "Getting equipment, material and labor is a challenge we address every day. Like you, we are seeing material prices going up. It is higher in Aruba because our transportation costs are going up as well."

Bijen noted that all material is now imported to Aruba since material can no longer be produced on the island, as it once was. Lead time for imports is usually three months.

Bijen has been instrumental in many of Aruba's largest civil construction projects such as highways, the Aruba airport, water and sewer projects, the new Barcelona Container Terminal and the island's water desalination plant.

"Labor force issues are increasingly becoming a challenge, especially skilled labor," he shared with members. "I spend a lot of time training people. In my opinion, it's the only way to get good people. We have to cross-train since we own and operate our

equipment. We cannot rely on rental companies or subcontractors to provide their equipment," he noted.

The company, which has operations in Aruba, Sint Maarten, Curacao, and Kralendijk, purchases its equipment direct from factories in Europe since there are no leasing companies on the island. Bijen said the salt air eats away at everything, including the equipment's electronics, which requires constant repair and parts replacement.

Bijen is a member of the board of the Aruban Trade and Industry Association. He outlined the nation's funding source for roads and other infrastructure projects.

"We pay taxes on our vehicles, but this money doesn't always go to road maintenance," he noted. "Aruba does have an infrastructure fund and we do get money from Holland. Even though Aruba is an independent state, we are still part of the Netherlands. However, if Holland lends Aruba money for projects, it must be re-



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Donna and Buck Dayton attended this year's Midyear Meeting in Aruba.

paid," Bijen commented.

An update on the CAWV/Encova workers' compensation program was presented to members. Because members are doing a better job of improving safety on the jobsite, the discount offered on the CAWV/Encova workers' compensation program will be increased effective April 1, 2022, from 4.8% to 6.6%.

"The rate is driven by loss ratio and CAWV members on the plan are doing a better job in controlling losses," said Encova Assistant Vice President of Agency Operations Lisa Teel. "We appreciate our partnership with CAWV. We have had good experience with CAWV members," she said.

Following Teel's comments, Leslie Mylles, Encova Commercial Lines Business Director, presented a new program that will allow CAWV members that place commercial lines of insurance with Encova to benefit from several free safety training programs throughout the year.

This year's meeting included the popular Sunday Prayer Breakfast which was chaired by Kevin Kemerer, president of Precision Pump and Valve Service, Inc., Cross Lanes.

"Look around us," he told members who were assembled in the hotel's outside garden. "We are all competitors with differing competing interests yet we come together in unity. We have joined up for a greater cause."

Kemerer told members that he belongs to a number of associations that don't



Doug and Marsha Sutter joined members for the Welcome Night Reception.

take time during their conventions for a prayer breakfast.

"This is special," he commented. "We are in Aruba which is known as 'one happy island.' We as leaders should be leading in these troubling times and putting out a positive message to our employees, our customers and our associates. We should leave this meeting being happy about who and where we are."

Rick Johnson, West Virginia Paving, Inc., and Steve Humphreys, Highway Safety, Inc., also participated in the Sunday morning service.

"The world has changed since we met last," said Johnson, reflecting that the 2021 CAWV Midyear Meeting was canceled due to the pandemic. "It is great to meet again and in a place like this

and to sit and enjoy the company of each other."

The Building, Highway/Heavy and Utilities division meetings were at capacity as members talked about issues affecting members and the construction industry.

Roger Thomas, Kelly Paving Inc., presided over the Highway/Heavy Division meeting and provided an overview of significant issues and developments for calendar year 2021, including working in a COVID environment, lagging highway revenues, workforce and material shortages, permitting backlogs, expediting of project finals, and a surge in highway funding. Thomas noted that the CAWV / WVDOH / FHWA Joint Cooperative Committee network is made up of nine committees and subcommittees to address industry issues.

Division members learned of significant changes made to the WVDOH's Standard Specifications, which included 75 in the 2022 Supplemental, in addition to 34 Project Specific Special Provisions. Discussion focused on the WVDOH's new Prequalification and Bid Analysis programs, noting that all subcontractors and DBE's must now be prequalified, including prequalification in advance of the letting to perform specific items of work. Contractors were advised to monitor project ratings in 2022, as they will be used to calculate contractor grading that goes into effect January 1, 2023.



This year's meeting included the popular Sunday Prayer Breakfast which was led by Kevin Kemerer, Precision Pump and Valve Service, Inc.; Rick Johnson, West Virginia Paving, Inc.; and Steve Humphreys, Highway Safety, Inc.



