



NEWS

ISSUE 2

AASHTO 2009 Trade Fair Opens

Kicking off the 2009 AASHTO Trade Fair was the energizing cultural sounds of the Mariachi Serenata Mexicana band. As they enthusiastically made their way to the staging area for the ribbon cutting, heads turned and hands clapped to the traditional mariachi rhythms. With spirits high Mr. Butch Brown, Director of the Mississippi Department of Transportation, gave a warm welcome and delivered opening remarks to



the audience. Assisted by Caltrans Director, Randy Iwasaki, and John Horsley, Executive Director of AASHTO, the ribbon was cut marking the official opening of the Trade Fair. Following the sounds of heralding trumpets and singing voices, the attendees were lead into the exhibitor hall where more than 70 exhibitors presented new and innovative transportation products and services.

Meet Us at the Beach!

Join us Saturday night October 24th for the 2009 Host State Night at the Grove. This special evening will prove to be memorable! With a life guard tower, a beach motif, and the clever surf band, PAPA DOO RUN RUN, this event will have you believing you're in paradise! If the ambiance doesn't reel you in, the menu certainly will. Prepare yourself for such delicacies as Shrimp, Bay Scallops, Beef Sliders, Beer Can Chicken and BBQ Pork Ribs. Top the night off by visiting the sultry dessert station that hosts mouth watering treats like Piña Colada Cheesecake, Tapioca Pudding with Mango and Chocolate Banana Tarts.



"The Grove" - Site of the "Meet Us at the Beach!"

Plenary Session - Sunday Morning

California Senator Barbara Boxer and Douglas Duncan, President of FedEx Freight will speak at the Plenary Session taking place at 9am on Sunday, October 25 in Desert Ballroom 7. The America's Transportation Awards Presentation will take place and the Francis B. Francois Award for Innovation will be awarded.



PALM DESERT WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday, October 24	Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 66°
Sunday, October 25	Mostly Sunny Hi: 89° Lo: 60°
Monday, October 26	Mostly Sunny Hi: 87° Lo: 59°

STAY UP TO DATE

Visit the AASHTO 2009 Annual Meeting website at www.dot.ca.gov/aashto2009 to view the latest agenda, meeting photographs and information about the Palm Desert area.

Tour of the Palm Springs Aviation Museum

The Standing Committee on Aviation toured the Palm Springs Aviation Museum on Thursday, October 22nd. The group spent a wonderful afternoon exploring one of the nation's largest collection of World War II flying aircraft. In addition to planes and historic artifacts, attendees were able to wander through the museum's library which hosts nearly 6,300 volumes primarily related to aviation and American military history. The committee took pleasure in a fascinating afternoon filled with exhibits and artifacts, and simultaneously enjoyed an intimate glimpse back into history.



All Aboard!

On Friday, October 23rd, panel members and attendees joined together in an important breakout session focusing on High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail. Experts from the Wisconsin DOT, the FRA and Amtrak respectively, shared their views on the future of High Speed Rail and how partnering amongst all those involved is going to play a critical role in spending the \$8 billion that has already been encumbered for capital infrastructure projects by the Obama Administration. Further discussions on the progress, vision and outlook on the future of these projects ensued and the panel answered many intriguing and inquisitive questions from audience members. The expert panel members and interested attendees contributed to another successful seminar at this year's AASHTO Annual Meeting.

Hospitality Suite

AASHTO Meeting Delegates and their guests are enjoying the friendly atmosphere available in the Hospitality Suite located in Director's Suite 3.



Water and soda continue to be available for all.

60/91/215 Corridor Project - 2009 Legacy Project

The 60/91/215 Corridor Improvement Project in Riverside and Moreno Valley reconstructed the 60/91/215 Interchange, added auxiliary lanes and reconstructed several overpasses on State Route 60 (SR-60), State Route 91 (SR-91) and Interstate 215 (I-215). This project used Design Sequencing; a method where the project is bid, awarded, and construction starts before 100% completion of the plans. With Design Sequencing, seven individual projects were combined into one to accelerate project delivery, reduce construction time, and provide congestion relief to an area experiencing increased traffic demand due to growth and development.



Caltrans would like to recognize and thank our partners for their assistance with the 2009 AASHTO Annual Meeting

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San Bernardino Association of Governments (SANBAG)

Happy 4th Birthday to AASHTO's youngest delegate Constance Johnson!

