

The New DC Streetcar Program

Terry Bellamy, Director, District Department of Transportation

Join the ASCE-National Capital Section (NCS) for its February dinner meeting, as Terry Bellamy, the Director of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), presents an overview of the DC Streetcar Program, its status, and an eye on the future.

In the first half of the twentieth century, the District of Columbia had a robust streetcar network with more than 200 miles of track and multiple companies providing service. Like many US cities, the District shelved the streetcars in favor of buses and the last day of streetcar service in the city was January 28, 1962.

Emotions ran high on the night of December 13, 2013, as the first of many streetcars that will shortly be providing service on the DC Streetcar's H/Benning



A streetcar passes the once ubiquitous Peoples Drug Store on 14th Street NW, one of the District's busiest streetcar lines, circa 1935. Source: <http://ddot.dc.gov/book/dc-streetcar-historic-photographs/14th-st-nw-1935>

Road Line was rolled off a flatbed truck and onto H Street NE. This event marked the return of streetcars to the District of Columbia for the first time in more than 50 years.

DC Streetcar is the product of a series of studies and plans beginning



in 1997 with the completion of the Transportation Vision, Strategy and Action Plan by the District Department of Public Works. The 1997 plan studied transit gaps and identified ways to meet the transit needs of District residents.

DDOT is proudly opening its first 2.2-mile streetcar line in the H/Benning corridor as part of its proposed 22-mile-long streetcar system. Active planning, engineering, construction, and testing are underway to help transition this vision to reality. Currently, DDOT planners and engineers are working together to ensure a well-planned, well-built, well-integrated modern streetcar system that will help the District move forward in the decades to come.

The 22-mile-long system will include the following segments:

- An East-West Line, which includes the initial H/Benning Line and extensions east along Benning Road to the Minnesota Avenue Metro Station and west to Georgetown along H and K Streets; a 7-mile segment providing much needed east-west connectivity.
- The Anacostia Initial Line Segment with added connections to MLK Jr. Ave and the southeast waterfront, from Bolling Air Force Base, through

historic Anacostia, across the 11th Street bridge, and onto M Street; and

- A North-South line extending from the southeast waterfront on M Street along 7th Street, 14th Street, and Georgia Avenue to the Takoma Park Metro Station.

The goals of the new DC Streetcar system are to:

- Link neighborhoods with a modern, convenient, and attractive transportation alternative;
- Provide quality service to attract and reach new transit ridership;
- Offer a broader range of transit options for District residents;
- Reduce short inner-city auto trips, parking demand, traffic congestion, and air pollution; and
- Encourage economic development and affordable housing options along streetcar corridors.

The DC Streetcar will make travel within the District much easier for residents, workers, and visitors, and will complement the existing transit options. Although the Metrorail system does an exemplary job of connecting the District to the rest of the region, it was not designed to connect neighborhoods. The DC Streetcar will do just that and will bring tremendous benefits to the communities it serves.

About the Presenter

Terry Bellamy was appointed by DC Mayor Vincent C. Gray as Director for the DDOT in July 2011. He is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of an agency with an annual operating and capital budget of \$1 billion and more than 900 employees. Mr. Bellamy joined DDOT as the Associate Director for the Transportation Operations Administration in March 2008 and

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President's Corner

The ASCE-NCS centennial celebrations will kick off in the Fall of 2015. Our plan is to focus on four special activities over the course of a year to celebrate that milestone. The centennial celebrations planning committee held its kickoff meeting in early December. During the kickoff meeting, we established a sponsorship subcommittee. We are seeking volunteers to assist with efforts to raise money to make the events a success.

Have you ever wished you were better at raising money for initiatives that matter to you? If so, this may be a great opportunity for you to discover effective sponsorship-generating strategies which world-class non-profits have compiled over time to help their volunteer groups reach their goals.



