

## Transportation Bill Major Boost for Steel Bridge Industry

National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA) Executive Director Conn Abnee praised Congress for enacting a far-reaching surface transportation reauthorization bill that will make significant investment in new road and bridge projects and also dedicate important funds to steel bridge research.

"The past two years have been a tough period for the industry. Many projects had to be delayed until this legislation was signed into law," said Abnee. "It will take a little while longer before new contracts are bid, but looking forward we see the potential for work on a lot of exciting projects. This is great news for America's highway users."

The House and Senate completed action on the conference report for the bill at the end of July, clearing it to be sent to President Bush to be signed into law. The bill authorizes \$286.4 billion over six years for the nation's transportation programs. Of that, \$228 billion is for highways, \$52.6 billion for tran-

sit, and \$6 billion for safety. The bill also included \$20.4 million over five years for high performing steel bridge research. This is a direct result of efforts by NSBA and their legislative consultant (B & D Sagamore) in Washington D.C.

"The new research program will enable the steel bridge industry to really focus research efforts on developing longer lasting coatings and lower cost corrosion resistant steels," added Abnee. "We have made great strides in recent years with new high performance steel grades and we believe this new program will lead to new breakthroughs."

The bill also includes a number of provisions to improve the highway construction process including a requirement that value-engineering analysis be performed on major bridge projects of more than \$20 million.

The National Steel Bridge Alliance is an association of steel mills and bridge fabricators committed to the construction of cost effective steel bridges. ★

## 2005 World Steel Bridge Symposium Registration

Registration for the 2005 World Steel Bridge Symposium (WSBS) is now open. This year's symposium, themed "Time for Steel, Steel for Time," will be held November 29 through December 2 at the Hyatt Grand Cypress hotel in Orlando, FL.

The deadline for pre-registration is Friday, November 25, 2005. Registration may be completed online at [www.aisc.org/nsbawsbs](http://www.aisc.org/nsbawsbs). Registration forms, also available online, may be faxed to 734.572.4715. After November 25, registration must be presented in person at the symposium and discounts will no longer apply.

The WSBS gathers steel bridge owners, designers, contractors, and others from around the world to discuss all aspects of steel bridge design and construction. WSBS attendees come to the symposium to learn about the latest innovations in steel bridges. The symposium's exhibit hall is full of products and services to advance the state of the art of the steel bridge industry.

This year's symposium program includes half-day workshops on accel-

erated bridge construction technology; pre-fabricated bridge elements and systems; the new AISC Sophisticated Paint Endorsement (SPE) standard; and AISC fabricator certification criteria for bridges and buildings.

Focus areas of the symposium's many sessions will include, but will not be limited to: short span bridges; intermediate span bridges; case studies featuring the use of high performance steel; restoration, rehabilitation, and reuse; fabrication, construction, and erection; innovative bridge designs; and inspection and maintenance.

The highlight of this year's symposium's banquet will be the presentation of the 2005 Prize Bridge Awards.

For general information, contact Kristin LaPlaca at 312.670.5421 or [laplaca@aisc.org](mailto:laplaca@aisc.org). For exhibit and sponsorship information, contact Jody Lovsness at 402.758.9099 or [lovsness@nsbaweb.org](mailto:lovsness@nsbaweb.org). Hotel reservations may be placed by calling the Hyatt directly at 407.239.1234. Watch NSBA's web site for more information, coming soon: [www.nsbaweb.org](http://www.nsbaweb.org). ★

## 2006 Student Steel Bridge Competition Rules Available

Get a head start for the 2006 National Student Steel Bridge Competition—download the competition rules. The rules for next year's competition are now available from AISC's web site at [www.aisc.org](http://www.aisc.org) (click on "Learning Opportunities," then "University Programs").

2006 will mark the 15th anniversary of this prestigious competition. Regional Student Steel Bridge Competitions will take place in each of the 18 regions of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The winning teams from each region will be invited to the national competition, hosted in 2006 by University of Utah, May 26-27 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Give your team a competitive edge—download the rules and start your design today! ★

## 2006 AGA Excellence in Hot-Dip Galvanizing Awards

The American Galvanizers Association (AGA) is accepting applications for its 2006 Excellence in Hot-Dip Galvanizing Awards.

Presented annually, the awards recognize projects that use hot-dip galvanizing in an ideal, creative, innovative, or monumental fashion. Award categories include:

- Artistic
- Bridge and Highway
- Building and Architecture
- Civic Contribution
- Duplex Systems
- Electrical, Utility, and Communication
- Food and Agriculture
- Industrial
- International
- Original Equipment Manufacturing
- Recreation and Entertainment
- Water and Marine

Winning projects will be announced at AGA's annual conference awards dinner on March 15, 2006 in Tucson, AZ.

