



WASHTO 2009 Annual Meeting Final Report

This summer WSDOT hosted the 2009 Annual Western Association of State Highway and Transportation Organization (WASHTO) Meeting from July 12th - 15th in downtown Seattle. The conference included attendees from all 18 participating WASHTO states, AASHTO, FHWA, USDOT, and other transportation associated agencies. The annual meeting rotates between the member states, and Washington last hosted the conference 18 years ago in 1991.

We had record attendance for such an economically unstable year with over 650 people participating in the three-day conference. There was lots of positive feedback on both the quality of policy and technical discussions on the agenda and the choice of venues. This year we had 57 trade show and sponsor companies that contributed to the conference and the overall program.

Paula Hammond was elected President of WASHTO, with Amadeo Saenz, Jr. Secretary of Texas DOT as Vice President, and Larry Ehl, WSDOT Federal Relations Manager as Secretary. There was also a press conference with all 18 Secretaries about what the western state DOT's were doing with their ARRA funds and project progress to date.

Keynote speakers included John Horsley, AASHTO Executive Director; Greg Nadeau, FHWA Deputy Administrator; and WSDOT's Secretary, Paula Hammond. The breakout sessions and panels were also moderated by WSDOT employees and other various transportation speakers.

Delegates participated in the following sessions:

- **Survivor: ARRA Island (Winning Immunity Through Accurate Report, Competitive Grant Application and Effective Outreach to DBE Firms,** moderated by Steve Reinmuth, Chief of Staff and presented by Daniela Bremmer, Strategic Assessment Director.
- **Are We There Yet? A discussion on how to capture the minds and souls of the American public,** moderated by Paula Hammond, Secretary.
- **Congestion Relief: Balancing Technology, Choice and Capacity,** presented by Craig Stone, Director State Toll Division.

- **Innovative Funding and Finance: A New Era**, moderated by Jeff Doyle, Director Public/ Private Partnerships.
- **Maintenance and Operations: Being Flexible in Changing Times**, presented by Ted Trepanier, Director of Traffic Operations and Rico Baroga, Maintenance Financial & Policy Manager.
- **Designing Defensible Disparity Studies: The National Model Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Disparity Study Project**, moderated by Brenda Nnambi, Director Office of Equal Opportunity.
- **Pioneering Project Delivery**, moderated and presented by Bob Dyer, Construction Engineer – Mega projects.
- **To Build or Not to Build – The Future of Construction Costs**, moderated by Craig McDaniel, State Construction Engineer.
- **I-90 Mountain Pass and Project Tour**, hosted by Don Whitehouse, South Central Region Administrator and Brian White, Assistant Region Administrator.
- **Ferry Tour and Presentation**, hosted by David Moseley, Assistant Secretary Ferry Division.
- **Will Reauthorization Fund a Federal Freight Program? If it Does, How Can DOT's Deliver?** presented by Barb Ivanov, Freight Systems Division Co-Director.
- **Sustainable Practices in Construction**, moderated by Tom Baker, State Materials Engineer.
- **State DOT Disasters: Effective Response and Recovery**, moderated by Don Clotfelter, Maintenance Manager.
- **High-speed Rail: What does it mean to you?** Moderated by Scott Witt, Director of State Rail & Marine Office.
- **Sustaining Assets in Challenging Times**, presented by Nancy Boyd, Deputy State Design Engineer.
- **Mega Project Updates: Best Practices From Around the West**, moderated by Dave Dye, Chief Operating Officer and presented by Ron Paananen, Alaskan Way Viaduct Program Administrator.
- **Changing the Climate of Transportation**, moderated by Paula Hammond, Secretary.
- **Moving the Message: Communicating Transportation's Future in a Post-Newspaper Era. A media panel discussion on how to communicate a nation-sized need with a twitter-sized attention span**, moderated by Lloyd Brown, Director of Communications.

Attendance Statistics:

This year we had 654 Total Attendees registered in the system. Although we do not have final numbers from previous conferences, from the rough estimates that we do have, this was the best attended conference from recent years. The exact numbers for registration types are listed below.

Registration Categories	# of people
Delegate	348
Exhibitor Only	116
Sponsor	51
Guest	69
Golf Only	1
Single Event Only	22
Monday Only	5
Tuesday Only	3
Wednesday Only	10
Volunteers	29
Total Attendance	654

Budget Statistics:

WASHTO coffers provided seed money of \$60,000 as we planned and prepared for the Seattle meeting. We have repaid the loan in its entirety. In addition, WSDOT took extreme care to be frugal in the cost of events due to the economic recession. As a result, we have deposited a conference surplus of \$76,510.52 into the WASHTO account.