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CONTENTS

- 6 MITA Board Of Directors
- 8 Comment Executive Vice President
- 10 Contractor Member Profile
- 12 Member Project Profile
- **14** Comment Vice President of Government Affairs
- 16 PAC Update Fall 2023
- 18 Legislative Q&A
- 20 Legislative Site Visit
- 22 Comment Engineering
- **24** Comment Director of Safety & Compliance
- 25 Spotlight on Safety
- 26 Legal Issues
- 28 MITA Summer Conference
- 34 MITA Members Giving Back
- **36** Member News
- 42 ARTBA News
- 52 MITA Staff List
- 54 Calendar of Events

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New Associate Members

Citizens Bank Clark Hill PLC

Welcome Aboard



44

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Rob Coppersmith

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GROWING MICHIGAN TOGETHER COUNCIL:

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

When most people ask what I've been up to, my response, at least in my head, is: "Where do I begin?" It's been an amazing year for our membership with regard to work in all sectors. That said, we all should be painfully aware of the funding cliff that will hit in a few short years. In my opinion, this is robbing us of some of the joy we should be feeling about our current situation.

I was recently selected to be on the Governor's "Growing Michigan Together Council" (GMTC), which is code for working on infrastructure, schools, and population issues; and, in our case, that means funding. I put the issues in that order for a reason. I personally don't feel you can move the needle on either of the others without good infrastructure. The first meeting of the council was in July, and a report on all three areas is due on the Governor's desk by December 1. The findings of this report in regard to infrastructure funding will be the benchmark for discussions moving forward on a long-term, equitable and sustainable infrastructure funding solution.

The specific charge for the group is to provide data-driven, evidenced-based goals and define

the gap between Michigan and the best-performing comparable states concerning the identified goals. The next step will be to identify short-term, medium-term, and long-term policies needed to close the gaps and meet the objectives identified by the council. Additionally, the group is charged with analyzing the effectiveness of existing programs in addition to spending and making recommendations on addressing identified gaps between projected revenues and recommended expenditures. Thank God our Board of Directors authorized MITA to produce the "infrastructure report," which was completed last fall by Public Sector Consultants and has rapidly become the trusted source of information concerning infrastructure funding. I personally think it would have been impossible to generate such an indepth, comprehensive report to the council in the time given.

Michigan is currently projected to grow at about one-third of the nation's growth rate over the next 30 years. Why is Michigan's population rate important? A flat or declining population would render Michigan uncompetitive and with an insufficient workforce. Weak population growth

will erode the tax base for public investment in critical infrastructure for communities across our state. Last but not least a declining population will certainly undermine the customer base for businesses. Before you jump to conclusions about our current political situation and how it may or may not relate to population loss, Michigan residents have been leaving our state for decades. A change in the political landscape will not fix this problem. However, Michigan is not alone concerning this issue. 18 other states are facing similar situations, which is why we need to be more competitive when it comes to retaining current residents and attracting new ones. So: call your kids and tell them to come back home.

MITA's hope is that our Governor will act fast after December 1 with the recommendations of the GMTC, assuming they align with a strong approach to infrastructure funding. I have asked her to speak at the MITA Annual Conference to explain to all of us the direction she will be taking on these very important issues. Stay tuned. Much more to come on this critical issue for our members and the State of Michigan. cs

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In Metro Detroit, the community has been profoundly influenced by the contributions of Hutch Paving over the last 30 years. Hutch Paving is renowned for their unwavering dedication, quality, punctuality, professionalism, and expertise. Established in 1993 by Gary Hutchinson and Dale Campbell, Hutch Paving has evolved into a prominent name in the industry. Through the years, Hutch Paving has navigated challenges with tenacity while celebrating numerous accomplishments. With the dynamic partnership of Michael Campbell and Rick Tenbusch, the company's trajectory has been one of continuous growth and exceptional performance. Hutch Paving is committed to prioritizing the customer experience, nurturing a devoted workforce, and fostering an innovative culture. Hutch Paving continues to be the benchmark for the industry.

The original founders of Hutch Paving were well-known in the metro Detroit area and played a significant role in establishing the company's reputation. However, in 1998, Dale Michael Campbell's Campbell, uncle, took over the business from Hutchinson. Dale's leadership forged a strategic partnership with Somerset Paving, operating seamlessly under the esteemed Hutch Paving name. This transition was the catalyst for a promising new chapter for the company, paving the way for boundless growth and continued success in the vears ahead.

With a business degree in hand, Michael Campbell joined Hutch Paving in 2000 and was responsible for leading, mentoring, and motivating the sales department to ensure company growth. In 2001, Rick Tenbusch, equipped with a passion for heavy equipment and strong interpersonal skills, quickly became a vital part of the team. In 2012, Michael became a co-owner of the company alongside Rick who purchased his share of the company in 2013. Rick and Michael's partnership flourished, fostered by a profound mutual respect, a shared dedication to hard work, and an unwavering commitment to achieving



excellence. Together, Michael and Rick have transformed the company, which started with only 10 employees, into an organization with over 130 employees.

Hutch Paving showcases six distinct divisions that enable the company to offer a comprehensive range of services to its clients. These divisions include milling, concrete, excavation and prep, maintenance, sweeping, and the pivotal paving division. Through this multifaceted work force, Hutch Paving ensures that they can cater to diverse project requirements with efficiency,

solidifying its reputation as a turn-key solution for all pavement needs.

Noteworthy Projects

Over the years, Hutch Paving has taken pride in delivering outstanding results for its clients. A few of their notable projects include CSX railroad, multiple Meijer and Home Depot locations, and city streets throughout municipalities such as Farmington Hills, Lincoln Park, and Melvindale. Their dedicated team of experts meticulously executed the paving work, ensuring

top-notch quality and adherence to safety standards throughout the entire process. Hutch Paving specializes in projects that have tight tolerance spaces, and their highly skilled crews are well-trained and capable of doing whatever it takes to get the jobs done efficiently. Upon completion of the projects, the transportation infrastructure in Southeast Michigan is more reliable, providing safer journeys for countless communities.

A Focus on Company Culture and **Employee Retention**

Rick and Michael recognize the significance of cultivating a positive and supportive company culture and prioritizing retaining talented individuals. Their proactive approach involves providing ample training and internal advancement opportunities while consistently showing appreciation and recognition for their employees' hard work and dedication.

Hutch Paving's top priority is safety, as both Michael and Rick believe that a safe work environment is the foundation for successful projects. Focusing on safety plays a vital role in retaining employees. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is a fundamental part of their safety measures. All employees are equipped with the necessary gear such as high-visibility vests, hard hats, gloves, and safety glasses. Hutch Paving's safety coordinator regularly monitors OSHA safety guidelines to ensure they align with industry standards. Regular Toolbox Talks play a crucial role in reinforcing safety practices and encouraging their employees to participate in safety awareness. Many of their employees regularly suggest topics for Toolbox Talks and for the monthly safety newsletter based on what they see or hear on active job sites. Hutch Paving encourages team members to stay informed and vigilant about safety

protocols and encourages an open discussion about safety concerns.

Inclusivity is a key factor in the success of Hutch Paving. Michael and Rick believe that diversity enriches their team's perspectives and enhances overall performance across the board. They actively promote increasing the presence of women in the construction industry. Hutch Continued on page 50







I-69 RECONSTRUCTION **UNDER WAY IN LAPEER COUNTY**

By Aram Kalousdian

An approximate \$69 million, 7-mile reconstruction of Interstate 69 between M-24 and Lake George Road in Lapeer County began in April 2022 and is expected to be completed in November 2023. Toebe Construction, LLC, of Wixom is the prime contractor for the project. The project includes rehabilitating four bridges and reconstructing a rest area.

Materials on the project include over 460,000 cubic yards of earth excavation, 214,000 cubic yards of subbase, 65,000 cubic yards of aggregate base course and 355,000 square yards of 10-inch P1 modified high-performance concrete paving.

"Concrete for paving is being batched at a temporary on-site plant," said Adam Dillon, project manager. "Opengraded aggregate base course is being produced at an on-site crusher. The existing highway concrete pavement is crushed to produce an open-graded base course, which is reused in the new roadway section."