CAWV Senior Vice President James Ridgeway presided over the Building Division meeting. He reported that CAWV Task Forces have been working on industry issues as they arise. Ridgeway, who also serves as chairman of the CAWV / School Building Authority of West Virginia (SBA) Task Force, reported on SBA activities. Attendees also discussed the "Escalation Clause" that was developed in conjunction with West Virginia State Purchasing Division to help with increases in material costs after a project is bid but before the final award.

Michael Gianni, The James White Construction Company, Inc., presided over the CAWV Utilities Division meeting where members were updated on the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, Water Development Authority, Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Fund projects that are presently in construction and those commitments yet to be bid for the coming year.

Discussion was held on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding of

\$400 million for West Virginia water and sewer funding. These funds must be allocated by December 2024 and monies must be spent by December 2026. The Governor's office has put together a task force of all state and local agencies to identify, plan, design and bid projects in order to get ARPA funding obligated.

Several other industry issues were discussed during the meeting such as materials pricing and supply shortages.


A number of social and networking activities were held to further enhance the benefit of attendance at the annual meeting. A golf tournament, island tours, a welcome night reception and President's Banquet, both held on Hyatt's beach, were all part of this year's meeting.

"I think everyone enjoyed this year's meeting and I think everyone took something away from it," said Senior Vice President Ridgeway. "Workforce development will be a major thrust for this year's activities. We learned of all the work that is coming to West Virginia

through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and it is clear that there will be many opportunities for young people to join the construction industry. The CAWV needs to be at the forefront in career development programs," he said.

"I thank all who attended this year's CAWV Midyear Meeting and a special thanks to sponsors for helping to make this year's meeting a success," said President Nate Orders, Orders Construction Company, St. Albans. "I encourage all members to attend next year's Midyear Meeting, which will be held February 3-8, 2023 at Westin Mission Hills Resort in Palm Desert, California."

The 2024 Midyear Meeting will be held at Fiesta Americana in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The 2025 Midyear Meeting will return to the Hyatt Regency Resort in Aruba, January 31 - February 5.

For those who missed it, the speaker's presentations are on the CAWV website at [www.cawv.org/events/mid-year-meeting.html](http://www.cawv.org/events/mid-year-meeting.html). 

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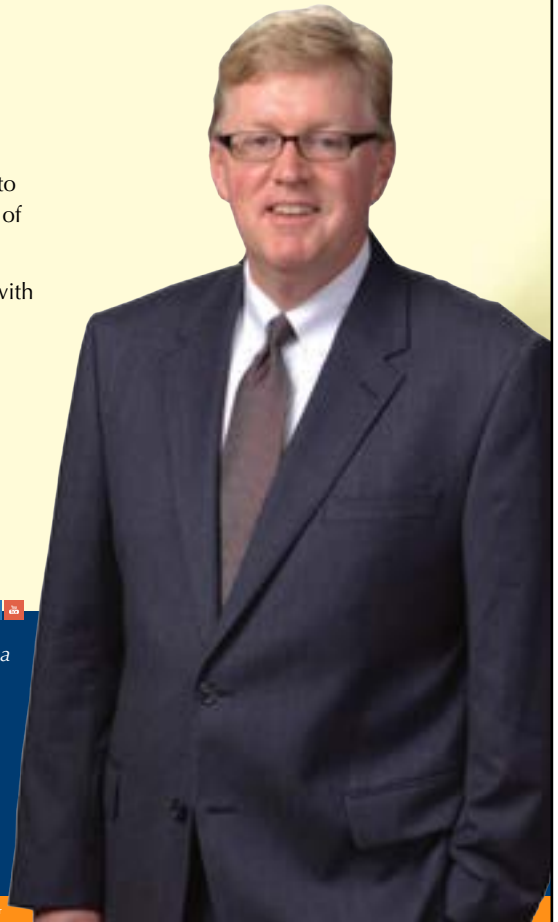
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Diane and Vernon Wampler enjoyed this year's Midyear Meeting at the Hyatt Regency in Aruba held January 28-February 2.



David McCauley and Rhiannon Biedzynski joined members for the Welcome Night Reception at this year's event.



Kim and Aaron Brown enjoyed the Welcome Night Reception at this year's CAWV Midyear Meeting.



