



Alaska Designs

Volume 40, No. 9, November 2017

The Official Newsletter of the Alaska Professional Design Council

ASCE Alaska Report Card on Infrastructure

Assessment Awards State's Bridges a Grade of B-

By Leslie K. Daugherty, P.E., S.E.

The 2017 ASCE infrastructure assessment awarded Alaska's bridges a B-, slightly above Alaska's overall grade of C-. In this, Alaska reflects a national trend for bridge infrastructure to be in better condition than infrastructure at large, by about one letter grade. By and large, this reflects high levels of regulation and a consistent funding stream – two key ingredients in infrastructure. However, this broad brush approach disguises a fair number of significant challenges facing bridge infrastructure in the 49th state.

As Alaskans well know, many things in the 49th state are very different from their counterparts in the Lower 48, and Alaska's bridges are certainly no exception. A third of the public vehicle bridges in Alaska exist outside of conventional road systems: these include seasonal structures, those located in resource extraction areas or park land with limited public access (for example, the Denali Park Road), and – due to the Alaska Marine Highway's status as a part of the National Highway System – parts of docks. This leaves 972 permanent public bridges for the ASCE assessment.

Key Strengths

While Alaska has several very significant challenges, the state's bridge inventory also has several somewhat unusual strengths.

For example, Alaska's extreme seismicity may seem to be an unlikely advantage. However, after dozens of bridges were destroyed

during the record-breaking 1964 Good Friday Earthquake, Alaska staked a position at the forefront of seismic design. This includes placing a priority on conducting independent seismic bridge research to fill in gaps in code.

Likewise, long winters have forced us to encourage an engineering and construction process known as ABC (Accelerated Bridge Construction). Although ABC methods are a response to a very short construction season, they also have the potential for significant financial savings.

Age is considered to be a key factor in bridge deterioration, and in the past, bridges were designed for 50-year life spans. Since Alaska became a state in 1959, a large number of our bridges are under that critical age; in fact, the average age of Alaskan bridges is 35 years. This relative youth of our structures is an opportunity to conduct inexpensive preventive steps today that will save millions in repair and replacement later on.

Troubling Trends

Resources are always constrained, and Alaska has a number of factors that drive up the cost of building and maintaining a healthy bridge inventory.

High costs are built into the system. For example, all Alaska bridges have to be built to perform well during an earthquake; these bridges are much more expensive than conventional bridges in non-seismic areas. And, with so many geographically isolated communities,

material and equipment transportation costs can eat up a large slice of funding. Speaking of isolation, most Alaska communities have only one access road; in the event that a bridge is out of service, emergency repairs cannot be delayed by using a detour.

Three categories of bridges merit special discussion related to costs: those that are structurally deficient (SD), functionally obsolete (FO), and/or fracture critical (FC).

- Structurally deficient bridges have a "Poor" rating.
- Functionally obsolete bridges do not have adequate geometric features to handle current traffic or may become flooded.
- Fracture critical bridges are steel structures that require supplemental inspections.

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Ahtna, Inc. Promotes Gould to President of AES

Anchorage, Alaska – Ahtna, Inc. is pleased to announce that Timothy F. Gould, PE, has been promoted to president of subsidiary Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC (AES). Gould has served as the vice president of AES and Ahtna Environmental, Inc. since 2014.

Gould's experience spans 27 years in the consulting and construction markets with responsibilities nationwide and in the Pacific region. He has managed business operations and development for design-build

facilities, environmental studies and remediation, and energy projects for federal, state, and local governments. He is a registered civil and environmental Professional Engineer and earned a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Maine and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Gould is a past president of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Alaska Chapter Anchorage Post and currently holds a seat on their

scholarship fund board of directors.

"I look forward to contributing to continued growth and collaboration across our companies," Gould said upon acceptance of the position.



About Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC (AES): Ahtna Engineering Services, LLC (AES), is a self-performing federal and commercial contractor. In his position as president, Gould will oversee a wide range of services nationwide including construction (both design/build and design/bid/build); environmental studies, remediation, and compliance; facility management; as well as other administrative and professional services. With corporate and program offices coast to coast, AES is positioned to support nationwide requirements. AES is headquartered in Anchorage, with offices in Washington and California.

About Ahtna, Inc.: Ahtna, Incorporated is one of 13 Alaska Native Regional Corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, and is headquartered in Glennallen. The company currently has nearly 2,000 shareholders, the majority of whom are of Ahtna Athabascan descent, and employs more than 1,400 people worldwide. A premiere Alaskan-owned business, Ahtna, Incorporated is guided by its vision statement: "Our Culture Unites Us; Our Land Sustains Us; Our People are Prosperous."