The contract requires each construction season to be completed within a stringent number of calendar days, so

the project is being constructed at a fast pace in order to ensure schedule milestones are met.

"Cement supply shortages resulted in schedule delays during 2022," said Dillon. "Unfortunately, the cement supply shortages occurred during the peak paving months of the construction season, which delayed 2022 construction completion by over one month. The project team will be working on solutions to avoid similar issues in 2023.

"The project has taken advantage of material flow opportunities with excavation and sand subbase operations. These opportunities allowed us to reduce the overall project schedule. In turn, the disruption to the traveling public was minimized."

Subcontractors on the project include R.W. Mercer of Jackson (rest area building and appurtenances); Pullman SST, Inc., of Trenton (bridge rehabilitation); Diane Dukes, Inc., of Big Rapids (right-of-way fence and turf restoration) and MRM Construction, LLC, of Brighton (underdrain installation). CS

Toebe Construction, LLC, uses a Gomaco GHP 2800 paver on the Interstate 69 project in Lapeer County. Photos courtesy of Toebe Construction, LLC.









Open-graded aggregate base course is placed on the Interstate 69 project in Lapeer County.





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FISCAL YEAR 2024 STATE BUDGET PASSED

Lance Binoniemi

To contact Lance Binoniemi, email him at lancebinoniemi@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

Lawmakers in Lansing passed the largest state budget in history just before their statutorily required deadline of July 1. The biggest winners in the budget were the education community. Overall, the \$81.7 billion budget includes \$57.4 billion for the state's departments and agencies - \$13.4 billion of that being General Fund - and \$24.3 billion for education. K-12 schools will see \$21.5 billion (\$18.4 billion School Aid Fund), community colleges will see \$544.5 million (all School Aid Fund), and universities are set to see \$2.3 billion (\$482.3 million School Aid Fund and \$1.7 billion General Fund).

This year's budget cycle was unique as Democrats controlled the entire process for the first time in over 40 years. Leading into the budget season, the legislature had over \$9 billion in excess revenues to appropriate. Most of that surplus money comes from Covid relief funds from the federal government. It was clear from the start of the process that education would be the main beneficiary of the excess revenue.

In addition, the Legislature earmarked more than \$750 million in the final budget for specific projects throughout the state for community enhancement grants, health care grants, housing grants, public infrastructure grants, public safety grants and workforce development grants. These are one-time expenditures that will not impact future state budgets, as the state is not expected to receive the same amount of revenues from the federal government in the future.

There was a significant amount of infrastructure investments within the 2024 state budget. The majority of the enhancement grants to communities are directed toward infrastructure improvements. Overall, there were 69 individual infrastructure grants that were awarded, amounting to over \$400 million in expenditures. Also included was \$80 million for another round of local bridge bundling. All in all, more investments into our transportation network and underground infrastructure are positive; however, we believe there could have been a much larger focus with the amount of revenues that were on the table.

A few MITA priorities in the budget were not passed and will be worked on in the future. More investments into our local transportation network were discussed but never realized in the final budget negotiations. The House Transportation budget included \$400 million for local roads and the Senate passed \$150 million for local roads; however, the final budget did not reflect any additional investments for local roads.

MITA also pushed for money to support a vehicle-miles traveled (VMT) pilot program as a way to collect user fees from the motoring public. As vehicles become more fuel efficient and electrified, gas tax revenues that support the transportation budget decline significantly. One way other states are collecting user fees to replace the gas tax is through charging drivers by the miles they travel. Unfortunately, money earmarked for that pilot program was not added to the budget. We believe that efforts will continue with the legislature and MDOT to establish a road usage charge-based revenue collection system as the state needs more revenues, not less, into our transportation budget.

The revenues for the transportation budget generally come from gas taxes and registration fees.

That money is mostly constitutionally or statutorily dedicated to our transportation network. We don't typically see large increases in revenues from the state budget. For the state to invest in a long-term, equitable and sustainable road funding plan, it will have to be done through revenue increases such as an increased gas tax, registration fees or a new collection method like VMTs or toll roads. And as MITA has argued for decades, we cannot fix our road funding shortfall within the current revenues of the state budget.

Continued on page 50

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PAC UPDATE FALL 2023



Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the MITA PAC. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. If you haven't donated to the MITA PAC yet this year, please consider making a contribution today.

The MITA PAC will eclipse last year's goal of \$250,000 by year-end based on recurring contributions! It's important to note that this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the broad base of member employees who have donated their hard-earned dollars to our PAC efforts! Collectively we can make a difference in our efforts to secure equitable, long-term, sustainable infrastructure funding solutions.

Political giving through our PAC is one of the most effective ways to gain access to policymakers. That access is needed to advocate for our issues as lawmakers have thousands of issues that they face regularly and we need to keep ours at the forefront. A Big MITA thanks to all of you who have supported our industry! **CS**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the MITA PAC this year. The money raised will be spent judiciously with input from the MITA PAC Board and also the entire MITA Board of Directors.

MITA PAC funds are given to political candidates who support initiatives that are important to the heavy highway/underground industry and to combat those candidates who are against our goal of long-term, sustainable infrastructure funding. The more these funds are targeted to the right candidates, the more our industry will thrive.



If you have any questions about how your PAC contributions are being spent, feel free to email MITA's Executive Vice President Rob Coppersmith (robcoppersmith@thinkmita.org), or MITA's Vice President of Government Affairs Lance Binoniemi (lancebinoniemi@thinkmita.org).



Long-Term Sustainable Funding Campaign 2023

The MITA Political Action Committee (PAC) is a strong contributor to the overall political voice of Michigan's heavy construction industry. MITA PAC is the most effective tool our industry has to support candidates who will fight in favor of contractors in the Michigan legislature. Your personal financial support of the MITA PAC gives all of us who care about the future of heavy construction the opportunity to have a strong influence in the political process.



