

## *The W.L. Times*

### **What happens when there's no road to kick the can down?**



So, here we are again with the 33<sup>rd</sup> extension of the Highway Funding Bill. It used to be that spending on infrastructure, especially roads, was an area of agreement across party lines in Washington. This point of common-sense agreement should serve as the starting point for negotiations on infrastructure funding and strategy — a timely debate, with the Highway Trust Fund on a mere **60-day extension** through the end of July and summer a critical construction season. And while the environment in Washington for solving problems is improving, it's disheartening to see Congress choosing to kick the Highway Trust Fund can down the road by passing a two-month patch before going on recess.

As is often the case in Washington these days, disagreements about how to make the Highway Trust Fund solvent are getting in the way of any real progress. The president would like to find the money in corporate tax revenue. Others would like to increase the gas tax—the fund's

traditional source of revenue. There are opponents to every idea, of course. No one is likely to welcome more taxes, but raising the gas tax is the most equitable for every American. Every person or business that uses a car or truck, motorcycle or tractor, has a choice in the amount of gas they use.

The point is that understandable disagreements should not stand in the way of solving the underlying problem. Disagreements always exist; they should not be the equivalent of a veto. Americans deserve better and we can get there by setting shared goals at the start of the process.

Starting with the disagreement is the real problem in this debate, and in so many other debates in our nation's capital. We set goals for the sake of progress every day in our personal lives. Without this process of goal setting, we wouldn't be able to decide the simplest things in life — like what to have for dinner or what shoes to buy for our children.

Usually when there is clear agreement on the goal, it makes the job easier. This should be true for the Highway Trust Fund. There is bipartisan consensus that Americans require an updated, safe and efficient highway system for our shared needs. No one should die or be injured because the government couldn't agree on how to pay for the work and materials it takes to fill a pothole or repair the trusses of a bridge or replace broken railroad tracks.

Surely our leaders can agree on fixing the roads. After all, what else will they use to kick their cans down?



# Job Updates

## **Job 1381, KY River Lock & Dam #8, Nicholasville, KY**

We are a subcontractor to CJ Mahan on this project to re-construct the dam and lock structure originally constructed long ago. This job is very similar to the Lock & Dam #9 project we had a few years ago, also with CJ Mahan. Well, the good Lord was not willing because the KY River did rise, delaying the finish of this project until summer of 2015. There remains a few concrete placements to complete and workers are preparing the cofferdams. The first concrete pour for the season was small but went well.

## **Job 1497, Marion County, Indiana**

This project includes partial and full depth patching of concrete pavement and joint seal replacement. Danny Macauley, Phillip, Billy, Charles and their crews have been using new methods to successfully get more life out of the old concrete. This project is close to Indy Executive Airport where we constructed several airfield projects.



## **Job 1498, Allen County, Indiana**

Located in Fort Wayne, this project is similar to the Marion County job, however it includes dowel bar retro-fit. Danny Macauley, Phillip, Sam B., Richard, Mike Sandmann and Truman have been managing work on this job which includes night shift. This project is utilizing some new techniques and equipment to improve our productivity.



## **Job 1501, Louisville Intertional Airport**

This job consisted of removing and replacing concrete sections of Runway and Taxiway. The original concrete was placed by Harper in 1997 and has seen very heavy traffic from the UPS North American Hub as well as commercial flights. Dennis, Keith, Rick K., Sam T. and Rick Marx all pulled together on weekends to complete this time sensitive project before the crowds arrived for the Kentucky Derby.



# Job Updates

## **Job 1599, Franklin County, Kentucky**

This job is on US 60 not far from the project we finished last year in downtown. In fact, we are utilizing the same staging area. Rick M., Sam T., Frank, Rick K., Charles, Tommy, William Hayslip, Danny Murriell, Dustin Schubert, and Mike Sandmann started the season here and have made great progress. This job replaces the existing 5 lanes of US 60 with new concrete pavement. Tommy had to carve off a lot of limestone to make room for the widened useful space. Danny is working with our friends at Palmer to design and build the new roadway that fits with everything around it. Frank is working with a new method of full width slip form paving with curb and gutter. Surprise locations of existing utilities continue to challenge our crews. Rick figures on bringing this job in ahead of schedule.



