

Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project Overview

Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 - Time: 12 PM

A tribute to an abolitionist leader will see its resurrection in the New Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge Project in Washington, D.C. The old bridge was years past its useful life, and construction of the new bridge deck was celebrated on September 7th at a ribbon cutting with Mayor Muriel Bowser and members of the Douglass Family. The new bridge is more than just a span; it's an essential component in a revitalization plan as pedestrian overlooks, piers, and arches are part of the project.

The work called for replacing the 71-year-old bridge and reconstruction of the Suitland Parkway/I-295 interchange. Due to its age, condition, and functional limitations, the span itself has been classified functionally obsolete. Improvements include making the structure safer for cars and pedestrians, enhancing options for multimodal transportation, increasing access for the community, and supporting economic development on both sides of the river.



Speakers

Dennis Howland – Program Manager, DDOT

Mr. Dennis Howland is a Civil Engineer with more than 25 years of professional experience. His career began as a design engineer and has progressively evolved gaining valuable experience in project management, program management, construction management, and dispute resolution.



Please join us virtually on **Tuesday, October 19th** from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for a modified ASCE National Capital Section September Lunch Meeting! The program will approximately consist of a one-hour presentation with a webinar format and one (1) PDH credit will be awarded. The cost will be \$5 for all members, non-members, and students. For questions, please contact president@asce-ncs.org. Please [click here](#) to register by **Monday, October 18th**.

Jon Whitney – Senior Project Manager, HNTB

Mr. Jon Whitney is a Vice President and professional engineer at HNTB with over 30 years of industry experience in transportation engineering. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University. He is currently working as HNTB project manager for South Capitol Street Corridor Phase 1 design build project leading a team of over 25 professionals supporting DDOT in delivering this iconic project. ■



Upcoming Events

Until further notice, all in-person ASCE NCS events have been cancelled. Opportunities for virtual events will be announced as they are planned.

President's Corner

Dear ASCE National Capital Section Members:

It is an absolute honor to serve the American Society of Civil Engineers National Capital Section (ASCE NCS) as your incoming President for 2021 to 2022. Thank you for the opportunity! I would like to extend my appreciation to our past Board of Directors and committee chairs for their dedication. I would also like to show my gratitude to our Past President for 2020 to 2021, Mike Venezia, P.E. Mike had the challenge of guiding our Section through unprecedented times.

When I moved from Chicago, IL to Washington, DC, involvement in ASCE helped to make the transition seamless. The National Capital Section was thriving with opportunities for community outreach and professional development. I recall signing up for a shift at the National Building Museum during National Engineers Week. National Capital Section members were kind and committed to introducing engineering to young students. Thereafter, I took part in the Centennial Celebration and discovered that National Capital Section members even authored a book, filled with images of infrastructure in the area. Next, there was the launch of the Dream Big film. From there, I was welcomed into the Dream Big and Education Committee(s). Together, we planned outreach events at student chapters in the National Capital Section to show the movie trailer and give away movie tickets. I found my purpose in the Education Committee and eventually served as Chair for the Collegiate students. In this position,



I have observed how our professional members are so willing to extend a hand to guide students along their career paths. Professional members have carved out time to judge student competitions; connect with students at our "Coffee & Connections" event; lecture at local student chapters; attend engineering outreach fairs; and conduct resume reviews. Through the ASCE NCS and Scholarship Trust, \$17,000 in scholarships were also awarded in 2021 alone. Most of all, I have watched many students blossom from an undergraduate into a professional. What a delight! This is my NCS journey, and I know that each of you has a "National Capital Section story" of your own.

I invite you to share your story with us. The Board of Directors, Branch, Committee Chairs, and Institute leaders will assist you to write your next chapter. ASCE NCS has a robust group of enthusiastic leaders, across disciplines to work with you and plan programming. This includes the Architectural Engineering Institute; Annual Awards Banquet Committee; Boundary Stone Committee; By-law Committee; Communications Committee; Construction Committee; Corporate Relations Committee; Education Committee; Environmental & Water Resources Institute; Engineers Week Committee; Geo-Institute; History and Heritage Committee; Life Members Forum; Management & Best Practices Committee; Newsletter Editor; Report Card Committee; Reston Branch; Section Meeting Planning; Structural Committee; Sustainability Committee; Transportation

Committee; Younger Member Forum; and Webmaster. If you have an idea or suggestion to share, please reach out to contribute and help chart new territory this fall season.

Autumn reminds me of apples, falling leaves, and a time for learning. This Fall, some of our learning opportunities have included a lecture about the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) Zero Emission Bus Implementation Plan for the September Section Meeting, as well as a presentation about bridging the gap between Reston Town Center and Metro, by way of the Reston Branch meeting. In October, the Section will feature a presentation about Washington, DC's new iconic bridge, the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, named after the brilliant and bold abolitionist. In addition, the Younger Member Forum (YMF) has continued to host activities for networking and career growth and maintains a fantastic social media presence.