For project guidelines, rules, and applications, contact Jed Rosenberg at AGA (720.554.0900 x15 or [jrosenberg@galvanizeit.org](mailto:jrosenberg@galvanizeit.org)). Forms may be downloaded at [www.galvanizeit.org/awards](http://www.galvanizeit.org/awards). All entries must be received or postmarked on or before Friday, December 9, 2005. No extensions will be provided. ★

## AISC Staff Updates

Summer 2005 brought many changes to AISC's Marketing, Certification, and Membership Department staffs.

**Larry Flynn** is joining AISC Marketing as Industry Marketing Manager. Flynn formerly was the senior editor of *Building Design and Construction* magazine and Chief Editor of *Roads and Bridges*. He will be using his industry contacts and communication skills to support the activities of the structural steel industry to make structural steel the material of choice.

**Brian Miller** transferred from his position with AISC Marketing as New England Regional Engineer to AISC's Certification Department, where he will now serve as Technical Standard Development Manager. Miller will work as a technical writer for the department and will develop new certification standards and inspector programs.

Also new to AISC Certification is **Brian Raff**, who joined AISC in June as Manager of Certification Marketing. Raff works to educate engineers, architects, and owners about the added value certified steel fabricators and erectors bring to the construction process. He also works to ensure that certification remains a requirement for construction projects nationwide through the "No More Waivers!" program. Information on AISC Certification and the Qual-

ity Management Company, LLC can be viewed at [www.aisc.org/certification](http://www.aisc.org/certification).

**William Pascoli, P.E.**, formerly AISC Marketing's National Project Director, has moved from AISC's home office in Chicago to Pittsburgh, PA where he will serve the New England Region as Senior Regional Engineer.

**Tabitha Stine, P.E.** came to AISC in December 2004 as a Steel Solutions Center advisor. She will now serve the Great Plains Region as Regional Engineer. Stine takes the place of Michael Gustafson, P.E., who, after two years as Great Plains Regional Engineer, has accepted a position with Tekla, Inc. For more information about each of AISC's eight regions, visit [www.aisc.org/regionalengineers](http://www.aisc.org/regionalengineers).

**Kelly Johnson** has been promoted to Director of AISC's Membership Department. Johnson has been with AISC for three years, most recently as Membership Coordinator. She takes over for Wendy Hurst, who left AISC early this summer after the birth of her son.

The Membership Department also welcomes membership services assistants **Jamie Pero** and **Kelly Butler**. Pero will assist AISC's professional and affiliate members, while Butler will assist active and associate members. To learn more about AISC membership, visit [www.aisc.org/membership](http://www.aisc.org/membership). ★

## AISC Seminars

Be sure to check out the remaining 2005 AISC seminars and mark your calendar to attend the next seminar in your area.

AISC continues to offer its popular seminars, *Field Fixes* and *Steel Design After College*, and has introduced one new seminar, *Seismic Braced Frames—Design Concepts and Connections*. As always, leading industry experts will serve as featured speakers for each of the seminars.

Continuing a long tradition of providing cutting-edge education courses at reasonable prices, AISC offers the successful Bring a Buddy program—each paid registrant can bring one colleague for only \$100 more. Register online and save \$5 off the registration fee.

For detailed information regarding each of the seminars or to register, visit the Continuing Education area of AISC's web site at [www.aisc.org/seminars](http://www.aisc.org/seminars). ★

## AISC Design Guide on Façade Attachments to Steel Frames

AISC requests proposals for the preparation of a design guide on façade attachments to steel frames.

All work is to be based upon the provisions of the 2005 AISC *Specification* and the 2005 AISC *Code of Standard Practice*. At a minimum, all proposals should address the following topics:

1. Slab Edge and Connection Details for all Primary Cladding Systems
2. Engineering of Building Slab/Metal Deck Closure Plates
3. Tolerances of Cladding Systems and Comparison to *Code of Standard Practice*
4. Durability (coating systems, water infiltration, etc.)

Additional topics that enhance the value of the guide are also welcome. Alternative orders of presentation will

be considered. Other desirable content may include:

- Overview of Façade Systems
- Relative Economy of Deck Closure Methods
- Construction Coordination
- Effect of Façade Attachment on Fire Ratings
- Design Aids for Façade Attachments

Above all, this design guide should be applied and practical. It is not meant to be a textbook. The guide must be readily understandable and accessible for ordinary practicing engineers who do not have a great deal of façade design knowledge.

Proposals will be accepted through September 15, 2005. Please contact Chris Hewitt at [hewitt@aisc.org](mailto:hewitt@aisc.org) for more information. ★