## **1502 KYDOT Ramp Re-hab, Turfway Road, Boone County Kentucky**

This job involves removing and replacing some concrete sections as well as diamond grinding and joint seal. Work on this small project is slated for mid-summer and should only take a few weeks.

## **1503 Indianapolis International Airport**

Harper was the low bidder on this project which consists of re-habilitation of a runway and taxiway. Work includes partial and full depth patching of 20+ year old concrete pavement, some of which was placed by Harper. Work also includes complete removal and replacement of a couple taxiway lanes, using a slip form paver and batch plant. Work on this project is scheduled to begin in July and complete this fall.

## **1504 Cincinnati / Northern KY International Airport**

This project, bid on May 20, includes reconstruction and expansion of the common use apron on the north side of the field. Pavement removal, excavation base and new concrete pavement are the primary tasks on this job. Work on this job should start in July and complete by the end of the year.

## **1505 Delta Airlines, CVG**

This project involves removal and replacement of 20+ year old concrete pavement on the Delta Terminal Apron at the Cincinnati / Northern KY International Airport. The job will start mid-summer and complete by fall.

## **Engineering Department Update:**

During the first 20 weeks of 2015, Harper prepared and submitted 17 bids, ranging in value from \$500,000 to \$30,000,000, in 4 different states, resulting in 6 new projects for us to build. On average, we bid a job every 8 days with a 35% success rate! To top it off, these bids were all for projects located within 250 miles of Hebron. Great work by our Engineering Team.

## 2015 Harper Winter Conference Las Vegas, Nevada

The Harper Company held its Third Annual Winter Conference at the nostalgic Flamingo Hilton in Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada from February 1st thru the 5th. We had 27 members of the team in attendance for an enjoyable, educational trip. Conference topics included enhancing communications, time management, scheduling, and maximizing productivity along with ever changing Quality Control and safety practices. A great presentation put together by Shawn led to much interaction and engaged break-out sessions. Everyone participated in discussions and decisions that will help guide us to continued success.

Apparently the folks running the World of Concrete trade show found out Harper was holding its Winter Conference in Vegas, and scheduled their concrete show for the same week, how thoughtful! The Harper Company crew of 27, in matching company shirts, made a grand entrance at the World of Concrete Show and received a lot of attention. The show gave us something to see when not trying our luck at the tables. Our attentive group picked up on some innovated equipment at the show that we are now trying out on the jobs. We also saw old and new acquaintances at the WOC show, who were selling, buying or just looking at all the sights. Other Conference activities included a trip to the Fremont Street experience and a road trip to Hoover Dam and the new Bridge over the Colorado River. Frank "The Field" Knisely again dazed everyone with his flawless performance on the dice table. Frank spent so much time in the field that his ears started to grow tassels! Carmen and Tonia figured out their own strategies at craps that kept them playing until the wee hours. Billy and his gang were spotted one late night riding the big Ferris wheel (High Roller) at the Linq and others were seen at Bugsy's Bar as well



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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Healthy Harper Day

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Healthy Harper Day was held on Friday, June 5. Carmen and Tonia lead the entire office and shop team to keep our work place looking like a show place. While Andrea and Charlie maintained business inside, everyone else worked outside to really shine up the Harper office. Tom, Brandon, Shawn and Zach showed off their skills (and strengths!) at re-grading much of our landscaping and placing new mulch, along with helping out with many other duties. John manned a loader and with the help of Travis and Roger, installed a large decorative rock in front of his office. They also removed old landscaping from in front of the shop and replaced with new colorful trees and plants selected by green thumbs Tonia and Carmen. The entire front of the shop has a new and refreshed look. John also operated the pressure washer in his spare time. Carmen and Tonia planted many new flowers, bushes and trees that add life to our landscape. Ruth assisted with trimming landscape and planting new along with cleaning up light fixtures, watering and mulching. Bruce ran the hedge trimmer, making certain not to disturb the nesting bird families that also call Harper home. Roger added the finishing touch by re-stripping the parking lot. It was a great, productive day that lived up to its name. Everyone worked hard together as a cohesive team to produce a wonderful looking workplace, in which we take great pride. The entire company team can be proud of the selfless efforts of all those who made the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Healthy Harper Day a success.