CAWV Senior Vice President James Ridgeway and wife, Cathleen, attended this year's Midyear Meeting in Aruba.



Jaclyn and Chad Duriez attended their first CAWV Midyear Meeting in Aruba along with their children, Owen and Clara.



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# WVDOT Achieves Peak Project Performance



PHOTOS BY HARRY GIGLIO, COURTESY MICHAEL BAKER INTERNATIONAL

Building highways through scenic mountains, the West Virginia Dept. of Transportation—ENR MidAtlantic's Owner of the Year—has had to solve a series of challenges.

## ENR MidAtlantic's Owner of the Year Uses \$2.8-Billion Construction Program to Boost State's Transportation System

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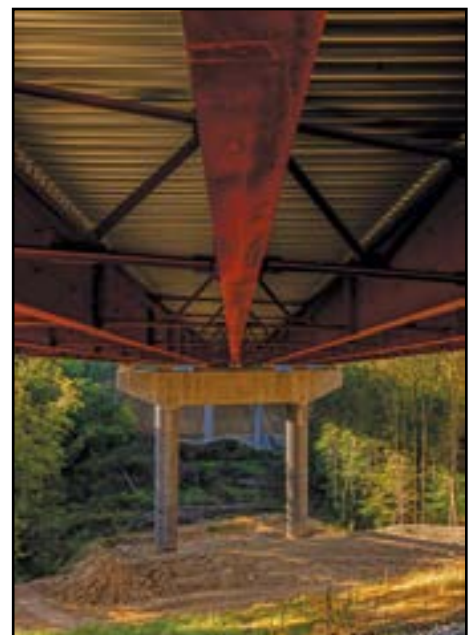
With apologies to John Denver, West Virginia's transportation network is much more than country roads. There are also interstates, secondary highways and rural connectors comprising a nearly 39,000-mile road network, 96% of which is maintained by the West Virginia Dept. of Transportation, ENR MidAtlantic's Owner of the Year.

Although the state's ubiquitous mountains are scenic, they also present the agency with a host of unusual topographic and geologic construction and maintenance challenges besides normal weathering and wear.

"It's very, very expensive to do roads in West Virginia," says state Transportation Secretary Jimmy Wriston, a 26-year agency veteran who was appointed to the top job in October.

West Virginia also has something other states would envy—a \$2.8-billion, bond-funded highway and bridge construction program called Roads to Prosperity, which was launched in 2017 with a voter-approved referendum to boost fuel taxes and vehicle fees.

As of March 2022, WVDOT said nearly 1,100 projects have been completed under Roads to Prosperity, most of which are smaller road and bridge projects in each of West Virginia's 55 counties. The program has also paid for large projects, such as the \$48-million rebuild of a 16-mile stretch of Interstate 64 between Huntington and Charleston; the \$37.2-million reconstruction of a nine-mile section of Interstate 77 from the East River Mountain Tunnel to Princeton; the



The state's Roads to Prosperity program helped bridge a \$500-million budget deficit.



\$20-million project to redeck several I-77 bridges in Charleston; and the approximately \$70-million effort to pave the final 15-mile section of the upgraded U.S. Route 35 in Putnam and Mason counties.

Wriston says Roads to Prosperity “saved the state” by reversing years of budget deficits and long-deferred maintenance. Where WVDOT in the past faced program cuts to bridge a \$500-million budget deficit, “we now have a whirlwind of construction activity eight times bigger than anything we’ve done before,” Wriston says. “And it’s all focused on getting our system back to where it needs to be.”

To successfully implement such a massive construction program, Wriston points to what he feels are other equally important accomplishments of the past several years. Along with legislative approval to expand the use of design-build and other alternative delivery mechanisms, an internal culture change has empowered agency staff to make more timely and informed decisions, he says.

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“We now have a whirlwind of construction activity eight times bigger than anything we’ve done before.”

Jimmy Wriston  
*West Virginia Transportation Secretary*

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“Some of our procedures were as outdated as our highways,” Wriston says. Now, asset-management concepts and other data-driven processes “allow us to make good decisions and deal better with utility coordination, right-of-way and environmental issues—things that in the past would have posed roadblocks to getting projects done,” he adds.

WVDOT’s construction activities aren’t limited to the state’s highways. The Rail Authority, which owns most of West Virginia’s short lines, is in the process of replacing the Trout Run Bridge, which was washed out during a major 1985 flood. The new structure will enable the state to extend one of its many popular tourist trains. WVDOT’s Parkways Authority

oversees the 88-mile West Virginia Turnpike, a key north-south interstate corridor that Wriston considers “one of the best maintained roadways in the state.”

