



Alaska Designs

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The Official Newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council

Focus on Ports & Harbors

ASCE Report Card on Infrastructure: C- Composite

Editor's Note: The Alaska Section of ASCE issued its first report card on Alaska's infrastructure, covering nine critical infrastructure categories, in February 2017. Using ASCE's methodology, the composite grade came to a C minus. This is the third in a series of articles exploring each of the nine categories.

By Carl Uchtyl, P.E.

At the February roll-out of the inaugural Alaska ASCE Report Card, Ports & Harbors mustered just a grade of D+. This is distressing as no other state is more dependent on maritime traffic and associated infrastructure than the 49th State. According to a Northern Economic study commissioned by the Alaska Association of Harbormasters & Port Administrators (AAHPA), in 2015, \$28B and 40.8 million tons of goods/product were moved via marine transport out; and, \$4.8B and 3.4 million tons of goods/product moved into the state. The top exporting facilities include Valdez (TAPS), Kivalina (Red Dog Mine), and Nikiski (Tesoro refinery). The Port of Anchorage is the recipient of 85% of all consumer goods inbound, which are distributed to three-quarters of the state's population.

Harbors ensure a thriving commercial fishing industry exists with over \$1.7B of fish product landed in Alaska in 2014, including six of the top 10 fishing ports by volume in the U.S. Additionally, tourism plays a significant role in several communities with a record 1.06 million passengers anticipated to arrive via

cruise ships in 2017.

The ASCE Report Card noted lack of "capacity" as a limitation. With 33,000 miles of coastline, more than the combined shoreline of the continental U.S., there are only approximately 125 ports and harbors within the state providing services that support critical economic activities. Alaska is dependent upon resource extraction, including fisheries, but lacks infrastructure to support vessels operating in Alaska. As a result, there is an estimated \$5B lost revenue opportunity to Puget Sound harbors and boatyards. Juneau recently recapitalized its cruise ship berths with a \$71M expansion project enabling its port to handle four neo-panamax size cruise ships. However, the cruise industry does not have sufficient shore-side facilities elsewhere in Southeast Alaska that would provide needed growth opportunities in tourism.

The existing "condition" of Alaska small boat harbors is a concern, primarily for municipally owned infrastructure, with great variance depending on the ability of the local government to generate revenue. The majority of harbors were maintained by the state until 2000, when the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT) began a program of divestiture to local municipalities. This effort has created a wide range of facility conditions throughout the 100 municipal harbors and the 24 state-managed harbors. These facilities play a vital role in the communities they serve by providing local employment op-

portunities, promoting economic diversification and meeting cultural and subsistence lifestyles.

The Port of Anchorage structure condition remains precarious as the dock facility has exceeded its useful life and severe piling corrosion threatens to impact port operations serving the majority of the Alaska population, including military facilities of national significance. An estimated \$400 million is necessary to accomplish replacement and modernization of the facility with only a quarter of the funding currently secured. Anchorage budgets more than \$5 million annually to maintain operational capacity of existing wharf piles and other aging port infrastructure, but this work does little to enhance the facility's earthquake resilience. The current band-aid approach is not sustainable and funding strategies must be realized.

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ASCE Report Card: Focus on Ports and Harbors

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The ASCE Report Card also considered the future needs for the state. Rising to the top in this category is the requirement to develop a deep-water Arctic port. An emerging Arctic Ocean poses both opportunity and risk for trans-shipment to the region. Smart, well planned developments that enhance port infrastructure – including deep-draft port facilities currently unavailable north of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor – would meet the state’s goal of encouraging economic development in remote areas and provide local and regional economic development opportunities (resource extraction, tourism, and research).

There are several recommendations that would raise the grade of D+ for Ports & Harbors:

1. Given limited federal opportunities to fund small boat harbor recapitalization projects, it is imperative that the State of Alaska prioritize legislative appropriations and its matching ADOT Harbor Facility grant opportunities to the maximum extent allowable. Without safe and efficient access to ports and the ocean, the main regional economic driver in many of our communities will be lost.
2. The Port of Anchorage, which provides 85% of all consumer goods to three-quarters of the state’s population, is in desperate need of capital infusion to rebuild aging infrastructure and construct resilient facilities. Funding \$300M through state legislative appropriations or bonds is necessary to realize the port needs in Alaska’s largest city.
3. Several federal waterways are maintained by the US Army Corps of Engineers through dredging and breakwaters

projects within Alaska. Annual dredging at ports such as Dillingham and Ninilchik is necessary to maintain economic vitality for their rural regions. Other Army Corps projects include dredging on a 10-year cycle for the Cook Inlet Navigation Channel, Bethel, Ketchikan and Seward. The recent 2017 passage of the Waterways Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act will positively impact Alaska harbors directly by permanently requiring 10% of the annual Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund be directed to emerging ports. It is highly recommended that all Alaska communities support future reauthorizations of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) providing resources