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Jason Fowler	Toebe Construction LLC	\$850.00	John Zito Christopher Gatz	Zito Construction Co. Atsalis Brothers Painting	\$1,000.00
Andy Thelen Lori Adkins Sean Morrissey	GM & Sons, Inc.	\$100.00	Jeff Buckley	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$1,000.00
Sean Morrissey Dan Eriksson	I GM & Sons, Inc. I Hoffman Bros., Inc.	\$400.00	Rick Smith	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$50.00
Matt Payne Troy Prood	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$5,000.00 \$250.00 \$5,000.00 \$5,000.00	Jay Desai	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$300.00
Dave Pytlowany	AIS Construction Equipment	\$5,000.00	Donna Marshall	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$100.00
Francis Pytlowany Byron Miller	AIS Construction Equipment	\$500.00	Zachary Underwood	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$500.00
Dave Pytlowany Francis Pytlowany Byron Miller David TerBeek	Toebe Construction LLC Toebe Construction LLC GM & Sons, Inc. GM & Sons, Inc. Hoffman Bros., Inc. Ajax Paving Industries Inc. Team Elmer's AIS Construction Equipment AIS Construction Company Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$500.00 \$500.00 \$1,000.00 \$5,500.00 \$1,000.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$500.00 \$500.00 \$500.00 \$500.00	Shawn Horejsi	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$25.00
Mark Boden	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$5,500.00	J.W. Fisher	Fisher Companies	\$1,000.00
Jared Quick Jonnie Williams	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Mike Malloure	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$12,500.00
Paul Resky	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Christopher Woolley	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$500.00
Jeffrey Robinson Nicholas Schroeder	Ajax Paving Industries Inc. Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$500.00 \$500.00	James Reed Andrew O'Conner	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00
Chris Mondon	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$300.00	Clay Malloure	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$100.00
Brian Mayer Sean Friel	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$100.00	Jason Shinn	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$500.00
Ryan Belanger David Grabowski	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Benjamin Stachnik Timothy Peake	C. A. Hull Co., Inc. Action Traffic Maintenance, Inc.	\$50.00 \$125.00
Justin McLachlan	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Nicholas Troshak Blake Zapczynski*	Cardinal Fabricating, Inc.	\$1,000.00
Allan Isaac Kelly Schwall	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Patrick Dunigan Brent Gerken	Dunigan Bros., Inc.	\$2,500.00
Jerry Johnson Tye Tignanelli	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$100.00	Brent Gerken Elias Motz	Gerken Paving, Inc.	\$2,500.00
Chris Edwards	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$100.00	Eduardo Lopez	Action hand waintenance, inc. Cardinal Fabricating, inc. Z Contractors, inc. Dunigan Bros., inc. Gerken Paving, inc. C. A. Hull Co., inc. C. A. Hull Co., inc. Hoffman Brothers, inc. Michigan CAT	\$50.00
Pete Mann Donna Enyart	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$500.00 \$100.00 \$500.00 \$100.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$50.00	Tom Rizor Brian Schulz	Hoffman Brothers, Inc. Michigan CAT	\$500.00
Jason Pestridge	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$50.00	Derek LaBean Mike DeFinis	HYMMCO	\$1,000.00
Stephen Dargis Michael Reardon	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$50.00	Matthew Milkovie	Angelo lafrate Construction Company Angelo lafrate Construction Company	\$250.00
Ryan Crowley Jonathon Fielden	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$50,00 \$100,00 \$200,00 \$250,00 \$500,00	Jeremy Lemke Gabriel Cipparrone Jake Hall	Give 'Em A Brake Safety Cinnarrone Contracting Inc	\$4,000.00
Jay Foltz	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$250.00	Jake Hall	C. A. Hull Co., Inc.	\$150.00
Kathleen Anderson Jeff Ardelean	Ajax Paving Industries Inc. Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$500.00 \$1,000.00	Giulia Mayerhoff Brooke Zapcyznski* Michael Anderzack	Hoffman Brothers, Inc. Michigan CAT HYMMCO Angelo lafrate Construction Company Angelo lafrate Construction Company Give 'Em A Brake Safety Cipparrone Contracting, Inc. C. A. Hull Co., Inc. Cipparrone Contracting, Inc. Z Contractors Inc. Anderzack-Pitzen Construction Kotz Sangster CL Trucking & Excavating, LLC Give 'Em A Brake Safety Angelo lafrate Construction Company L.M. Clarke Inc Give 'Em A Brake Safety Give 'Em A Brake Safety Give 'Em A Brake Safety	\$50.00 \$125.00 \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00 \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00 \$50.00 \$500.00 \$1,000.00 \$1,500.00 \$1,500.00 \$1,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$1,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$1,000.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$2,500.00 \$3,000.00 \$4,000.00 \$4,000.00
Brian Borich Sam Bishop	Alax Paying Industries Inc.	\$500.00	Michael Anderzack Rudrick Edward Boucher	Anderzack-Pitzen Construction	\$2,500.00
Jason Beem	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$1,000.00 \$1,000.00 \$500.00 \$10.00 \$500.00	Chad Listerman	CL Trucking & Excavating, LLC	\$1,000.00
Jennifer Bashawaty Chris Callender	Alax Paving Industries Inc. Alax Paving Industries Inc.	\$100.00 \$100.00 \$1,000.00	Marc Van Til Hal Howlett	Angelo lafrate Construction Company	\$2,000.00
David Cowper Michael Connelly	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$1,000.00 \$200.00	Lynn Harmala Jennifer Brendahl	L.M. Clarke Inc	\$4,000.00
Daniel David Jr.	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Joe Boukma	Give Em A Brake Safety Give Em A Brake Safety Give Em A Brake Safety	\$250.00
Shawn Dice Stefany Dalpra	Alax Paying Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Kyle Meyer John Tiseo	Give 'Em A Brake Safety Angelo latrate Construction Company	\$100.00 \$50.00
Robert Farina	Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$100.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00 \$200.00	Shane Lemke	Give Em A Brake Safety	\$4,000.00 \$50.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$250.00 \$2,500.00 \$10,000.00 \$10,000.00
Chris Fontana Brandon Fuller	Ajax Paving Industries Inc. Ajax Paving Industries Inc.	\$200.00	Chris Heyboer Rinaldo G Acciavatti	Give 'Em A Brake Safety Give 'Em A Brake Safety Pamar Enterprises Inc.	\$200.00 \$2,500.00
Scott Hornak Mark Homer	A jax Paving Industries Inc.	\$100.00	Ryan O'Donnell Nick Baker	Anlaan Corporation Anlaan Corporation	\$10,000.00

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR NATE SHANNON



A: I want to answer that call and really address our issues here in Michigan. That will require difficult conversations about new revenue and I am willing to have those conversations.

: What lessons, if any, can we learn from the Flint water crisis and the Macomb County sinkhole?

A: I dealt directly with the sinkhole. And regarding both issues, the lesson is to not neglect our aging infrastructure. I believe Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Candice Miller is doing a good job prioritizing our most dire projects with the resources she has available so that we avoid another catastrophe like the sinkhole.

As Transportation Chair, what do you feel are the next steps towards adequately funding our roads and bridges and underground infrastructure in Michigan?

: This is something we are taking a hard look at. The A: This is something the state of Michigan's road, bridges and infrastructure funding is frankly embarrassing when compared to other Great Lakes states. This also goes back to the difficult

: How has your background as an educator and in local government helped prepare you as a State Representative and as the House Transportation Committee Chair?

: I think teachers are natural leaders. We have been leading students and departments for years and that translates to my legislative work. Coming from local government was an important experience for me to gain. Roads and infrastructure have always been important to our residents and we made it a priority all of the years I served on the Sterling Heights city council and I am happy to bring that experience to the House Transportation Committee.

What transportation and infrastructure legislative priorities do you have for the 2023 - 2024 term?

: First, I would say that I was happy to pass mine and Vice f A Chair MacDonnell's to allow for high occupancy vehicle lanes in Michigan. I look forward to getting it through the Senate and to the governor's desk. My priority moving forward is to move a few bills that address road worker safety, i.e., speed cameras in work zones and concrete barriers to protect workers.

What has been your reaction to the public's calls for increased underground infrastructure investment in Michigan?



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conversations we need to have. I will also add that we need to figure out what path we want to take to fund our roads with the increased sales of electric vehicles. Toll roads, vehicle miles traveled, and kilowatt hours, these are all possible funding mechanisms for the future of road funding.

What are your thoughts or comments on your relationship with MITA and the heavy construction industry?

: During my 4+ years on the Transportation Committee, A I have had a great working relationship with MITA and many other organizations. I understand how important the work you do is, and it is critical to have a good working relationship to get things done for Michiganders.

How can our MITA members better advocate for their industry and encourage the legislature to act on increased investment for our infrastructure?

: I would say that MITA's current leadership does a great job of advocating for your members. They are always there to educate my committee members, answer individual questions, and make sure we are aware of issues that your industry is dealing with.

About Representative Nate Shannon

State Rep. Nate Shannon is serving his third term and currently represents the new 58th House District, which comprises the city of Utica and portions of Sterling Heights, Warren and Shelby Township in Macomb County.

Shannon received his bachelor's degree in political science from Oakland University and a master's degree in secondary education from Wayne State University.

Before joining the state Legislature in 2019, Shannon spent a decade as a high school economics, history and government teacher with L'Anse Creuse Public Schools in Clinton Township. He also served on the Sterling Heights City Council.

In the 102nd Legislature, Shannon will serve as chair of the Transportation, Mobility, and Infrastructure Committee and as a member of the Local Government and Municipal Finance; Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation; and Education committees.

Shannon and his wife, Lori, have three children. CS



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KEY LEGISLATORS VISIT MOUND ROAD CONSTRUCTION SITE



From L to R: Joe Goodall (Dan's), Rep. Sharon MacDonell, Rep. Ranjeez Puri, Rep. Denise Mentzer, Rep. Donavan McKinney, Rep. Nate Shannon and Steve Lampton (Dan's).

On July 20 several key members of the House of Representatives toured the reconstruction of Mound Road between I-696 and M-59. Key decision makers for transportation in the Michigan Legislature were present, including House Transportation Committee Chairman Nate Shannon and House Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation Ranjeev Puri, amongst other key transportation committee members.