Roads to Prosperity funds have also helped WVDOT expand its staff, including hiring a record 51 college graduate engineers last year. “We pursue everyone we can and make a career path for them, whether they’re just out of college or someone with many years of experience,” Wriston says.

### Multifaceted responsibilities

These efforts have helped fast-forward the restoration of West Virginia’s transportation infrastructure. WVDOT has plenty of other problems to tackle—from population and tax revenue losses that complicate its ability to satisfy federal matching fund requirements to finding innovative ways to tackle project-specific challenges.

That’s why WVDOT has long viewed its design consultants and contractors as partners and project stakeholders. Since the 1960s, WVDOT’s highway division has worked closely with the Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) via a joint cooperation committee to evaluate trends and

### Other current WVDOT projects include:

#### I-70 Bridges, Ohio County

Swank Construction is replacing and rehabilitating twenty-six 50- to 60-year-old bridges along the nationally important east-west corridor in West Virginia’s panhandle. The three-year, \$214-million project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

#### I-64 Upgrades, Putnam County

A joint venture of Brayman Construction and Trumbull Construction broke ground in February on a \$224.5-million project to widen a 3.8-mile interstate section between Nitro and Scott Depot and upgrade multiple bridges, including a new Kanawha River crossing. Completion is set for summer 2024.

#### Cheat River Bridge, Parsons

Part of the Corridor H project, the 150-ft-tall, 3,300-ft-long, four-lane structure will be among the state’s longest bridges when it is completed. Triton Construction was awarded the \$148-million contract for the project in February.



WVDOT’s Corridor H program will eventually create a 132-mile, four-lane highway between central West Virginia and northern Virginia.

agency-proposed changes to specifications for materials and other elements.

“They have always valued the CAWV’s perspective and routinely modify their proposal in order to develop a spec that is in the best interest of the agency, the contracting industry and the taxpayers of West Virginia,” says Mike Clowser, CAWV executive director. “Our members always appreciate the ability to have their opinions considered.”

Collaboration has been critical for the agency’s largest-ever design-build project—Corridor H, which will eventually create a 132-mile, four-lane highway between central West Virginia and northern Virginia.

Approximately 31 miles and an estimated \$1.10 billion worth of work remain to complete Corridor H, including a 15.3-mile segment across rugged terrain. Mohiuddin Shaik, vice president and manager of the Charleston, W.Va., office of Michael Baker Inter-



The Roads to Prosperity program includes redecking several bridges.

national, which is serving as program manager/owner’s representative for the project, recalls how WVDOT fostered a collaborative environment from the project’s outset to find opportunities to address technical and cost





challenges. By reshaping the project scope and identifying specific tasks that could be more efficiently matched to the most qualified contractors, an expected eight-month procurement process was cut by more than half.



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"They recognize the benefits of being proactive and getting input from everyone involved," Shaik says. "In this case, the approach saves money and gets work done without compromising the quality of the project or the overall schedule."

## The next horizon

As Roads to Prosperity advances West Virginia's infrastructure, Wriston expects the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to have similar long-term benefits.

"Rather than getting a paper that winds up on a shelf, we get solutions that can be immediately turned into policies and procedures."

Jimmy Wriston  
West Virginia Transportation Secretary

"It's a missing piece in funding that I see as being right up there with completion of the interstate system," Wriston says. He notes that the statute's

qualifications and performance metrics complement those WVDOT already uses, particularly when it comes to tying in with other programs, such as broadband expansion and implementing safety upgrades.

To ensure WVDOT stays abreast of innovative transportation technologies and practices, the agency has invested in partnerships with the Appalachian Transportation Institute at Marshall University as well as with engineering programs at West Virginia University and other state schools. Wriston says the agency's cultural change has led to a "more practical and applicable approach" to research, where ideas are solicited from all levels of the organization. "Rather than getting a paper that winds up on a shelf, we get solutions that can be immediately turned into new policies and procedures," he says.

WVDOT is also investing in the development of future engineering and construction professionals. The agency updated open-source West Point

Bridge Designer software so that it could continue the once national competition on the state level as a means of encouraging interest in science, technology, engineering and math careers among middle-school students.