4. That the State of Alaska and the federal government work in concert to develop the necessary infrastructure and governance to meet the economic opportunity that a Deep Draft Arctic Port would provide to this Nation.
5. That the State and local cruise ship ports continue to collect Commercial Passenger Vessel Excise Tax and local “head tax” for passengers disembarking Alaska port facilities. To mitigate the impacts caused by increased tourism, the state and local ports must leverage funds to build infrastructure that improves safety and efficiency for the cruise ships and its passengers. ❖



Mike Pusich Douglas Harbor Reconstruction 2017. Photo by Lance Greer. More harbor photos on pages 6, 7.

Founding Partner of CMH Consultants

Celebration of Life: Paul B. Crews, Sr.

A Celebration of Life for Paul B. Crews, Sr., will convene at 6 p.m. Tuesday, August 8, at the Kincaid Park Chalet.

August 8th marks Paul's 100th birthday and even though he left us 18 days early it doesn't stop the party! He left us much to celebrate!

The family invites all of Paul's friends and former associates to come and share interesting and/or amusing experiences about Paul. Please bring a happy mood, dress comfortably, and share the joy that Paul brought to our lives. Rarely do we have the privilege of having someone this inspiring in our lives. We hope to hear a lot of good stories.

And if you feel inclined, please consider relating your story early in the evening. After the family speaks they would appreciate having a few folks to call on to kick things off. If you would like to do this or would like further information, please contact Dave Crews at (907) 230-1354 or email to him at davemary@gci.net. ❖

Could be broadcast to UA campuses outside Anchorage

UAA Northern Design Course Starts August 28

The University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Northern Design course will be offered Wednesdays from 7 to 9:45 p.m. from August 28 through December 8, 2017.

If there is interest, arrangements can be made to broadcast the course from the UAA campus in Anchorage and offer it at UA classrooms in Fairbanks, Juneau, and/or MatSu communities. Contact Andrew Metzger (at-metzger@alaska.edu) if you are interested in enrolling in the course.

EA A411 Northern Design, 3 Credits: Introduction to design and maintenance of facilities in northern climates to construct sustainable, energy-efficient and durable buildings and infrastructure suitable for the unique needs of northern inhabitants.

Registration restrictions: Senior or graduate standing in an accredited program in architecture or engineering, or instructor permission. ❖

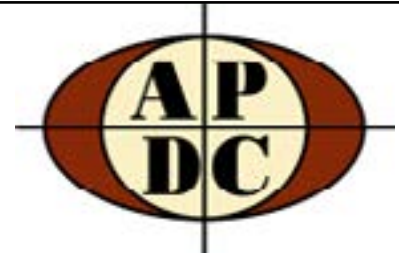
SHS 'Rendezvous' at Concord, MA, Sept 13-16

America's most unique national surveying event, the 'Rendezvous,' is coming to New England for the first time ever.

Please join Surveyors Historical Society (SHS) at Concord, Massachusetts, this September 13 to 16 for a celebration of our profession's accomplished past. We'll learn about the life of 1800s surveyor Henry David Thoreau - one of the earliest and most effective champions nature ever had. His profound understanding of nature developed largely while surveying. On September 14, SHS and the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) will dedicate a survey disk to honor Thoreau's memory, at his humble gravesite in Concord.

We'll also learn about New England border disputes that lasted centuries, early tunnel surveying, the 'Land Court' of Massachusetts, and some truly 'one-of-a-kind' colonial deeds. All modern professions, no matter how high-tech, build upon achievements of their past.

Space is filling and the deadline for discount registrations is August 15. Membership in SHS is not required. Full information and registration details can be found at www.SurveyorsHistoricalSociety.com. ❖



The monthly newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council does not necessarily express the opinions of the Council, the member societies, or their members.

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Call to Action

Individuals Can Help Keep Alaska State Parks Great

Editor's Note: The author/photographer asked to share this story anonymously; it is shared not to call attention to personal actions, but in hopes of inspiring others to follow suit.

We are all acutely aware of the current state budget issues. After schools and transportation, the Alaska State Parks are probably the part of the state that we use most often. As with other state agencies, State Parks is able to meet only the highest priorities of its mandate, and many facilities are falling into disrepair.

Unlike roads or schools, there are things we can all do to help State Parks. These pictures are the Deception Creek Day Use Parking Area before and after three hours of work by a family of three.