Mark Hackel welcomes the group to Macomb County and explains the process of raising the necessary revenue for the project.



Prime contractor on the project, Dan's Excavating, provided a great experience for the guests. Lawmakers received a briefing on the overall project from leaders at Dan's as well as a discussion from Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel on the successful collaboration between the County, State and Federal Governments in receiving the necessary financing for such an important infrastructure asset to the communities it passes through.

Legislative construction site visits are one of the best ways MITA can advocate for the industry. The enormous scale of the projects occurring are eye-opening to individuals who have no background in the industry yet make policy decisions that affect it significantly. Having these tours is extremely educational for those making important decisions affecting your company.

MITA is in the process of scheduling other visits across the state. If you have a project that you would like to highlight and schedule a visit with legislators, please contact Lance Binoniemi, Vice President of Government Affairs, at lancebinoniemi@thinkmita.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Rob Coppersmith, Executive Vice President, at robcoppersmith@thinkmita.org CS





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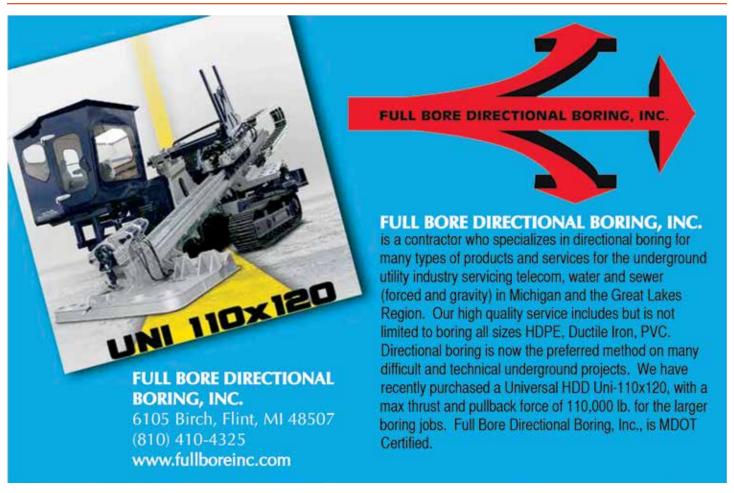
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Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E. To contact Rachelle VanDeventer, P.E., email her at rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

MDOT TO PHASE **OUT CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS**

Have you ever received a Contractor Performance Evaluation (CPE) you did not agree with? Over the years, MITA has heard many industry concerns regarding the MDOT CPE process. These concerns are often related to how subjective, and sometimes even inaccurate, the reported ratings would be. Due to the subjective nature, sometimes the contractor would wonder if a rating was solely based on the actual work performed, or if there were other factors impacting the rating that are outside of what should be considered. These concerns led to the creation of a CPE Focus Group, consisting of a variety of stakeholders, including contractors, MITA, FHWA, MDOT Contract Services, MDOT field personnel, and MDOT Construction Field Services.

The focus group was formed in 2019 and tasked with performing a Lean Process Improvement of the MDOT CPE process, including developing recommendations based on any findings. After analyzing data and multiple collaborative meetings, industry and MDOT agreed that the best recommendation would be to eliminate the CPE process altogether. MDOT has stated that the main intention of the CPE was to document and improve contractor performance, leading to improved quality in construction projects. A CPE could also be used as a basis for modifying the prequalification rating of the contractor (although this process seemed to be rarely used for this purpose). And although the CPE goals may have been well intentioned, there was consensus among the focus group that the subjective process may not be conducive to the desired result.

In the absence of the CPE process, MDOT has commented and is reminding all (MDOT staff and contractors) that the Notice of Non-Compliance with Contract Requirements (Form 1165) should be used to communicate contractor noncompliance and to provide timeframes for remedy of the non-compliance issues as applicable. MDOT is also adding clarifying language to their internal guidance on the issuance of Form 1165, including applicable options of "condition to be corrected" items. Compliance with the contract requirements should not be subjective, and the 1165 should only be used on non-compliance items which can be specifically defined and addressed. MDOT may use the 1165 forms to assist the Contract Performance Evaluation Review Team and/or MDOT's Prequalification Committee when reviewing patterns and trends in lieu of CPEs.

Industry concerns have been voiced on whether the MDOT Project Engineer may misuse the Notice of Non-Compliance with Contract Requirements (Form 1165) without previous communication attempts. Additional concerns expressed included the potential for this process to be abused and used to control work. MDOT has assured us that this process is not intended to be a first line of communication and that will be reinforced with field staff as they implement the updated guidance. They also informed us, as with any MDOT process that is revised or newly implemented, CFS will monitor the process for improvements.

MDOT is using a phased approach to eliminate the CPE process. The first phase will begin with all trunkline projects beginning with the August 2023 letting with a final completion date on or after June 5, 2024. MDOT plans to complete the elimination of the CPE process with local agency projects, likely beginning the following fiscal year with a second phase. MDOT will be continuously evaluating the first phase and use any lessons learned to help support local agencies during the second phase rollout.

Continued on page 50

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MISS DIG SCOPE OF WORK CHANGES

Greg Brooks

To contact Greg Brooks, email him at gregbrooks@thinkmita.org or call the MITA office at 517-347-8336.

The recent changes made at MISS DIG regarding the scope of work allowed per ticket has created much confusion and frustration. I want to outline exactly what changes were made, discuss the process that MISS DIG utilizes to make changes like this, and finally provide some input on how the changes have impacted MITA members.

The changes are:

On a normal 21-day urban ticket, the previous scope was 20,000 square feet. It is now, up to 1,320 linear feet in any direction, with a max of 20,000 square feet.

On a normal 21-day rural ticket, the previous scope was up to 50,000 square feet. It is now up to 2,640 linear feet in any direction, with a maximum area of 50,000 square feet.

Normal 180-day tickets had the same parameters as the 21-day tickets, and the same new parameters apply.

21-day project tickets have been suspended, and MISS DIG recommends utilizing the normal 21-day tickets.

Project 180-day urban project tickets had the scope of "from 20,001 sq. ft. up to the Written Scope of Work Guidelines."

With the following parameters:

- One street per ticket.
- Divided roads: traffic-bound in each direction on a separate ticket.
- Up to a one-mile route (road or off-road) when encountering intersections along the route.
- Up to two miles along a route (road or offroad) with no intersections.
- Up to 200-ft. radius of intersections.
- Up to 10 addresses or lots on the same street with a total distance of no more than one mile. Up to 5 buildings per ticket.

The new scope of work for the 180-day urban project ticket is "Minimum 20,001 sq. ft. up to 1,742,400 sq. ft. with a maximum of 1,320 linear feet in any direction."

With the following parameters:

- One street per ticket.
- Divided roads: traffic bound in each direction on a separate ticket.
- Up to 200ft radius of intersections.
- Up to 10 addresses per ticket within 1320 linear ft.

Continued on page 51





Rob Donnell (left) presents, Tony Lawhead (right), with the Spotlight on Safety T-shirt. Tony is a construction foreman with Elmer's Crane and Dozer in Traverse City, Michigan, and was recognized by MITA and Team Elmer's for his exceptional safety record. Tony has been with Team Elmer's for 33 years. He is a safety leader who runs some of the company's most challenging jobs and his ability to train new crews is invaluable. Congratulations, Tony! CS





Michael C. Decker Butzel Long 248.258.2604 decker@butzel.com

CASE LAW UPDATE:

CONSTRUCTION LIEN RIGHTS OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, AND CONSULTANTS

By: Michael C. Decker, Shareholder, Butzel Long

Recently, the Court of Appeals issued a decision in the case of ECI Environmental Consultants & Engineers LLC v House of Providence, 2023 WL 2721399 (Mich App March 30, 2023), which provides clarity on the Construction Lien Act and the rights of construction lien claimants, in particular, with respect to those who provide architectural, engineering, or environmental services such as planning, programming, and surveying.

