

## What They're Voting On & What We're Voting On.....

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, House Transportation & Infrastructure (T&I) Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) and ranking Democrat Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) released proposed legislation to reauthorize the federal highway and public transportation programs for six years. The "Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act (STRRA) of 2015" would authorize roughly \$330 billion in surface transportation investments through Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. The current patch for transportation funding passed this summer will end October 29. The Construction Industry is anxiously awaiting either another short-term fix or the completion of a relatively long-lived solution such as this one or the Senate's DRIVE Act. Either way, legislators must act quickly as the current deadline that is less than ten days away. The 543-page STRR would authorize funding for six years (fiscal years 2016-2021) and sets aside roughly \$270 billion for highway and safety programs and \$55 billion for transit programs.

The Federal-Aid Highway program alone would be appropriated \$243.3 billion, with the following breakdown:

FY2016—\$38.4 billion  
FY2017—\$39.1 billion  
FY2018—\$39.9 billion  
FY2019—\$40.8 billion  
FY2020—\$41.6 billion  
FY2021—\$42.5 billion



The proposal would maintain current highway and transit funding levels, plus annual inflationary adjustments. It **does not** address the permanent revenue deficit in the Highway Trust Fund (HTF). No multi-year reauthorization bill can move forward without generating new trust fund revenues—or dramatically cutting highway and transit investment—and the Ways & Means Committee has not indicated how it plans to proceed. The T&I bill, however, provides a potential hint of things to come. The measure includes a provision that would prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from distributing funds authorized by the STRRA beyond FY 2018 unless new trust fund revenues are generated. The Senate-passed surface transportation bill would generate enough new revenue to support increased highway and transit investments through FY 2018.

All this serves as a backdrop as to what **All** of us can do to have a say in what is being done both nationally and locally that affect our livelihood.

On **November 3<sup>rd</sup>**, we have an opportunity to shape the political landscape that will impact all of our daily lives. While there are no national races on the ballot, there is a Governor's race in Kentucky and statewide ballot issues in Ohio that are very important. In addition, there are local races that will have a direct effect on how our tax dollars will be spent.

In the Kentucky Governor's race, Jack Conway (Democrat) faces off against Matt Bevin (Republican). Neither candidate has made any definitive stances on Infrastructure Spending or their position on tolling. As voters we have an obligation to have those questions answered as they are vital issues that have a direct effect on our jobs and our communities. Educating ourselves on the candidate's position rather than strictly voting along party lines is part of the voting process.

In Ohio, along with local races, there are three statewide issues that also impact the communities in which we live. Issues 2 and 3 regarding the legalization and sales of marijuana have drawn the most interest among the media. However, Issue 1, a proposal to create a bipartisan public process for drawing legislative districts is just as important as the other two issues on the ballot. Ohioans must decide if this amendment will truly end the practice of "redrawing voting districts" to benefit the majority party. Again, educating ourselves on the issues is one of the most important things we can do as Americans. **The other, of course, is making the effort to get out and vote!**

The WL Harper Company will be closed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Election Day to enable and encourage everyone to get out the vote!

# 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. After many delays, some weather related, we are nearing completion of this project. Hopefully the last pour will happen in November allowing us to retrieve our equipment for use on other projects. Just about everyone in the company, besides maybe Carmen, has had a tour of duty on this one.

## **Job 1497, Marion County, Indiana (North Indianapolis)**

Danny Macauley, Phillip, Billy, Charles and their crews finished this job up in September.

## **Job 1498, Allen County, Indiana (Ft. Wayne)**

Danny Macauley, Phillip, Sam B., Richard, Mike Sandmann and Truman completed all work on this project in September.

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

This job is on US 60 not far from the project we finished last year in downtown. Rick M., Sam T., Frank, Rick K., Charles, Tommy, William Hayslip, Danny Murriell, Dustin Schubert, and Mike Sandmann have made great progress to finish this job ahead of schedule. This job replaces the existing 5 lanes of US 60 with new concrete pavement. Many unexpected utilities were found just beneath the pavement, which added daily excitement for our crews. In addition to utilities, soft soil was encountered under the existing concrete pavement (that had been in service since 1972!). Even with all the changed conditions, Rick and his team will be finished with the project ahead of the original scheduled completion date in November.

## **Job 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. Truman and his crews started and finished this project quickly to minimize disruption to the traveling public.

## **Job 1503, Indianapolis International Airport**

Work on this project 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 started in July and should be complete in November. Our project team has hurdled several obstacles during this job and are on track to finish ahead of schedule.

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

This project 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 started in July and will be completed in October. Dennis, Sam T., Charles, Frank, Tommy, Sam B. and Dustin did not miss a step in building this new pavement for our friends at CVG.

## **Job 1505, Hangar Apron at CVG Airport**

This project involves removal and replacement of 20+ year old airfield concrete pavement near the Terminal Apron at the Cincinnati / Northern KY International Airport. Keith Collins, Tommy, Frank and Charles quickly replaced this concrete with new.

## **Job 1506, Landmark at Lunken Airport**

This project included removal and replacement of the Airfield Apron pavement at Lunken Airfield. Rick Keith and his crews completed this project so as to maintain access of airplanes during construction. The project was a success for all stakeholders.

## **Job 1507, Parking Lot at CVG**

We are a subcontractor to the John R. Jurgensen Company on this job. Our work includes construction of a concrete parking lot for cabs to park waiting to pick folks up from the terminal. Dennis, Frank and Charles will finish this small project in November.

## **Job 1508, R/W Removal & Replacing, Ft. Wayne, IN**

This project includes removing and replacing the majority of a Runway at Ft. Wayne International Airport. Preliminary work, such as moving in, may start this fall with the actual construction slated to begin in the spring. All work is expected to finish in 2016.