# *Congratulations!*



We recently received great news from Tim Bowman and wanted to pass it on. For those of you that didn't know Tim, he worked for Harper from September 1981 thru July 2013 as an Office Manager. Needless to say he did quite a bit of traveling for Harper. Wherever he was needed he went. We all wish him the best in his retirement. Here is a portion of Tim's update.

Things are fine. I'm now officially a CYBORG (part man, part machine). I now have titanium knees, hip, pelvis and got a brand new pacemaker so hey, I'm ready for the next 30 years. I'm feeling better and can move around more than I have in 25 years. It will be 2 years in July that I will be stitch and cane free. I've lost 40 pounds and no longer have to take meds for pain, blood pressure, or stomach ulcers. I found that mowing grass can really be RELAXING when you do it Tuesday morning when you want to, instead of on a Sunday night in the rain because you have to!! I have seen my brothers, sister and my father more in the last 2 years than I have in the last 20. I wanted to give a shout out to all of you because when I look back at some of the BEST times I've had in my life it's been with people that don't look right without wearing a hard hat. I'll always consider THEM MY FRIENDS FOR LIFE!! I miss all of you and DO HOPE to be at the X-MAS party this year.



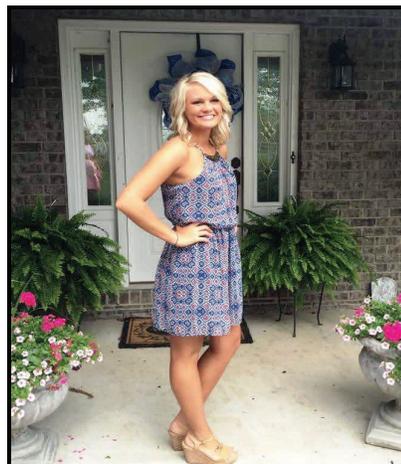
A special Congratulations to Deputy Sean Schubert, John's son, for being recognized for his initiative and dedication to duty for administering life saving CPR to an unresponsive female. Thank you Deputy Schubert for your service and commitment.

*What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;  
what we have done for others and the world  
remains and is immortal. ~Albert Pike*

Congratulations to Keith Collins for winning the 2014 Vern Findlay "I Care Award"!

## **Welcome William Hayslip**

We want to welcome William Hayslip as Harpers' newest Supervisor. William started his career with Harper about five years ago and this spring started running a crew. Last season, William worked primarily on our Frankfort project as a straw boss and did an excellent job. Both William's father and brother have been part of the Harper team for several years. Please help us in welcoming William in his new position.



## **Jordan Allen**

2015 Honors Graduate of Grant County High School.

Jordan will be going to the University of Kentucky in August. She is looking forward to going to UK not only for the education but for the sports. Jordan was an avid basketball player throughout high school and enjoys watching any type of sports. Jordan is the granddaughter of Ruth Walters.

We received the following letter from a gentleman that had some vehicle issues while traveling through one of our work zones. It is always nice to hear and very much appreciated to receive such a compliment in regards to our employees. We here at Harper strive daily to go above and beyond and this letter exemplifies that. Great job Truman and Phillip!

June, 16, 2015

Dear Sir:

I drove from Columbus Ohio to Winamac, Indiana on Thursday June 12, 2015. My van made it 150 miles and blew a heater hose. I was stuck on the berm of a one lane section of I-469 around 12:30 PM with an overheated engine. A construction worker, traveling by, recommended that I move into the construction area, till a tow truck could come. It would be safer being farther away from the traffic, he said. After calling for a wrecker my van had cooled down enough to start and move. Once I did this I could see a crew up the road. My van made it without getting too hot. I was able to borrow a set of plumbers pliers to re-route my heater hoses, bypassing the bad one. They also had a water trailer and gave me some water. This got me safely back on the road long before the wrecker was to arrive. The crew made sure I was well off the road and spotted for me when I re-entered traffic. I was able to continue my trip without delay, even.