In ECI, the Court of Appeals held that the trial court erred when it relied on MCL 570.1114 in granting summary disposition to defendant, House of Providence, under MCR 2.116(C)(8). As to the dismissal of its request to foreclose on the construction lien, plaintiff, ECI Environmental Consultants & Engineers LLC, argued that "the trial court improperly relied on MCL 570.1114" when it should have instead relied on MCL 570.1118. The appellate court noted that plaintiff "did not undertake work for defendant related to the existing residential structure(s) on the property. Rather, the work was to prepare the physical site or land, through remediation of hazardous substances, to achieve suitability for future construction..." Thus, the appellate court concluded that "the trial court's reliance of MCL 570.1114 was improper. Rather, the definitions of MCL 570.1107(1), regarding the rights of a contractor 'who provides an improvement to real property' to a construction lien, in conjunction with MCL 570.1104 (6) defining the types of labor that provide an 'improvement' to property, are more appropriate to apply to the work performed by plaintiff." The appellate court held that when "viewed with the statutory definition of a 'contract,' which indicates a 'contract' can be 'of whatever nature,' as long as it 'provides an improvement to real property,' MCL 570.1103(4), there is, at a minimum, a question of fact as

to whether plaintiff's alleged work would be sufficient to qualify for a construction lien." The appellate court noted that "while MCL 570.1114 requires a written contract, MCL 570.1104(6) does not include a written requirement in its definition of a contract." Thus, the appellate court held



that the trial court erred in granting summary disposition based on its misapprehension as to "the applicability and requirements of MCL 570.1114, to the exclusion of other provisions."

In ECI, defendant also claimed that "plaintiff did not provide an 'improvement' on the subject property as contemplated by the statute, precluding foreclosure of the construction lien." The appellate court held that given "the specific terms, 'surveying' and 'engineering and architectural planning' contained within MCL 570.1104(6) allude to similar forms of labor engaged in by plaintiff, allowing an inference," and thus, a question of fact about whether its labor was contemplated by the statute. The appellate court concluded that "plaintiff's work can best be described as an essential step in preparing defendant's land and structures for its stated purpose of housing children. Therefore, plaintiff's environmental consulting services could be construed as an 'improvement,' as contemplated by MCL 570.1104(6)." The Court of Appeals, therefore, reversed and remanded the decision to the trial court.

As mentioned above, ECI provides clarity on the Construction Lien Act and the rights of construction lien claimants, in particular, with respect to those who provide architectural, engineering, or environmental services such as planning, programming, and surveying. If you provide any services involving a project or improvement, it is prudent that you take the necessary steps to perfect a construction lien under the Act, even if you question whether those services are lienable under the Act, since those services could eventually be determined lienable and that lien could eventually secure payment for those services.

If you have any questions or concerns or need any assistance in handling any construction related matters, in particular, construction lien related matters, please contact the author of this alert or any of the attorneys in Butzel Long's Construction Law Practice Group. **CS**





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We are family. Two generations of Kaltz's and friends making the most of the day on the links.



Winner winner, chicken dinner! Bill Sanger, Site Development, poses with his Dave Fons Memorial Fund Swag. Bill was the big winner of the chipping game at MITA's Metro Golf Outing at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Oakland. The chipping game and golf cannon activities at each outing were sponsored by The Dave Fons Memorial Fund to raise awareness for Truck Safety. To learn more about the Dave Fons Memorial Fund, visit www.trucksafetyfordavefons.org.





Guy Hurley and guests pose for a team photo.



The Give 'Em A Brake guys on the green.





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"We pride ourselves in our work ethics, how we build their jobs, and we take pride in our working relationships with municipalities, private developers and engineering firms," said Fred, whose wife, Robin, works as office administrator. "Our references will confirm our commitment to success!

"Being a family-owned business, we are actively involved in the day-to-day operations, and enjoy working on our projects alongside employees."

MITA's Executive Vice President Rob Coppersmith said: "Freddie da man and his always smiling brother, Don, are all you could ask for in a member! They use our services for training and other facets of their business regularly, and donate to the PAC even when the politics don't necessarily line-up." CS



L to R: Don Meram & Fred Meram



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Scott **517.206.5423** (cell) Tim **734.552.2667** (cell) Fax 517.529.4504

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Bob Broner

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- Bob Broner, President, Broner Glove and Safety Co

Broner Glove Company was established in 1933. Harry Broner and his son Barney began selling work gloves and other convenience items across the street from the Highland Park Assembly Plant, the first ever moving assembly line established by the Ford Motor Company. As manufacturing grew, and with the help of unions and ultimately OSHA, workplace safety and Personal Protective Equipment became an industry. Broner Glove Company evolved into Broner Glove and Safety Company. Now in its fourth generation of family ownership, Broner continues to help companies protect their workers and comply with OSHA rules and regulations. Bob Broner, the current president, credits his father David and grandfather Barney for setting the culture that remains today. CS

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UHY EXPANDS AGAIN IN MICHIGAN; JOINED BY BAIRD, COTTER & BISHOP

COMBINATION BOOSTS UHY'S LARGE PRESENCE IN **MICHIGAN TO NINE TOTAL OFFICES**

UHY recently announced it is expanding its already large presence in Michigan by joining with accounting firm, Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C. The combination of firms, effective June 12, 2023, adds 40 team members and two Michigan offices—one in Cadillac and the other in Traverse City.

Baird, Cotter, and Bishop traces its history back to 1924 when the practice was originally established in Cadillac. Baird, Cotter, and Bishop offers a full range of public accounting services including auditing, compilation, review, payroll services, tax planning, tax compliance, estate planning and estate tax compliance work. The firm concentrates heavily in audits of local units of government in Michigan. In the last two years, they have audited over 100 local units of government.

Regarding the combination, Trent Mulder, Managing Partner of Baird, Cotter and Bishop commented, "We're thrilled to join UHY as it allows us to provide expanded services and resources to better serve our clients and additional opportunities for our employees. There is great chemistry between the two firms and a strong alignment and vision for the future."

The Cadillac and Traverse City offices will join UHY's Great Lakes Region, which is the 5th largest accounting firm in Southeast Michigan with more than 600 employees located in seven offices in Ann Arbor, Detroit, Dowagiac, Farmington Hills, Kalamazoo, Port Huron, and Sterling Heights. UHY has been voted by the Michigan Business & Professional Association as Metro Detroit's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For® - for the 18th year in a row.

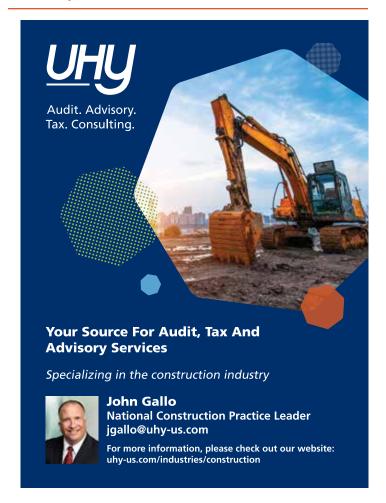
"With this combination, UHY is proud to have nine total offices in the state of Michigan," says Tom Callan, Great Lakes Regional Managing Partner for UHY. "Baird, Cotter, and Bishop has vast experience serving government entities, which will deepen our bench as a trusted service provider to the public sector."

"UHY is excited about our continued growth in Michigan," says Scott Miller, UHY Managing Director, who was instrumental in the combination. "We expanded into Western Michigan late last year with our combination with JVTR and are looking forward to expanding into Northern Michigan with the team at Baird, Cotter, and Bishop."

UHY is the 28th largest accounting firm in the U.S. with 32 offices and more than 1,500 team members.

For more information about UHY, please visit

www.uhy-us.com. CS





KOTZ SANGSTER ATTORNEYS RECOGNIZED BY SUPER LAWYERS

Super Lawyers has published its annual listing of Michigan attorneys who have distinguished themselves in the practice of law. Eighteen (18) lawyers from Kotz Sangster offices across Michigan have been honored by their peers as 2023 Super Lawyers and Rising Stars. Widely recognized as a rating service of outstanding lawyers, Super Lawyers highlights attorneys from 75 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Of special note is the recognition awarded to health care attorney Keith J. Soltis who serves as managing director of the firm's Bloomfield Hills office.