Michael Baker's Shaik believes WVDOT's ability to adapt effectively to opportunities such as Roads to Prosperity and challenges such as the coronavirus pandemic will serve the agency well in the coming years. "Just consider what it took to take on this major road improvement program, then keep it going and deliver projects on schedule with all the pandemic's disruptions," he says. "They are very confident in their ability to do whatever is needed to improve infrastructure for the people of West Virginia."

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# Contractors Association of West Virginia 2021 SAFETY AWARDS

During this year's CAWV State Meeting, held March 23 in conjunction with the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO, the CAWV Safety Committee presented the 2021 Safety Awards to members who have exhibited excellence in safety performance and promotion in the workplace. Scores are based on a company's documented safety policies and procedures, commitment and approach to safety and health in the workplace and recorded statistical data for the year.

Recognition is given to those companies who offer high quality safety training and demand active employee involvement in their safety process.

Finalists are chosen from the contractor and associate members who achieve an excellent performance rating. Awards were presented to those members that met or exceeded the program criteria.

CAWV Safety Committee Chair Matt McCallister, Brewer & Company of West Virginia, and West Virginia Division of Labor Commissioner Mitchell Woodrum presented each recipient's award. Winners select their awards from an array of promotional products.

## Building Division Less Than 50K Manhours Paramount Builders, LLC



Mitch Woodrum, Chad Earl (on behalf of Paramount Builders, Inc.) and Matt McCallister

## Building Division Over 100K Manhours Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal



Mitch Woodrum, Chad Collins and Matt McCallister

## Building Division Over 150K Manhours March-Westin Company, Inc.



Mitch Woodrum, John Moore and Matt McCallister

## Utility Division Less Than 50K Manhours Bi-Con Services, Inc.



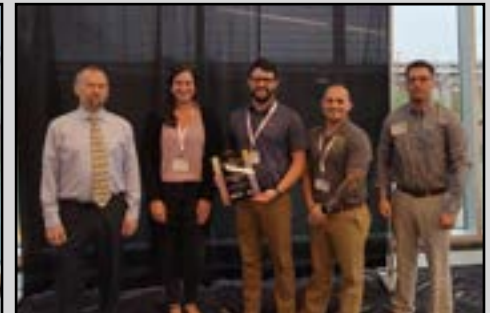
Mitch Woodrum, Jeff Kelly, Ben Bookman and Matt McCallister

## Utility Division Over 50K Manhours Orders Construction Company



Mitch Woodrum, Chad Earl and Matt McCallister

## Utility Division Over 100K Manhours Applied Construction Solutions



Mitch Woodrum, Kara Alvarez, Brandon Riggs, Jerry Wells and Matt McCallister

## Associate Division Less Than 50K Manhours Whitman Requardt & Associates



Shannon Stevens, Melissa Thompson and Barry Fink

## Associate Division Over 5K Manhours All Crane & Equipment Rental



Mitch Woodrum, John Harrison and Matt McCallister





**Highway Division Over 50K Manhours**  
**J. F. Allen Company**



Mitch Woodrum, Bryan Leatherman  
and Matt McCallister

**Highway Division Over 100K Manhours**  
**Bear Contracting, LLC**



Mitch Woodrum, Robert McPherson  
and Matt McCallister

**Highway Division Over 300K Manhours**  
**Triton Construction, Inc.**



Mitch Woodrum, Tim Quintrell,  
and Matt McCallister

**Industrial Division Less Than 50K Manhours**  
**W. Q. Watters Company**



**Industrial Division Over 100K Manhours**  
**Tri-State Roofing & Sheet Metal**



Mitch Woodrum, Brian Linville, Ben Oldaker  
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**Industrial Division Over 300K Manhours**  
**IVS Hydro Inc.**



Mitch Woodrum, Scott Coleman  
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# Contractors Association of West Virginia **2022 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Contractors Association of West Virginia Scholarship Foundation awarded \$22,500 this year to West Virginia college students pursuing an education and career in construction or engineering.

Recipients were selected based on their academic performance, extra-curricular activities, work experience, financial need and an interest in a construction industry career. Finalists are selected in February and are subject to a personal interview with the CAWV Scholarship Board.

Eligible schools include West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Marshall University, Fairmont State University and Bluefield State College.

Cole Moore, civil engineering student from Marshall University, was selected as this year's top scholarship recipient and awarded \$7,500. A native of Boone County, is currently a junior at Marshall. Moore is a member of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity, where he recently served as president. Cole has worked the past three summers as a pipeline laborer and recently accepted an internship with Kokosing Construction Company.