### **CHARLIE**

The end of 2015 also marks the end of a great career at Harper for Charlie Isaacs. Charlie started with Harper in 1988 working in the field but his welding ability quickly steered him into the shop. In 1994, Charlie took over the shop when Earl Waln retired and has been there ever since. Next spring, Charlie will only be getting up early if that is the only tee time available. Playing music, golf and family will soon replace all the fun he is having here. We wish Charlie all the relaxation and happiness possible during his well deserved retirement!

### **DAVE HOWES**

Early this year, Dave announced he was hanging up his "traveling bag" after thirty years to enjoy time with his family and grandkids. He began his career at Harper as a Laborer in 1975 working his way up to Foreman in 1989. In that time, he has worked hard doing everything from cutting grade to setting forms. We wish Dave the best and hope the remainder of his travels are ones he and Rena can enjoy together.

### **SHOP**

With the retiring of Charlie Isaacs comes a line-up change in the shop. Effective this winter, Travis Smith will be filling Charlie's shoes and Roger Brown will be replacing Travis at his duties. Travis started with Harper in 2000, moved into the Parts Department in 2006 and has worked side by side with Charlie for 9 years. Roger has been working with Harper in the shop since 2010 working with Charlie, Travis and all the field crews managing equipment and supplies. Carrol "Bink" Masters has come aboard with Harper to take over Roger's responsibilities. Bink retired from CVG Operations, and is a hometown native of Hebron, KY.

### **AWARD!**

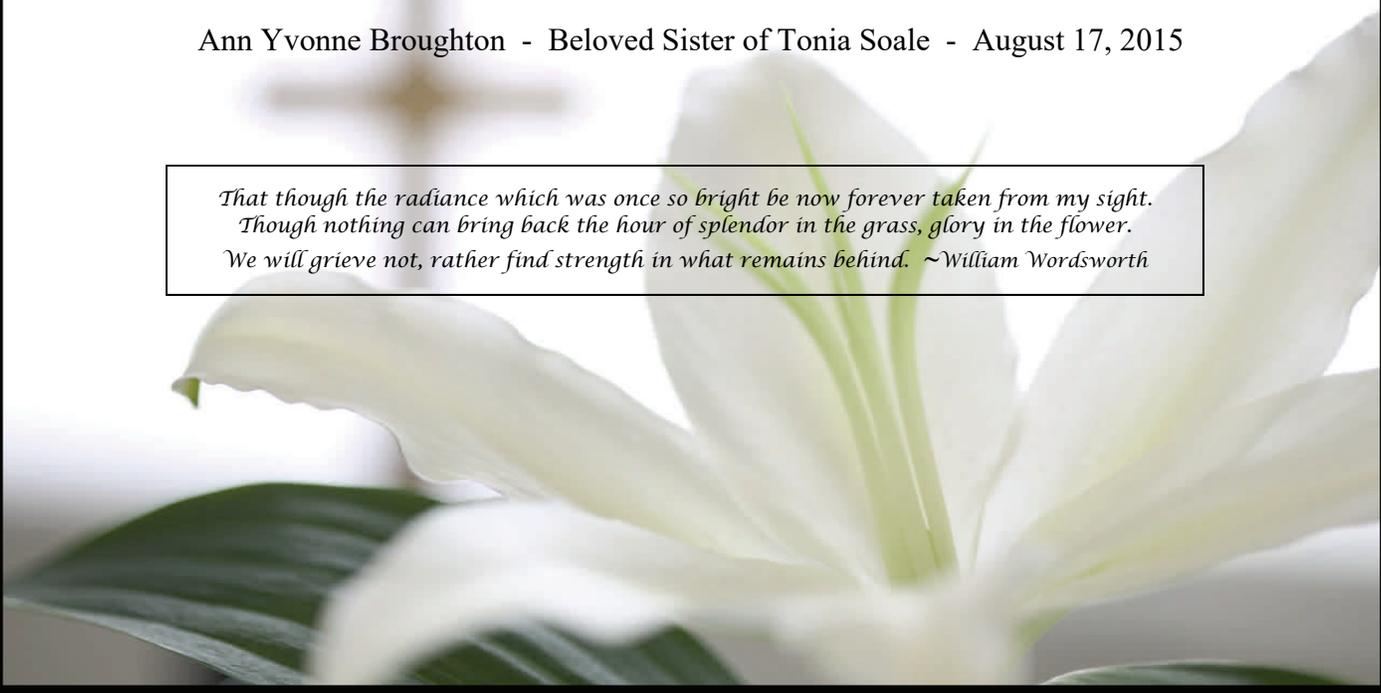
Harper's Job 1389, Wilkinson BLVD, Frankfort, KY won the American Concrete Paving Association National Excellence in Concrete Paving Award for Municipal Streets and Intersections over 30,000 SY. This award was earned by the hard, smart work and dedication to quality of all those involved. The KYDOT District 5 Engineer, Scott Tipton and his group worked together with Harper, our subcontractors and suppliers to form a team that built this challenging project. Originally constructed in 1972, the original Concrete roadway lasted 42 years. The quality of the new Concrete Pavement should provide a nearly permanent pavement (as opposed to perpetual surfacing). Everyone associated with this project can be proud of this great achievement.

The Harper Company wishes to pay tribute to the following loved ones of team members lost since our last publication.

Roy Ray Collins - Beloved Father of Roy Keith Collins - October 11,2015

Ann Yvonne Broughton - Beloved Sister of Tonia Soale - August 17, 2015

*That though the radiance which was once so bright be now forever taken from my sight.  
Though nothing can bring back the hour of splendor in the grass, glory in the flower.  
We will grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind. ~William Wordsworth*



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