During the ASCE Presidents and Governors Forum, held on September 22-23, 2013, at ASCE headquarters in Reston, Christine Williams of the ASCE Foundation conducted a session on "ASCE Resources Available for Fundraising in Your Section." We also have

access to insights from other Section leaders that have made their centennial celebrations a whopping success. If you've wished your fundraising skills were better, e-mail me (president@asce-ncs.org) to join the sponsorship subcommittee as we embark on selecting and implementing a few key strategies from the wealth of resources available to us!

I hope you enjoyed our January Section Meeting on the DC Water Biosolids Management Program that

shows what some massive civil engineering projects are doing to become energy efficient and to reduce the carbon footprint of their vital operations.

This month, we will hear from Terry Bellamy, Director, District Department of Transportation, who will talk about the historic return of streetcars to DC after a 50-year absence! The start-up of streetcar service in 2014 will mark the modern debut for premium transit service in the Washington region. I look forward to seeing you over dinner on February 18.

Ranjit Sahai

Ranjit S. Sahai, P.E., F.ASCE
President, ASCE-NCS

The New DC Streetcar Program

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transitioned to the agency's Deputy Director of Operations in April 2010. Within his five-year period at

DDOT, Terry has been at the helm of the agency's largest projects to date which include the 11th Street Bridge Project and the DC Streetcar program. He has more than 27 years of experience in the transportation field and brings a wealth of knowledge to his position.

When and Where

The presentation will be on **Tuesday**,

February 18, 2014, at the Hilton Arlington, 950 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA, on the second floor in the Gallery Ballrooms. Parking is available at the hotel (\$8), at the Ballston Mall garage (\$1 after 6 p.m.), and on the street (free after 6 p.m.). The Hilton is on the same block as the Ballston Station on Metro's Orange Line. Registration and networking will be from 6-6:45 p.m., followed by dinner. The program will end by 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for students, \$45 for those preregistering, and \$55 for walk-ins, as space allows.

Please register by February 12, 2014.

Click [HERE](#) to register. One Professional Development Hour is available to attendees. For questions, please contact Ranjit Sahai at president@asce-ncs.org or 703-994-4849.

Please note that no-shows will be charged the full registration fee.

We welcome walk-ins, including any registrations made after the guarantee is given to the hotel. However, the cost for walk-ins is higher because the Section is charged accordingly by the hotel for late registrations. ■

Newsletter

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To Submit Articles:
<http://www.asce-ncs.org/>

Visit the NCS eNewsletter archives under the Newsletters tab at [asce-ncs.org](http://www.asce-ncs.org/).

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Please refer to the NCS website at <http://www.asce-ncs.org> for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.

What Does it Mean to be a Member of the NCS Board?

Editors Note: This issue's column was prepared John Casana, an NCS Past-President (2011-12).

I first became involved with the ASCE-NCS about ten years ago at the suggestion of Al Grant, Past President of ASCE National, because I participated in the quarterly Sustainability Forum at the National Academies which Mr. Grant led. My initial role was a member of the NCS Sustainability Committee. The next year, I became Committee Chair.

We started the NCS annual support of EPA's P3 EXPO, and our annual NCS Sustainability Award. I was quite content to continue to be a Committee Chair. Although I had reservations when first asked to serve on the NCS Board (as Secretary), I've found it a highly rewarding experience.

The Board's breadth of experience forms a very diverse team. I derive satisfaction from the progress and achievements that NCS has made and this was the reason I decided to serve. The surprise has been the friendships I developed in the process which add such richness to the experience.

About John:



A Civil Engineer with over 30 years' experience, John currently is employed at Booz Allen Hamilton where he serves as Facilities Lead for the Navy's VIRGINIA Class Submarine Program. John's areas of expertise include infrastructure, water resources, and environmental management. He is a P.E., LEED AP, a Diplomate Water Resources Engineer, and a Change Management Advanced Practitioner. He also serves on the Strategic Communications Sub-Committee of the ASCE Committee on Sustainability. John holds a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an M.S. in Hydrology from the University of New Hampshire, as well as Graduate Certificates from Harvard and Georgetown Universities. John is married with four adult children and five beautiful grandchildren. John enjoys sailing and skiing.