Keith has been included in the Super Lawyers Top 100 listing. Attorneys in this category are deemed "the best of the best" and were vetted during a multiphase selection process involving peer nomination, independent research and peer evaluation.

Kotz Sangster attorneys honored as Super Lawyers and Rising Stars, along with the areas of practice for which they have been recognized, are:

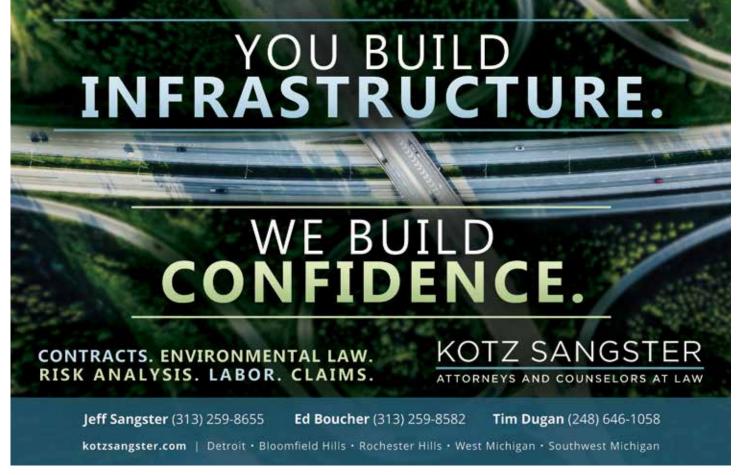
MICHIGAN SUPER LAWYERS

R. Edward Boucher - Construction Litigation George F. Curran, III - Environmental David R. de Reyna – Estate & Probate Jovan Dragovic - Health Care

Mowitt S. Drew, III - Family Law Timothy P. Dugan – Construction Litigation Dennis K. Egan – Business Litigation Walter B. Fisher, Jr. – Employee Benefits Jeffrey M. Sangster – Construction Litigation Robert D. Sheehan – Business Litigation Keith J. Soltis - Health Care Kathryn R.S. Spray - Business/Corporate Gregory L. Wysocki – Mergers & Acquisitions

MICHIGAN RISING STARS

Evan M. Lumley – Construction Litigation **Bruce A. Margulis** – Mergers & Acquisitions Amber D. Peters - General Litigation Tyler P. Phillips – Construction Litigation Joshua L. Whicker - Business Litigation CS





G2 CONSULTING GROUP SECURES AS-NEEDED CONTRACTS WITH MICHIGAN MUNICIPALITIES

CITY OF NOVI IS THE LATEST TO SIGN THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH G2 CONSULTING

G2 Consulting Group, a nationally recognized Troy-based geotechnical, environmental and construction engineering services firm, has contracted with the City of Novi as the latest Michigan municipality to join its growing portfolio of "as-needed" engineering contracts.

G2 Consulting works with dozens of Michigan cities, townships, counties and state agencies under as-needed engineering contracts that typically have multi-year terms. G2's services are wide-ranging, however are mostly centered on infrastructure where the firm provides environmental and geotechnical engineering and materials testing services on projects including storm water and sewer, roadways, bridges, utilities, dams and more to their municipal partners.

"G2's mission is delivering 'Smart. Results. Fast,'" said Mark Smolinski, P.E., principal at G2 Consulting. "We're able to do that especially well for our 'as-needed' partners since we have a relationship in place we know the people and understand their systems and preferred approaches. We're ready to immediately jump in if there's an urgent issue, or we can strategize with clients on the best ways to schedule and implement planned maintenance and improvements. It's really a win-win."

Without an as-needed contract, municipalities are left to create unique proposal packages for each project, then review the bids, determine if the supplier is up to the challenge, negotiate price, then educate the supplier on the existing systems — all before the work begins. Even then, there's no guarantee of satisfaction.

"Municipalities face incredibly tough, complex engineering challenges. Our as-needed contracts are usually the reflection of a longstanding relationship with the client - we've proven that we can help their community with innovative solutions through all facets of a project's lifecycle," Smolinski said. "Asneeded contracts are becoming increasingly commonplace as municipalities better understand the synergies they provide. Trying to find a new partner for each project is a crapshoot, and rarely saves time or money in the long run."

Smolinski said that G2's scope of work differs for each locale. Although G2's individual project profit margins are typically lower compared to a one-off project, the firm benefits from the certainty of work and predictability which helps it manage its business. The efficiencies go both-ways. The client doesn't have to navigate a cumbersome bid process with unknown suppliers. And, their as-needed contractor, G2, enters each project with a clear understanding of its goals and likely challenges both on the job site itself and in the broader municipal infrastructure ecosystem.

Specializing in "everything below the ground," G2 Consulting prides itself in finding practical solutions to complex problems and delivering 'Smart. Results. Fast.' For more information on G2 Consulting Group, visit www.g2consultinggroup.com. CS





REHMANN WAS NAMED TO CONSTRUCTION EXECUTIVE'S LIST OF THE TOP 50 CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNTING FIRMS FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The firm ranked 32nd on the list, which surveyed over 700 construction accounting firms.

Construction Executive (CE) determined the top 50 construction accounting firms through an algorithm that weighted several factors. These included 2022 revenue from the firm's construction practice, the number of CPAs in the firm's construction practice, percentage of the firm's total revenue derived from its construction practice, the number of states in which the firm is licensed to practice, year in which the construction practice was established, and the number of AEC clients served during the fiscal year.

"We are thrilled to again be named to Construction Executive's national list and look forward to the additional growth our construction practice group will experience over the next year," said Bob Nagle, principal of Rehmann. "This prestigious list allows us to see our performance compared to competitors and understand how we can continue to encourage

strong relationships with our construction clients."

The list was published in CE's July/August 2023 issue, which featured current topics within the industry and expertise from field professionals. Accounting experts also weighed in, discussing their construction clients' most pressing concerns.

"From IT outsourcing and cybersecurity to retirement plan

administration and tax consulting, Rehmann provides expertise for an array of businesses practices," said Andy Rose, principal of Rehmann. "Our clients know they will receive superior results that consider our everchanging world, which is why our construction practice group multiplies year after year." CS





SUPREME COURT RULING MARKS **VICTORY, BUT BATTLE CONTINUES**

By Rich Juliano, general counsel, American Road and Transportation Builders Association

President John F. Kennedy is credited with saying, "Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan." Sure enough, we celebrated an early Father's Day here in Washington on May 25, courtesy of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Undoubtedly, the Court's ruling that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) exceeded its authority in developing new wetlands regulations is a major win for the transportation construction industry. It means EPA will need to rewrite its "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule, which has risked permitting delays for transportation projects.

The favorable outcome in Sackett vs. EPA resulted from many years of partnership, perseverance and member support. Since 2005, ARTBA has advocated tirelessly for reasonable Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction through multiple administrations. Our federal district court litigation began eight years ago, with the National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association (NSSGA) joining us in the legal trenches as part of a multi-industry coalition.

At issue in Sackett was whether the agency could require a permit for any area with a "significant nexus" to a navigable waterbody, such as a river, lake or stream. The EPA never defined "significant nexus," causing confusion for the entire transportation construction industry. The Court called the "significant nexus" test "particularly implausible" and held the EPA has "no statutory basis to impose it."



In our brief to the Court, ARTBA and NSSGA critiqued the "significant nexus" test, noting it has "no inherent limiting principles" and empowers federal agencies to assert federal jurisdiction "well beyond the limits set by Congress."

ARTBA and NSSGA maintained that defining WOTUS in such an expansive way improperly creates permit obligations for features such as roadside ditches, which serve the necessary safety function of collecting water during and after rain events. This type of overregulation serves only to delay critical infrastructure improvements and increases costs without providing demonstrable environmental benefits.

In its efforts to build projects safely and efficiently, Sackett is a victory for

the industry, but it is by no means the end of the fight. In April, a North Dakota federal court temporarily blocked the WOTUS rule from taking effect in 24 states while it considers the case brought by ARTBA and its allies. With the clarity provided by the Sackett decision in hand, our coalition plans to ask the lower court to vacate the rule, since it is now legally invalid. We will continue advocating for a clear, common-sense definition of the CWA's reach.

