



October 30, 2008 Bulletin 0844

### **AGC Asks House to Include Infrastructure Spending in Stimulus Package**

Brian Burgett, immediate past Chairman of AGC's Highway and Transportation Division testified on Wednesday before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to urge Congress to enact an economic recovery package which would include infrastructure investment to create jobs. Mr. Burgett described for the Committee market conditions facing his company and the non-residential construction market in general, including rising unemployment, credit availability issues, and volatile construction materials prices. The Committee asked Mr. Burgett to focus his remarks on the immediate needs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the stimulus benefit that would come from providing additional funding. [AGC's testimony](#) also pointed out the short term and long term economic benefits that would be derived from additional funding for highway, transportation, water and wastewater projects.

The Committee held the hearing at the request of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) who, along with the Democratic Congressional Leaders, is considering whether to put before Congress an additional economic recovery package that would include a substantial infrastructure investment component. It is possible that Congress could consider such a package as early as the week of November 17 when Congress may reconvene for a "Lame Duck" session. In September, the House passed H.R. 7110, a bill that would have provided \$30 billion in supplemental appropriations for many federal construction programs; however, the Senate was unable to pass a similar measure. Reports suggest that Congress may consider a larger dollar figure in the next bill.

AGC continues to press Congress to enact an economic recovery package with infrastructure investment as soon as possible to prevent further job losses in the industry and create additional job opportunities for contractors and their workers.



*Brian Burgett Presents AGC Testimony To House Committee*

### **AGC Meets with FHWA Administrator Madison**

AGC's Highway and Transportation Division Leadership, including Division Chair Scott Williams, Vice Chair Don Weaver and Vice Chair-elect Dean Word met Wednesday with new Federal Highway Administrator Tom Madison to discuss a number of industry issues. The primary issue discussed was the current situation with funding of the highway program for the remainder of FY 2009. There is some concern that, despite the \$8 billion Highway Trust Fund rescue plan enacted several weeks ago, the continuing decline in driving may undermine the ability to fully fund SAFETEA-LU levels this year. AGC pointed out the implications for contractors with ongoing contracts if states are not reimbursed for expenditures for Federal-aid contracts. Administrator Madison indicated that FHWA has instituted a new monitoring system to ensure that there is early notice if there will be a funding shortfall.

AGC also encouraged continuing efforts on clarifying DBE program compliance issues. AGC initiated an effort to develop a DBE Tool Kit to provide contractors with guidance on complying with federal DBE regulatory requirements. That effort has now been broadened to include other industry groups and other DOT agencies and the leadership encouraged that this initiative be continued. Other issues discussed included: how to address material price volatility, steps to reduce construction costs, and Federal requirements for implementing an ethics and compliance program. Administrator Madison encouraged a continuing dialogue between AGC members and FHWA.



*Dean Word, FHWA Administrator Madison, Scott Williams, Dom Weaver*

### **AGC Co-hosts Free Webinar on Off-Road Diesel Developments Facing Today's Construction Industry**

Construction equipment is being targeted as a major contributor of air pollution. All AGC chapters and members are encouraged to participate in a free webinar on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to learn about clean diesel technology, regulations and requirements facing today's construction industry. Register online at [www.dieselforum.org/webinars](http://www.dieselforum.org/webinars).

The most stringent phase of EPA's national program to reduce emissions from new construction equipment is in effect. Yet engine manufacturers are still struggling to develop the emission-control technologies needed to meet EPA's so-called "Tier 4" emission standards, which require an unprecedented 90% reduction in construction exhaust between now and 2014. To ensure optimum performance of the Tier 4 engine systems, refiners must produce only ultra-low sulfur diesel by 2010. The new ULSD and equipment will cost contractors more -- plus supply and distribution problems remain on the horizon.

In the immediate term, the environmental movement wants to reduce emissions from the large number of existing diesel engines (pre-2007 model year) currently in use. The state of California and other entities around the country are forcing contractors to "retrofit" their in-use diesel equipment at their own expense through new state regulations or contract specifications. What options do you have to reduce emissions from your fleet? Also learn what financial assistance is available to help you pay for engine upgrades and how to get

involved in your region's clean diesel policy group.

As contractors and other equipment operators enter an unprecedented period of uncertainty, AGC of America and the Diesel Technology Forum will co-host a webinar to outline technology developments and policy concerns facing the construction industry. Presenters will discuss:

- EPA's "Tier 4" Engine and Fuel Requirements
- Off-road Retrofit Technology and Potential Funding Assistance
- CARB's Off-road Diesel Retrofit Rule (and challenges to it)
- The Use of Diesel Retrofit Contract Requirements

PLEASE JOIN US:                      Wednesday, December 3

2:00pm – 3:30pm EST

TO REGISTER:                      Visit [www.dieselforum.org/webinars](http://www.dieselforum.org/webinars)

For more information, contact Leah Pilconis, senior environmental advisor to AGC, at [pilconisl@agc.org](mailto:pilconisl@agc.org).

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