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<http://discovere.org/our-programs/engineers-week>

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SIGN UP TODAY

Proclamation Luncheon

Wednesday, 19 February 2014, 11:30 am

Pier 7 Restaurant

650 Water St SW, Washington, DC, 202-554-2500

Complimentary 3 hours of parking, or walk from the Waterfront Metro

Join us as we celebrate Engineers Week with the Washington DC Area engineering community! The event features networking and a buffet lunch, followed by technical talk from an industry leader.

TICKETS: \$30.00 PER PERSON, OR TABLES OF 10: \$300.00 *

Awards Banquet

Saturday, 22 February 2014, 6:00 pm

Sheraton Hotel, Silver Spring

8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-589-0800

4 Blocks from Silver Spring Metro. Free parking behind hotel.

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Mr. Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP
Architect of the Capitol

The program will include DCCEAS awards to local engineering students, the Engineer and Architect of the Year awards, and a keynote address.

TICKETS: \$50.00 PER PERSON, OR TABLES OF 10: \$500.00 *

DRESS: BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Reservations are due to Jerry Gibbon by February 17, 2014, at jtgibbon@hotmail.com.
For each banquet reservation, please specify entrée choice: chicken, salmon, or vegetarian. If no preference is submitted by reservation due date, default is chicken.

Checks can be sent to: DCCEAS, PO Box 18842, Washington, DC 20036-8842

*** No Shows Will Be Billed**

NCS Committee News and Updates

Centennial Committee

February 14 Planning Meeting.

More than 100 years ago, a committee composed of local civil engineers and led by U.S. Army General Alexander MacKenzie proposed formation of a "Washington society of civil engineers." These visionary leaders seeded what is now known as the ASCE National Capital Section. A new committee has now been formed and is planning activities and celebrations around our Section's 100-year anniversary. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring initiatives around this major milestone, please contact Mr. Christian Manalo (703-626-1031 or manalo_christian@bah.com). The Centennial Committee will hold its next planning meeting on Feb. 14.



Younger Members Forum

Monthly Happy Hours. The NCS Younger Members Forum (YMF) holds monthly Happy Hours in either Arlington, VA, or Washington, DC. Happy Hours typically are the first Wednesday of each month unless a holiday falls during that week. For the January 8 Happy Hour, about 20 members converged on *McFadden's* in Washington, DC.

The next Happy Hour will be held at the *Hard Times Cafe* in Arlington, VA, on Wednesday, February 5 at 6 p.m. (www.hardtimes.com/locations/clarendon/;

3028 Wilson Boulevard, opposite the Clarendon Station on Metro's Orange Line). Stay after Happy Hour for Trivia Night organized by Geeks Who Drink. For additional information, contact Sonja Hinish at

SHinish@wje.com.



Younger Members Professional Development Meeting.

The NCS Younger Members held a Professional Development Meeting at *McCormick & Schmick's* in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, January 15.

A. Morton Thomas & Associates presented on *Land Planning in 3D: How GIS Technology is Shaping our Future Cities*. The speakers, Aelisa Gore, P.E., CFM, and Gore Bolton, P.E., Prof. L.S., discussed a study on how constantly improving GIS technology has increased the capacity for 3-D city planning. They discussed effects of building heights within urban areas and the new creation of city skylines. They offered insight into what other cities around the world are doing, and how technology is allowing stakeholders to model to look forward. They shared their experiences in working with this technology on recent projects, and what we can look forward to in the future for city planning. At the

end of the night, attendees had gained an understanding of the applications of 3-D modeling and planning, and the importance of its technological development, not just for civil engineers, but for professionals within all industries.

For more information about the ASCE-NCS Younger Member Professional Development Meetings or if you would like to suggest a presentation topic, please contact Paul Parfitt at pparfitt@wje.com or David Smith at dsmith@amtengineering.com.