Finally, there are true "fathers" (and "mothers") within ARTBA who deserve special recognition for this Several achievement. members and chapters have supported our "Transportation Makes America Work!" (TMAW) program and provided the resources for ARTBA to help lead this

coalition. And on a personal note, the Sackett ruling came as our colleague Nick Goldstein wrapped up nearly 19 years leading our association's regulatory and litigation efforts. While Nick is headed to federal service at the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, his legacy at ARTBA is secure, in no small part because of his leadership in "parenting" better WOTUS policy. CS

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BITCO has specialized in insurance programs for members of the commercial construction industry throughout the various ups and downs of the commercial insurance market and offers participants in the MITA Safety Group the opportunity to earn a portion of the premiums they pay for their insurance program back in the form of safety dividends. They supplement their specialized coverages by also affording you risk control and claims management services that help you potentially reduce the costs of your insurance programs.

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NANCY BROWN RETIRES



Nancy Brown, MITA's Director of Communications, retired as of July 31. Danielle Coppersmith has assumed her duties as Manager of Communications and Events.

Nancy began her career at MITA in 2000, having worked in public relations and print journalism in Michigan and New York after graduating from Michigan State's Honors College in 1978 with a bachelor's degree in Communications. She started working at MITA (which at the time was known as Associated Underground Contractors) when the association was still in the "dark ages," she joked.

"We did not have a website, we sent member bulletins by mail, and the fax machine was our top technology," said Nancy, who helped establish the association's first website, first Facebook page, and sent some of the first e-bulletins along with other MITA staff.

Her main focus throughout the years as MITA's staff grew and changed remained her favorite task: MITA's quarterly magazine, Cross-Section.

"I will never forget my first interview at Grand Valley Concrete Products because I was mercilessly teased as I stumbled around trying to take photos



throughout the construction shop site wearing open-toed sandals," Nancy said. "My favorite interview was with Jackson-Merkey, because the friendly, talkative Steve Jackson talked so much the article wrote itself. And John Malloure with C. A. Hull always actively provided me with construction photos and story ideas."

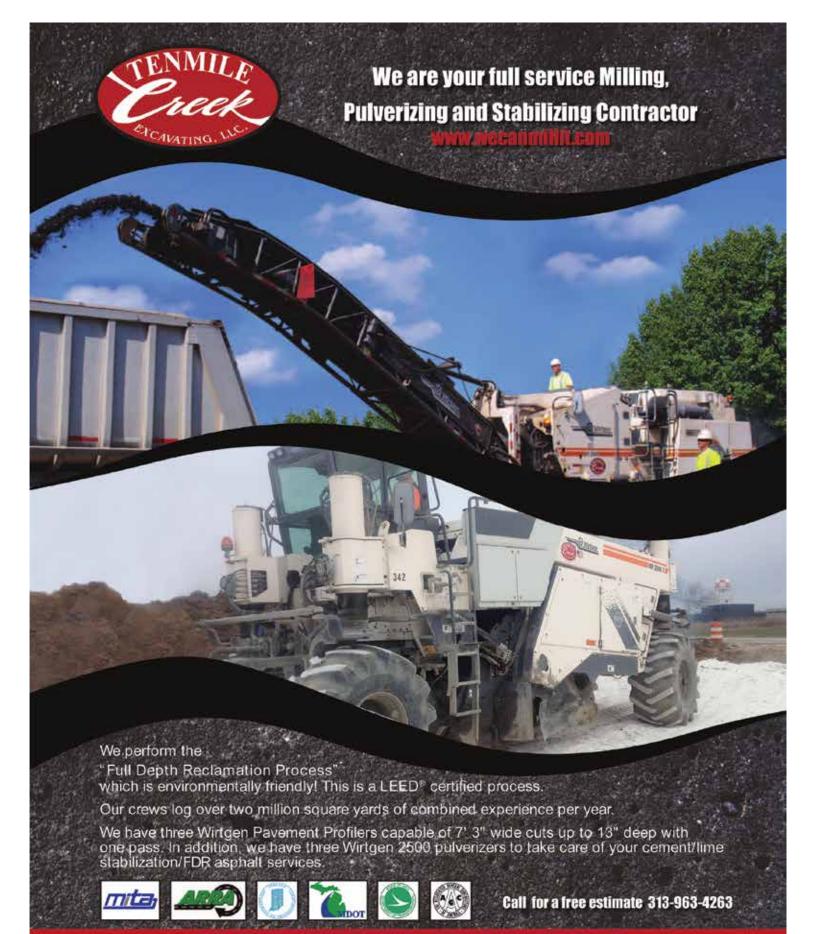
But by far her most memorable time was helping spread the word about Kurt Poll, of K & R, and his dual-purpose trips to Africa to help drill underground wells and also share audio Bibles with residents.

"MITA members are well-known for being hard-working, family-oriented people, who also eagerly find ways to give back to the community around them and around the world, and I admire that," said Nancy, who hopes to find time in retirement to volunteer and give back to the community, in addition to spending time traveling with her husband, Tim, and visiting with their two grown sons, Matt and Andrew, and his wife, Andrea.

MITA's Executive Vice President, Rob Coppersmith, has this to say about Nancy's departure: "Nancy has been an integral part of the MITA family! Her dedication to her craft is evident in our quality magazine and other materials. She will be missed by all of us at MITA." CS







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Job Site Inspections & Safety Training

MITA's major focus on safety encompasses regular training, informational updates and regular job site inspections to ensure that member companies are compliant with keeping the workforce and motorists safe when work is being done.

MITA staff is available for inspections upon request.

For more information, to schedule a job site inspection, or to set up a job training session please contact:

Greg Brooks

Director of Safety & Compliance Phone: 517-507-2531 gregbrooks@thinkmita.org



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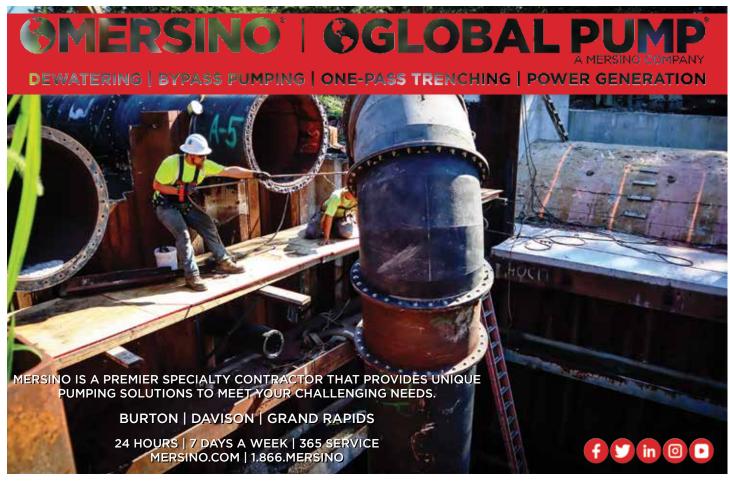
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- ROGERS CITY MILAN SAGINAW STURGIS WHEELER WHITMORE LAKE

NDIANA: MUNCIE · MODOC · HOWE

OHIO: TOLEDO





Continued from page 11

Paving aims to break down gender barriers by ensuring that women hold positions throughout the company, and by making it a priority to highlight some of the talented women at Hutch Paving during the annual "Women in Construction Week", held every March. Through targeted recruitment efforts, supportive work environments, and mentorship, they aim to provide equal opportunities for all employees who have an interest in the construction industry.

"We provide training and make sure we let employees know how much they are appreciated," Michael said. By fostering a strong sense of camaraderie, Hutch Paving has witnessed an impressive trend of employee loyalty, with many team members choosing to stay with the company for years.

Rick said they provide time off guarantees such as a weekend off every month and no Sundays all year. "If they know they have the weekend off, they can make plans, and they appreciate that."