State Parks appreciates any help they can get and all it took was a five-minute conversation to get permission. The Mat-Su Borough provided free tipping for three loads of brush and one of trash.

There are trails that need repair and upkeep, signs that need paint, and trash that needs to be picked up. I encourage everyone to take part of a day and chip in to keep our State Parks great. ❖



Deception Creek Day Use Parking Area before visit (above), and after visit.



Coffman Engineers Introduces Four New Employees

ANCHORAGE (July 31, 2017) –Coffman Engineers is pleased to announce the addition of four new employees: Edward Lightwood, P.E., has joined the civil engineering department; Nicholai Smith, P.E., has rejoined the electrical engineering department; and, Ryan Gilchrist and Korey Hughes have been hired as drafters/designers.

Lightwood is a professional, licensed engineer in Alaska with 30 plus years of experience. He has vast knowledge in project management, contracts, planning, engineering, procurement and construction. He has worked in a wide variety of areas and projects including highways, aviation, site development, environmental, and oil and gas. Prior to joining Coffman Engineers, Lightwood worked at R&M Consultants, successfully operated a small engineering firm, and then managed and delivered EPC projects and programs for ConocoPhillips. He is excited to be working at Coffman Engineers and adds, “As a Senior Project Manager, I am excited to join the Coffman Team and look forward



to helping in the successful delivery of projects, sharing, learning, and helping Coffman grow stronger and into new markets.”

Smith, a prior employee of Coffman Engineers, received his Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Wyoming. He is responsible for electrical design of power, lighting, and communication systems. Smith has worked on commercial and industrial facilities and is a certified commercial energy auditor. He states, “I am pleased to rejoin the Coffman team and look forward to my continued success here.”



Gilchrist obtained an Associates degree in Architectural and Engineering Technology from the University of Alaska Anchorage and



previously worked at CH2M Hill in Anchorage. He will work in the civil engineering department and will utilize his eight years of experience providing CAD expertise in Autodesk programs, 3D Modeling, and BIM software.

Hughes completed the Architectural Engineering Technology (CAD) Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage and is a certified drafter for civil, structural, mechanical, and electrical engineering. He will work directly with the mechanical and piping department at Coffman Engineers as well as electrical and instrumentation design teams.

Coffman Engineers is proud to celebrate 38 years of providing clients with multidiscipline engineering solutions and is ranked at #198 in Engineering News-Record's 2017 Top 500 Design Firms list. Our services include civil, structural, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, commissioning, process piping, instrumentation and controls, corrosion control, alternative and renewable energy, and land surveying. Coffman Engineers has more than 400 employees servicing clients across the U.S. and overseas from offices in Anchorage, Alaska; Bozeman, Montana; Charleston, South Carolina; Fulton, Maryland; Hagatna, Guam; Honolulu, Hawaii; Hood River, Oregon; Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego, California; and Seattle and Spokane, Washington. For additional firm information, please visit www.coffman.com or follow us on Twitter @CoffmanEngineer and LinkedIn. ❖

Member Societies

Alaska Society of Professional Engineers (ASPE)
 Alaska Society of Professional Land Surveyors (ASPLS)
 American Institute of Architects Alaska Chapter (AIA)
 American Society of Civil Engineers Alaska Section (ASCE)
 American Society of Landscape Architects Alaska Chapter (ASLA)
 American Council of Engineering Companies of Alaska (ACEC)
 American Society of Interior Designers Alaska Chapter (ASID)
 Institute of Transportation Engineers Alaska Chapter (ITE)
 Structural Engineers Association of Alaska (SEAAK)

Deadline is the 20th of the Month

The deadline for submittals to *Alaska Designs* is the 20th of each month. Send your news, photos, or Help Wanted ads to the editor, Vicky Sterling, at sterlingtouch@gci.net. ❖

Corissa Andrews to Support AECOM Anchorage Office as Student Intern before Reporting to WSU in Fall

AECOM, a premier, fully integrated global infrastructure firm, announced that it has hired Corissa Andrews

to support its Alaska operations as a student intern. In this role, Corissa will provide project and administrative support to Anchorage's 700 G Street location.



"I am eager to announce that Corissa Andrews has joined our team," said AECOM Alaska Operations Manager, Laura Young. "Corissa is a bright talent who has considerable interest in Environmental Engineering and sustainable infrastructure development."

Corissa is a 2017 graduate of Robert Service High School in Anchorage, where she was enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) studies. Corissa will enroll at Washington State University in Pullman during the fall of 2017, majoring in Environmental Engineering. She has been enrolled in German language studies for six years, has earned the Seal of Biliteracy, and plans to earn a dual major in German. Corissa is a lifelong Alaskan and a shareholder at Sealaska Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation. ❖

Denton Brings Wealth of Experience

Stephen (Steve) Denton is a professional engineer who brings over 40 years of experience in mining, consulting and construction to the AECOM team. Steve is a third-generation Alaskan, and second generation graduate of the University of Alaska Fairbanks, School of Mines.