To learn more visit www.ahtna-inc.com and to receive the latest news and updates follow us on Facebook. ❖

Alaska Bridges Receive Grade of B-

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Although the SD, FO, and FC designations do not mean that a bridge is unsafe or likely to collapse, these bridges drive up costs due to more frequent inspection and maintenance requirements. The long-term trend with these structures has shown improvement, but the movement has been slow – the combined total SD/FO bridges went from 19.7% in 2015 to 19.4% in 2016. The number of fracture critical bridges in the state also decreased in 2015, but only from 110 to 106.

The rate of improvement will not keep up with the rate at which the state's bridges are deteriorating due to harsh conditions, age, and limited maintenance funding. Timely replacement of these bridges will also reduce inspection and maintenance costs.

Sufficient funding for maintenance is critical for Alaska's bridges. Available data for DOT&PF Operation and Maintenance points to significant needs for additional support in order to avoid larger, more expensive problems down the line. In 2016, Northern Region allocated approximately \$300,000 for maintenance of their 376 bridges; this is under \$800 per bridge per year.

Raising the Grade

With proper maintenance and timely investment, Alaska's bridge inventory will continue to provide safe and convenient access for individuals and industry for many years to come. However, without this effort, our bridge infrastructure will rapidly decline.

Ensuring that our bridges maintain high levels of public safety and service will require:

- Adequate long-term funding and increased rehabilitation or replacement of fracture critical, structurally deficient, and functionally obsolete bridges.
- Continued prioritization on retrofit or replacement of seismically vulnerable bridges.
- Investment in adequate routine maintenance to ensure that Alaska's bridges meet or exceed their intended design life.
- Investigation of whether bridges on important haul routes should be strengthened or replaced to accommodate commercial trucking needs. ❖

ASPLS Meeting Notes, GIS Day

The next ASPLS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 5:30 at Las Margaritas Restaurant (541 W. Dimond Blvd, on the north side of Dimond between C St and Arctic Blvd). The GSA and Anchorage Chapter of ASPLS are holding a joint meeting and ASPLS / non-students are asked to prepare one good, thought-provoking question to ask a student. GSA members are asked to prepare one good, thought-provoking question to ask an industry professional. Please RSVP to the following link by Friday, November 17, so we have a reasonable headcount for the restaurant: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aspls-meeting-tickets-39697088059>

Anchorage Chapter is accepting nominations for Chapter President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please volunteer to hold an office.

Deadline for submitting your abstract for a GeoJam presentation

at the Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference is November 17. Sessions can be 30, 45 or 60 minutes long. Notification on acceptance of your abstract is expected by November 28. Visit <http://www.aksmc.org> and click on GeoJam to submit an abstract.

The "official" GIS Day was November 3; however, there are still events planned. GIS Day activities will be held at the Atwood Building in Anchorage and also at the DNR building in Fairbanks on Tuesday, November 14 from 9 am until 4 pm.

The Municipality of Anchorage will hold GIS Day events on Wednesday, November 15, starting at 9 am.

The 2nd Alaska Coastal Mapping Summit will be February 9, 2018. Contact Nic Kinsman for more information: Nicole Kinsman, Alaska Regional Advisor, NOAA/NOS/National Geodetic Survey, nicole.kinsman@noaa.gov, telephone (mobile) 202-306-5736. ❖

February 12 - 16, 2018

52nd Annual ASMC: Decades of Discovery

The 52nd annual Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference (ASMC) will be February 12-16, 2018, at the Hilton Anchorage Hotel. For five days in one location, the ASMC provides short courses, software training, and technical sessions that share best practices and opportunities for participants to explore technical questions with surveying and mapping professionals including geospatial, remote sensing, and surveying industry leaders. It also includes an exhibit hall and special interest meetings that provide networking opportunities for geospatial professionals from across Alaska and the rest of the country.

Attendees of the ASMC represent many commercial, government, educational, tribal, and non-profit organizations. This abundance of user-to-user communication opportu-

nities is essential for learning about real-life experiences, best practices, and tips.

The theme this year is "Decades of Discovery," remembering the discovery of oil in Prudhoe Bay in 1968 and completion of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System in 1977. Featured speaker at the keynote luncheon Tuesday, Feb. 13, will be Michael Travis, PE, a 46-year Alaska resident and graduate of the University of Alaska whose career includes working for Fluor Engineering, Northwest Pipeline Company, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. He has written several books, the latest being *The Landmen – The Untold Story of Acquiring the Alaska Pipeline ROW*.

Details will be unfolding at <http://www.aksmc.org>. ❖



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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Alaska Architectural Firms Receive 2017 Design Awards

Homer (October 14, 2017) – The American Institute of Architects, Alaska Chapter (AIA Alaska) is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2017 Design Awards for Excellence in Architecture, the profession's highest recognition of works that exemplify excellence in architecture, interior architecture, and urban design.