As the momentous occasion of Hutch Paving's 30-year anniversary approaches, their vision remains steadfast: maintaining unwavering dedication to their employees, customers, and communities while adapting to evolving industry demands and leading the way, setting them apart and ensuring continued growth and success. CS

Continued from page 14

Shortly after the budget was finalized, Governor Whitmer announced the new population growth council that will have a focus on infrastructure and education. MITA Executive Vice President Rob Coppersmith was announced to sit on that council and will be an important influence in finding solutions to our road funding revenue gap. We anticipate policy recommendations from that council by the end of the year with the hope of having a sincere legislative debate soon on finding a long-term, equitable and sustainable road funding plan. CS

Continued from page 22

Another item that has come up from time to time, including during the process improvements discussions, was the desire for a contractor to be able to review the MDOT Project Engineer. There is a Project Engineer Evaluation form (Form 1110) that is confidential that contractors can submit on a voluntary basis to evaluate the MDOT engineer's performance. This may be a process to consider for possible future department improvements to be implemented.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this topic, please feel free to reach out to me at rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org. CS





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Continued from page 24

• Up to 5 buildings within 1320 linear ft.

Project 180-day rural tickets had the scope of "from 50,001 sq. ft up to the Written Scope of Work Guidelines."

With the following parameters

- One street per ticket.
- Divided roads: traffic-bound in each direction on a separate ticket.
- Up to a one-mile route (road or off-road) when encountering intersections along the route.
- Up to two miles along a route (road or offroad) with no intersections.
- Up to 200-ft. radius of intersections.
- Up to 10 addresses or lots on the same street with a total distance of no more than one mile.
- Up to 5 buildings per ticket.

The new scope of work for the 180-day rural project ticket is a "minimum 20,001 sq. ft. up to 6,969,600 sq. ft. with a maximum of 2,640 linear feet in any direction."

With the following parameters:

- One street per ticket.
- Divided roads: traffic bound in each direction on a separate ticket.
- Up to 200ft radius of intersections.
- Up to 10 addresses per ticket within 2640 linear ft.
- Up to 5 buildings within 2640 linear ft.

The idea of the change was first brought to the Michigan Damage Prevention Board for discussion in January of 2023 by representatives from USIC and Consumers; it was determined at that meeting that clarification was needed on items,

Further discussion was had during the next meeting in March, and a vote was taken to determine whether or not the proposal should be taken to the MISS DIG board of directors. The discussion was heated, but ultimately it was passed 7-1 to take the proposal to the MISS DIG board. I was the lone "nay" vote. I made the argument that the change was, first of all, a very inconvenient band-aid to the fact that the facility owners did not have adequate staffing to keep up with locate requests. I also made the point that the changes would mostly not change the square footage that we would need staked on a certain day but only increase the number of tickets that we would have to submit in order to get it. Clearly, my arguments fell on deaf ears.

The logic behind the change is said to be that other states have the same polygon sizes and have fewer damages and safetyrelated incidents. At this point, according to MISS DIG, there is not enough data to determine if that is the case in Michigan.

I am continuing to fight this fight. I think there is a happy medium that will satisfy our membership and still get the intended results. CS



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ROB M. COPPERSMITH EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

robcoppersmith@thinkmita.org

Rob oversees all operations, staff and services at MITA. In his role as Executive VP, he implements policy based on his interaction with the MITA Board of Directors and membership. He prudently manages the organization's resources within approved annual budget guidelines. Rob also oversees all of the services that are offered to MITA members.

LANCE T. BINONIEMI VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

lancebinoniemi@thinkmita.org

Lance coordinates the political and legislative efforts for the association. Contact him regarding contributing to MITA's Political Action Committee, talking points to use when meeting with legislators, and questions regarding MITA's political strategy with federal, state and local officials, regulatory agencies and key policymakers.

RACHELLE VANDEVENTER P.E., VP OF ENGINEERING

rachellevandeventer@thinkmita.org

A licensed professional engineer, Rachelle provides professional expertise in many areas. Contact her regarding resolving construction issues related to publicly and privately funded projects, working with utility companies to minimize construction impacts and delays, advocating with other industry organizations, and issues related to MDOT, FHWA, USDOL, MDEQ and county/local agencies.

GLENN J. BUKOSKI P.E., ENGINEERING CONSULTANT

glennbukoski@thinkmita.org

A licensed professional engineer, Glenn brings to MITA over 49 years of transportation-related experience in the areas of construction, design, specifications, materials testing and research. Contact him with questions related to engineering, project administration, prevailing wage, competitive bidding or prompt pay, and issues regarding DBE's, MDOT, and bridge operations.

JEREMIAH LEYBA, P.E., DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

jeremiahleyba@thinkmita.org

Jeremiah Leyba is MITA's newest staff member and, as Director of Engineering, is responsible for meeting the needs of MITA members in a wide variety of areas within the association and across the industry. As a licensed professional engineer in the state of Michigan, he will be responsible for supporting members with challenges related to construction specifications, field issues, various governmental rules and regulations, utility conflicts, and other technical matters.

GREG BROOKS DIRECTOR OF SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

gregbrooks@thinkmita.org

Greg's certifications include Red Cross First Aid/CPR Trainer, and OSHA approved instructor for OSHA 10 and OSHA 30 courses. Contact him regarding job site inspections, safety training, MIOSHA appeals, compliance issues and utility locating issues.

DANIELLE R. COPPERSMITH MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND **EVENTS**

daniellecoppersmith@thinkmita.org

Danielle manages and organizes each of MITA's many social, leadership and education events in addition to managing MITA's quarterly magazine. Contact her regarding event registration and questions, MITA website technical issues, placing paid ads in the MITA weekly e-bulletins and articles, photos and ads for MITA's magazine.

SARA J. SCHAIBLY MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING AND LABOR **INFORMATION**

saraschaibly@thinkmita.org

Contact Sara with questions related to accounts payable and receivable. Sara also handles wage rate updates and labor meeting

LINDSAY LEONARD MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

lindsayleonard@thinkmita.org

Membership Services Coordinator

As Membership Services Coordinator, Lindsay is responsible for meeting the needs of MITA members in many areas of the association. Her primary function is to help expand efficiencies in the MITA office by providing support services to staff and members. Lindsay handles new member processing. Contact her regarding Stolen Equipment Notices, In Memoriams for the MITA Weekly Newsletter and the prospective MITA member application process. Additionally, Lindsay assists MITA's Director of Safety and Compliance to process MIOSHA Appeals, CPR & First Aid cards as well as processing requests for other jobsite needs. She also helps the Manager of Communications and Events with the MITA website, events and related databases.

MITA PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 2937 ATRIUM DR., SUITE 100, OKEMOS, MI 48864 MITA MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 1640, OKEMOS, MI 48805-1640

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MITA Safety Training





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MITA 2023 Calendar of Events

January

- 5 8 MITA Ski Weekend, Boyne Mountain
- 9 12 OSHA 30 Training, MITA Office
- 18 19 MITA Annual Conference, Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
- 30 Feb 1 OSHA 30 Training, MITA Office

February

18-25 - MITA Management Conference, Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort and Spa, Kauai

March

- 8 Foreman Bootcamp, Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort, Mount Pleasant
- 9 Foreman Bootcamp, Oakland Center, **Oakland University**
- 10 Foreman Bootcamp, Davenport University, Grand Rapids

April

14 - Foreman Bootcamp, Northern Center, NMU, Marquette

June

8 - Western Golf Outing, Boulder Creek, **Grand Rapids**

July

12 - Metro Golf Outing, Twin Lakes, Oakland

August

- 10 13 Summer Conference, Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville
- 24 Central Golf Outing, Eagle Eye, **East Lansing**

September

27 - MITA Wild Game Dinner, Palazzo Grande, Shelby Twp.

December

- 8 Central Holiday Party, Joe's on Jolly
- 12 Western Holiday Party, Peppino's, **Grand Rapids**
- 20 Metro Holiday Party, Somerset Inn, Troy





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A Collective Bargaining Agreement

For our Contractors:



Safer Jobsites with Less Injuries

Administration of Benefits

Less Time Lost

Free Staff Training

For our Communities:



Projects on Time and on Budget

Partnerships and Sponsorships

A pathway to success

Advocates for Infrastructure

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