Stay Connected! Check out photos and stay up-to-date with YMF events by visiting the new YMF Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ASCENationalCapitalYMF. Also, follow us on Twitter (@asce_ncsYMF) at https://twitter.com/asce_ncsYMF.

If you would like to become more active with the YMF or would like more information on its events, contact the YMF President, Jordan Pitt, at JPitt@parishandpartners.com or ncsymfpresident@gmail.com. ■



Employment Clearinghouse

The ASCE-NCS provides the Employment Clearinghouse as a free service to its membership. The Clearinghouse allows members to post short notices for available positions or candidates seeking employment. All employers listed herein are equal opportunity employers. If you have questions, are seeking employment, or would like to post a position, please contact the newsletter editor at newsletter@asce-ncs.org or phone (703) 243-5298.

Position Desired

CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEER, FIELD ENGINEER — Princeton University graduate, self-motivated, civil/structural engineer, EIT certified, having 1-2 years experience at Bechtel Corporation in entire structural design phase. From preparing design load calculations and using computer software for structural analysis, to calculating material size for reinforced concrete and steel buildings including reinforced concrete beams, columns, retaining walls, slabs, escalator framing systems, pile caps, escalator pits and steel beams, columns, and connections. Adept at using software in structural analysis and drafting including Autocad, SAP2000, STAAD.Pro, RAM Concrete, and RAM Steel. Familiar with current design codes including AASHTO, ASCE7, ACI 318, IBC, AISC Steel Manual, VDOT Modification, and WMATA Manual of Design Criteria. Seeking engineering office design job designing anything from buildings to bridges or a field engineering job building structures in the field. Available immediately. Contact Miguel Lawrence, 7758 Desiree Street, Alexandria, VA 22315; phone 571-329-6867 or e-mail mjjazz123@gmail.com.

The NCS 2014 Awards Banquet Coming in March

Dr. Ziad Sabra to be Keynote Speaker

This year, the NCS Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 18. Our keynote will be delivered by Dr. Ziad Sabra of Sabra, Wang & Associates, Inc. (SWA). To kick off our annual event during which we celebrate civil engineering careers and people, he will speak on the timely topic *Is Civil Engineering Entrepreneurship for You?* If you have ever wondered what it takes to start a civil engineering business, or how to grow what you may have already started, Dr. Sabra's keynote will help you navigate questions that are sure to emerge in your mind:

- What does it mean to set up shop and what are the challenges that go along with it?
- What strategies should I embrace to break away from the forever-small paradigm that is so prevalent in our industry?

He will share the lessons and strategies that led his firm to be selected for the prestigious award from the Office of Minority Affairs' coalition of MD,

DC, VA, PA, and DE. You don't want to miss this talk. Who knows, you might discover a gem or two of wisdom that will inspire you to create your own prosperous civil engineering firm or take the one you have to the next level!

Dr. Sabra is uniquely qualified to talk to us about this topic. His firm began as a small business in 1993 and quickly gained a reputation as a quality traffic and civil engineering firm with its Federal, state, and local government clients. In 1998, a merger with another small Baltimore MBE business added a Structural Engineering dimension to the firm. Between 1998 and 2005, the firm grew from 10 people to a 60-person operation, and subsequently doubled in size over the next five years. Today, SWA is regarded as one of the most dominant civil engineering MBE/DBE firms in the Washington-Baltimore region. It employs 140 people in six divisions: Structures, Civil, Utilities, Traffic Engineering, Transportation Planning, and Construction Engineering

Inspection. The firm hit upon a key set of strategies that helped it prosper, attract stellar talent, and win large jobs with many more customers. In 2012, SWA was awarded the TOP MBE 100 Award. (More details and photos can be found at: <http://sabra-wang.com/news-top100.html>.)