Each year, architects throughout Alaska submit projects that they feel are exceptionally responsive to their clients' needs or exhibit design excellence above and beyond competent design. These submittals include a description of the project, architectural drawings, and photography. To ensure the judging of the awards is unbiased, AIA Alaska Design Awards are always judged by prestigious architects from another state or region.

Selected from 10 submissions, two projects were recognized during AIA Alaska's Awards Banquet held at the Land's End Resort this past Saturday evening. Architects from prestigious firms in Wyoming served as the jury, awarding two HONOR awards for projects that best exemplify Alaska's northern design requirements, sustainability, site/context sensitivity, forward-thinking and innovative design:

Honor Award:

Wasilla Public Library

Architect: ECI Alaska, Inc.

Developer/Client: City of

Wasilla

Consultants: Schneider Structural Engineers; HMS, Inc.; DOWL, LLC; AMC Engineers

Photographer: Chris Arend

Photography

Jury Comments: *"There's a simple austerity about the entry elevation that is appealing; nicely detailed. The simple canopy extension clearly demarcates entry. The ex-*

terior expression is very understated and elegant. We love the contrast created between the black structure and the surroundings. This must be very dramatic in the winter. The formal moves at the back of the building are a wonderful surprise and successful contrast with the abstract quality of the entry elevation. The interior experience is enriched by the subtle sectional play. We like the progres-

sion, in plan from entry, through the stacks, to the quiet perimeter ring. We like the way the stacks radiate out, the elevation is beautiful, and even the signage is nicely done. A noteworthy project, very simple but with layers and some subtle surprises. We like the continuity of the ceiling, and the texture of the ribs on the elevation."

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Alaska Architectural Firms Receive 2017 Design Awards

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Honor Award: James C. Ryan Middle School

Architect: Bettisworth North Architects and Planners with Perkins+Will

Developer/Client: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District
Photographer: Kevin Smith

Jury Comments: *“This project is a beautiful geode. The abstract quality of the simple rectangular forms clad in white panels conceals a wonderfully sculptural, colorful, playful interior environment, a successful response to the daylight problem at this location. The experience must be a beautiful surprise. We would be excited to drop our child off here every day. The locker/lounge situation is very clever, and it looks like they’ve gone to great extents to make the interior spaces very comfortable. The plan and some of the elevations are very simple, really successful, very Corbusian. The white façade looks great in the snow. There is something noble about the connectivity of the common space, and a nice sense of openness. The curvature and color of the interior forms add an appropriate and elegant playful quality to*

the interior space. Really beautiful, we appreciate the simplicity of the exterior. We wish our school had been this thoughtfully designed.”



People’s Choice Awards: A Drive-by Jury of Peers

All of the projects that were submitted were put on display during the conference, and attendees were encouraged to review and vote for their choice. The following projects were chosen:

Professional’s Choice – The project selected by professional peers as the best project. Winner: ECI Alaska, Inc – Wasilla Public Library (City of Wasilla)

Most Alaskan – The project that best captures Alaskan design. Winner: ECI Alaska, Inc - State of Alaska Library Archives Museum (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities)

Graphic Presentation – The project with the finest graphic diagrams and illustrations depicting the project. Winner: Bettisworth North Architects and Planners, with Perkins+Will for the James C. Ryan Middle School (Fairbanks North Star Borough School District)

AIA Alaska’s Design Awards Program was established in 1965 to promote community awareness of great designs being developed by Alaskan architects. For over 50 years, these annual design awards have recognized buildings that both satisfy the needs of the user and significantly contribute to a stimulating built environment.

The Alaska Chapter of the AIA was established in 1961. To learn more about AIA Alaska, visit www.aiaalaska.org. ❖



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Alaska Professional Design Council Calendar

Thursday, November 2, 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, November 6, 2017

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

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

ITE Alaska Anchorage Chapter, Noon, BP Energy Center (1st Tues except June, July & August)

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

ASCE Juneau Branch and ASPE Juneau Chapter jointly hold membership meetings at Noon at the AEL&P 2nd Floor Conference Room from September through May (2nd Wed)

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

ITE Alaska Fairbanks Chapter, Noon, DOT McKinley Building (2nd Wed except June, July & August)

Thursday, November 9, 2017

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

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

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

Wednesday, November 15, 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, November 20, 2017

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

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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

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

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

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

Wednesday, November 29, 2017

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

Monday, December 4, 2017

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

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

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

Thursday, December 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, December 12, 2017

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

Wednesday, December 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)

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

Thursday, December 14, 2017

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

Tuesday, December 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, December 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 December issue of *Alaska Designs* (20th of each month, or Monday)

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

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

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

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

Send calendar notices/updates by the 20th of each month to Vicky Sterling, sterling-touch@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.