Moore expressed his thanks to the CAWV Scholarship Foundation, his professors and industry mentors during the CAWV's State Meeting, held March 23 during the West Virginia Construction and Design EXPO in Charleston.

"This scholarship means a lot to me because I feel that I am representing both of my grandfathers and my father, who all worked in the construction industry," Moore said. "The odds were against me as a first-generation college student coming from a small, overlooked community in Boone County. I fell into a stereotype that was unlikely to succeed."

"It's taken hard work, determination, and late nights of studying to get where



CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson (left) with 2022 top scholarship recipient Cole Moore, a civil engineering student at Marshall University.



The 2022 top scholarship recipient, Cole Moore, was joined by his family at this year's CAWV State Meeting on March 23. Moore says his aspiration to join West Virginia's construction industry comes from his father and grandfather (pictured above).

I am today," he stated. "I know I have much more work ahead, but I am prepared for the challenge and look forward to the journey."

In addition to Moore, the Foundation presented six other scholarships totaling \$15,000. Students receiving scholarship awards were Shane Griffith, WVU Institute of Technology; Benjamin O'Dell, Marshall University; Asher Bailey, West Virginia University; Avery Costilow, West Virginia University; Chandler Mills, West Virginia University; and Kaden Statler, Fairmont State

University.

"Once again, the CAWV Scholarship Foundation had a great group of applicants this year," said Scholarship Foundation Chairman and CAWV Past President Gene Thompson. "All of the students we interviewed have impressive transcripts and leadership skills, with some already having work experience within the industry. They have committed themselves to educational excellence and each one of them will bring a unique benefit to West Virginia's construction industry."

PHOTOS BY PAT MCDONALD





**Asher Bailey**  
West Virginia University

Asher Bailey, a junior at West Virginia University, is a Civil Engineering major. He is a member of the ASCE Student Chapter at WVU and recently served as team captain of WVU's Estimating Team. Upon graduation, he plans to establish his own electrical contracting business. In addition to being a CAWV scholarship recipient, he was also the only West Virginia student to receive an AGC of America 2022 scholarship award.



**Avery Costilow**  
West Virginia University

Avery Costilow, a junior at West Virginia University, is a Civil Engineering major and proud Mountaineer. He currently interns with CAWV member Belt Paving, Inc. as a project manager/estimator, and aspires to work for them full-time post-graduation. "It will be my honor after graduation to apply my knowledge and skills to better my hometown and surrounding communities," he said.



**Shane Griffith**  
WVU Institute of Technology

Shane Griffith, a junior at WVU Institute of Technology, is a Civil Engineering major. He is a member of the ASCE Student Chapter and Concrete Canoe Team, as well as a member of Tau Beta Pi. Shane has interned with the WVDOH to gain experience in highway and bridge design and maintenance and plans to work at the Bluestone Dam this summer.



**Chandler Mills**  
West Virginia University

Chandler Mills, a junior at West Virginia University, is a Civil Engineering major. He currently serves as a civil engineering undergraduate research assistant and is a member of the ASCE Student Chapter and WVU Construction Estimating Team. Chandler says after graduation he wants to work in the construction field for a West Virginia-based firm.



**Benjamin O'Dell**  
Marshall University

Benjamin O'Dell, a senior at Marshall University, is a Civil Engineering major. After graduating in 2020 with a BA in English, he found himself enamored by the construction industry when he took a job working for a local contractor. He passed the WV Business and Law Exam and the WV General Building Exam but knew he needed more industry knowledge and ultimately reenrolled to become a Professional Engineer.



**Kaden Statler**  
Fairmont State University

Kaden Statler, a senior at Fairmont State University, is double majoring in Surveying and Geomatics Engineering Technology and History. He is currently President of the WVSPS Student Chapter, as well as a member of the ASCE Student Chapter and Concrete Canoe Team. Kaden aspires to put his knowledge and skills to work after graduation to help rebuild and upgrade West Virginia's water/wastewater infrastructure.

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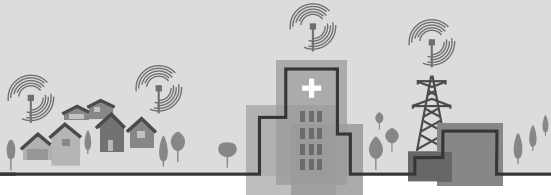
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