Dr. Ziad A. Sabra



NCS Holiday Celebration: Section members joined to celebrate the Holidays in December. Attendees included (left to right): Ahmet Zeytinci, Robert Efimba, Chris Manalo, Julia Devine, John Casana, Ranjit Sahai, Sonja Hinish, Kelly Cronin, Dean Westman, Jordan Pitt, Andrea Putscher, Bernie Dennis, Emily Dean, and Alvaro Oviedo.

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED – LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS for the 2014 NCS Awards Banquet and the 2014 NCS Sustainability Award.

Nominations for the Outstanding Civil Engineering Project, Community Service Award, and Meritorious Service Award should be submitted to Qamar Kazmi at qkazmi@schna-bel-eng.com. Nominations for the Sustainability Award should be submitted to Alex Rosenheim at tcc-sus@asce-ncs.org. Nomination criteria for each award were listed in the October 2013 NCS eNewsletter (click [HERE](#) to review). As January 31 was the deadline, any additional nominations must be submitted immediately.

February 5

The NCS Younger Members Forum sponsors its monthly happy hour from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Hard Times Cafe in Arlington, VA. Join younger members from the area for free appetizers and drink specials. For additional information, contact Sonja Hinish at SHinish@wje.com. (See newsletter brief.)

February 11-12

Virginia Commonwealth University and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce host the Energy & Sustainability Conference in Richmond, VA. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

February 18

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. Terry Bellamy, Director of the District Department of Transportation, will present an overview of the DC Streetcar Program, its status, and an eye on the future. (See newsletter lead article.)

February 22

Discover Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. Contact Emily Dean (dean.emilyanne@gmail.com) for further information or to volunteer.

February 27-28

ASCE Continuing Education Seminar "Liability of Engineers: How to Stay Out of Trouble" to be held at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia Center in Philadelphia, PA. Earn 1.4 CEUs. For more information, click [HERE](#).

March 18

NCS Annual Awards Banquet to be held at the Hilton Arlington. Our speaker will be Dr. Ziad Sabra, CEO of Sabra, Wang & Associates, Inc. (SWA), speaking on Lessons in Civil Engineering Entrepreneurship. SWA is one of the top 100 Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprise firms in the area. (See newsletter article.)

March 20

ASCE hosts its 2014 Outstanding Projects And Leaders (OPAL) Gala at the Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel in Arlington, VA. This is the Society's annual black-tie event to honor leadership, achievement, innovation, industry advancement of research, and journalism excellence. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

April 4

The National Capital Region Section of the American Water Resources Association (AWRA-NCRS) and the Water Resources Research Institute at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) will host the 2nd National Capital Region Water Resources Symposium at UDC with the theme Water Resources and Water Infrastructure: Emerging Problems and Solutions. For full agenda and registration information, click [HERE](#).

April 15

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. Our 2014 Sustainability Keynote Address will be presented by Michaela Wittmann, Senior Vice President and Director of Sustainability for HDR, Inc. Ms. Wittmann will be discussing the ISI Envision Rating System and focus on HDR's role as the Designer of Record of the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery, the first project to successfully achieve certification by the ISI as an Envision Project.

May 20

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. The Section's History & Heritage Committee is reviewing several alternative topics for presentation at the May meeting. Watch for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

June 1-5

ASCE's Environmental & Water Resources Institute hosts the World Environmental & Water Resources Congress 2014: Water Without Borders, in Portland, OR. For additional information or to register, click [HERE](#).

July 21-23

ASCE's Energy Division will host the Shale Energy Engineering Conference in Pittsburgh, PA. For additional information or to register, click [HERE](#).

August 3-6

ASCE will sponsor the Pipelines 2014 Conference in Portland, OR, with the theme From Underground to the Forefront of Innovation and Sustainability. For additional information, click [HERE](#). Registration opens in February 2014.

November 6-8

ASCE will sponsor the International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure 2014 in Long Beach, CA. The event will focus on sustainability in the built environment, presenting relevant engineering research, demonstrations, and applications that contribute to competitiveness and well-being. For additional information, click [HERE](#).