Steve spent over half of his career at Usibeli Coal Mine, Inc., near Healy. During his tenure at Usibeli Coal Mine, Inc., Steve held various upper management and vice president positions. In these roles, he was responsible for performing various functions including design,

permitting and management for new mine start-ups, coal process facility construction, international coal sales, and marine coal export facility operation.

More recently, as an independent contractor, Steve has worked on a number of projects throughout Alaska in public works/roads, marine facilities, exploration, permitting, mine development/operations, and construction. He also has significant project experience working on remote projects in the Arctic as well as experience working with Alaska Native Corporations on natural resource development projects.

Steve is well known throughout the industry statewide and is affiliated with a number of professional organizations including the Alaska Resource Development Council, the Alaska Miners Association, and the American Exploration and Mining Association. ❖



Aurora Harbor Phase I Reconstruction 2015. Photo by Northern Construction Services.



Above: Statter Harbor Launch Ramp Project 2017. Photo by PND Engineers.

Below: Juneau Cruise Ship Berths Project 2017. Photo by Manson Construction Company.



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Sustaining Members help offset newsletter costs, and APDC offers free classified advertising, display ad discounts, and other considerations for their support.

The annual cost is \$115 for the first line, \$40 for each additional line, and \$115 to add a logo. The listing is also placed on www.apdc-ak.org. Contact the editor to join, or update your listing.



Alaska Professional Design Council Calendar

Thursday, August 3, 2017

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs)

APDC, Noon, Bettisworth North's main conference room and via teleconference (1st Thurs)

Monday, August 7, 2017

ASPE Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon)

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., PDC, Inc., Anchorage (2nd Tues)

Wednesday, August 9, 2017

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed)

Thursday, August 10, 2017

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs)

Tuesday, August 15, 2017

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues)

ASPLS Anchorage (3rd Tues with even months at Noon at the BP Energy Center and odd months at 5:30pm)

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed)

ASCE Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed)

Monday, August 21, 2017

Deadline for the September issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday)

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

ASPLS Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues)

Wednesday, August 30, 2017

ASPLS Valley, Noon, Troutfitters, Wasilla (last Wed)



Monday, September 4, 2017

ASPE Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark Hotel (1st Mon)

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

ITE Alaska Anchorage Chapter (1st Tues except June, July & August)

Thursday, September 7, 2017

ASPE Anchorage Directors, 7 a.m., McDonald's, 800 W Northern Lights Blvd. (1st Thurs)

APDC, Noon, Bettisworth North, 2600 Denali St, Suite 710, Anchorage (1st Thurs)

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

ACEC Board, 4:00 p.m., PDC, Inc., Anchorage (2nd Tues)

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings from September through May (2nd Wed)

ASLA Alaska Board, 12:10 p.m. in the URS 3rd floor conference room (2nd Wed)

SEAAK Noon, BP Energy Center, Regular meeting, presenter TBA (every other month, usually 2nd Wed)

ITE Alaska Fairbanks Chapter (2nd Wed except June, July & August)

Thursday, September 14, 2017

ASPE Anchorage, Noon, BP Energy Center (2nd Thurs)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

ASCE Anchorage, Noon, Moose Lodge on Arctic Blvd. (3rd Tues)

ASPLS Anchorage, 5:30 pm social, 6 pm meeting, (usually 3rd Tues with even months at Noon and odd months at 5:30pm)

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

ASCE Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark (3rd Wed)

ASCE Mat-Su Branch, Noon at the Mat-Su College (Mile 2 Trunk Road) in Room FSM 206 (3rd Wed)

Deadline for the August issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday)

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

ASPLS Fairbanks, Noon, WestMark Hotel (4th Tues)

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

ASPLS Valley, Noon, Troutfitters, Wasilla (last Wed)

Send calendar notices/updates by the 20th of each month to Vicky Sterling, sterlingtouch@gci.net.



When and Where

Always check locally to confirm meeting times and locations. Some organizations suspend or reschedule meetings in summer months. The newsletter publication calendar generally does not allow time to include holiday and last-minute schedule changes.



Alaska Designs welcomes articles and letters on subjects of interest to design professionals. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month's issue. Items may be edited for length or content and will be published as space is available. Submit items to the editor, Vicky Sterling, via email at sterlingtouch@gci.net and expect confirmation of receipt.