A big Thank You to your crew. Especially Mr. Trueman and Philip.

Later that day around 6 PM, on my return trip, I saw the same crew still working. I honked and waved as I went by, but they were busy with their equipment and probably couldn't hear my horn anyhow.

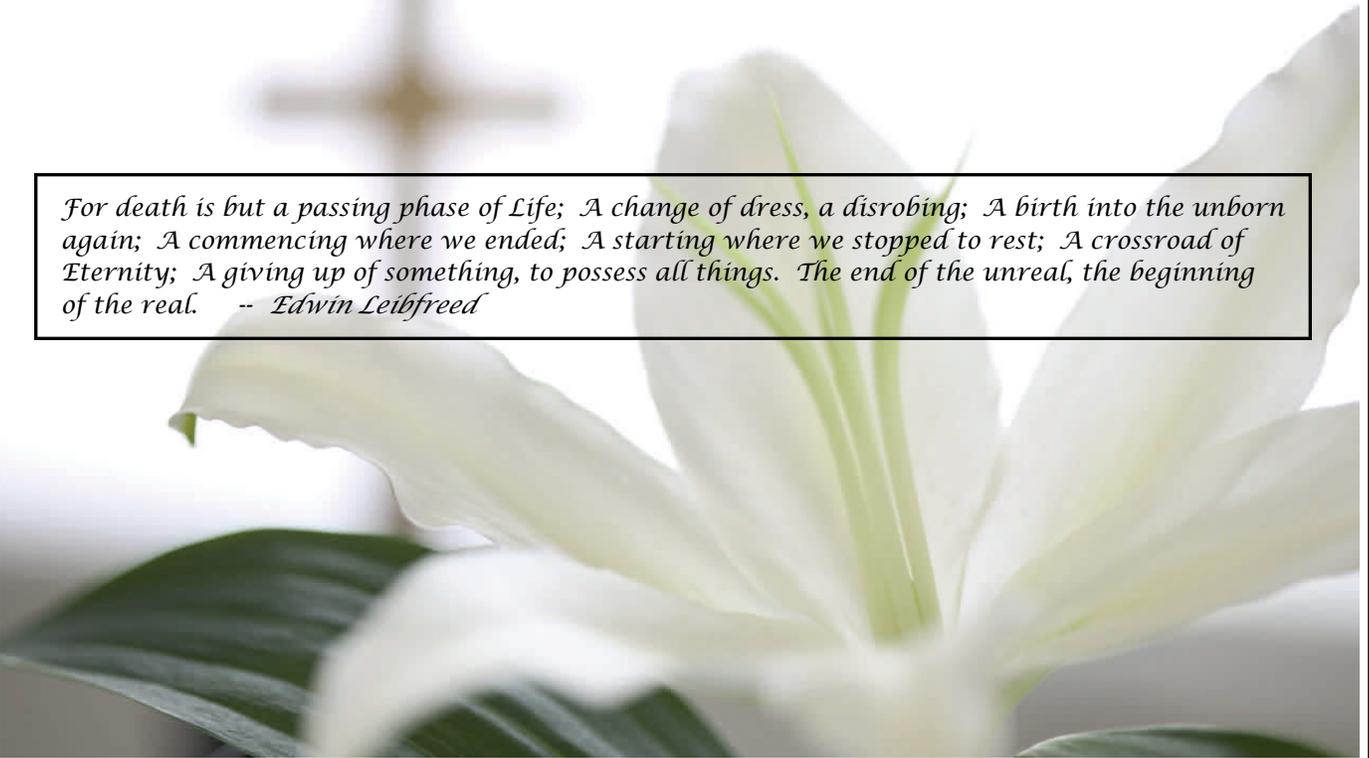
Sincerely,

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The Harper Company wishes to pay tribute to the following loved one of a team member lost since our last publication.

Howard E. Koch - Beloved Father of Andrea Blackwelder - March 27, 2015

*For death is but a passing phase of Life; A change of dress, a disrobing; A birth into the unborn again; A commencing where we ended; A starting where we stopped to rest; A crossroad of Eternity; A giving up of something, to possess all things. The end of the unreal, the beginning of the real. -- Edwin Leibfried*



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