As we move forward this year, we would like to continue to provide educational value for our membership; increase the Section's online presence to engage more with our members (e.g., ASCE Collaborate, LinkedIn, and our website); and be community service minded as we inspire future generations. I am elated to be entrusted to lead this Section and look forward to greeting you virtually or in-person soon!



Jameelah Muhammad Ingram,
P.E., M.ASCE
ASCE NCS President

Newsletter

Maria Raggousis, Editor

November 2021 Issue Deadline: October 22, 2021

To Submit Articles: newsletter@asce-ncs.org

NCS eNewsletter Archives: go to www.asce-ncs.org and view along the sidebar.

Address Changes: Call 1-800-548-ASCE, e-mail member@asce.org, visit www.asce.org, or write: ASCE – Membership, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Include your membership number.

National Capital Section

Officers (2020–2021)

Mike Venezia, President

Jameelah Ingram, Vice President

Vic Crawford, Treasurer

Norine Walker, Secretary

Kelly Cronin, Past President

Emily Dean, Previous Past President

Maria Raggousis, Newsletter Editor

Ariana White, YMF President

Lisa Anderson, Director

Elizabeth Wheeler, Director

Tricia Wolfbauer, Director

Joseph Whartenby Jr., Director

Shainur Ahsan, Reston Branch President

Committee Chairs

Please refer to the [NCS website](http://www.asce-ncs.org) for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.

Email productivity: 4 tips for managing your inbox

By Shana Carroll, P.E.

Do you find it difficult to manage your email? Throughout my childhood, I was fortunate enough to travel with my parents to various places where I met other kids my own age. As a classic “Type A,” I wanted to keep in touch with these new friends and hear about their lives, schooling, and hobbies. Unfortunately, the internet was not yet available to the average American household and long distance telephone rates were [as high as 30 cents per minute for out of state calls](#). In comparison, a US postage stamp only cost 22 cents. With my very small allowance, the only way to keep in touch (or K.I.T. as we used to say) was to write letters and mail them. The two people involved in this classic way of cheap long-distance communication were referred to as “penpals.” I had several penpals and would often look forward to going to the mailbox to see if a letter was waiting for me. When I received a letter, I would read it and start drafting my reply right away. However, sometimes it took me several days to write the perfect reply. Then I had to find an envelope and ask one of my parents to take me to the post office for a stamp. The entire reply process averaged a week. When I compare this to the reply time for an email in my e-mail inbox, I am astonished at how far technology has come. We now have near-instant access to new letters in the form of email, and can reply as quickly as we can type (or dictate) and click the send button. People are no longer willing to wait a week or more for a return letter. They want feedback immediately.

Although many positive things have come from the availability of email communication, one drawback is that you can easily have more emails than you have time to process. Use the tips below to efficiently manage your in-box and minimize stress caused by seeing too many unread message notifications on your screen.



Tip 1: Schedule your email

How often have you stopped your current task to look at your email when the familiar “ding” sounds from your screen? Does this scene sound familiar to you? Many of us believe that we are good at multitasking, but the reality is that [you can only focus on one task at a time](#). Many studies have proven that it is extremely improbable that you are able to multitask and not lose productivity. For example, if you are engaged in writing a report and stop to read an email, you might lose a half a minute of productivity when you first look at the email and another half when you go back to writing the report. According to a study, [the average businessperson will receive an average of 122 emails daily in 2015](#). Suppose all of the emails are received on a continual basis over an eight-hour day, you would see approximately 15 emails per hour. For every email, it may take you one minute to open and read the email. This does not consider the time it might take for you to process the email. If you allow yourself to be distracted by the

continued on page 4

ASCE-NCS Newsletter Patrons

WJE

ENGINEERS
ARCHITECTS
MATERIALS SCIENTISTS

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.



Consulting Engineers LLC

www.mkceng.com

in

Email productivity: 4 tips for managing your inbox

continued from page 3

“ding,” you run the risk of losing 15 minutes of every working hour of your day. Instead of trying to multitask, schedule a time to check your email. For example, if you only check your email every two hours you might be able to read 30 emails in ten minutes and then get back to the task you were working on with less lost time. Although there is no set schedule that works for everyone, I recommend checking your email only once per three hours to start. If you find that you are unable to respond in a timely manner to your clients and/or co-workers, change the schedule to once per two hours, and continue to decrease the time increment as appropriate. You’ll save time starting and stopping active tasks and be able to better focus on important tasks.

Tip 2: Invoke the 2 minute rule

This tip, taken from [David Allen](#), is simple: If you can respond to or delegate an email in 2 minutes or less, do it. Too often, we wait one or two days before fully processing our email because it is not an urgent need. However, unless someone else controls your inbox, an unprocessed email will remain until you take action on it. Simply looking at the number of unanswered emails can create stress.

Instead, make an agreement with yourself that you will use the 2 minute rule. If you can’t process the email in two minutes, flag it and save for a later time. The advantage to using this rule is that you will empty your inbox of emails that are quick to respond to and you will have time to focus on other emails uninterrupted because you’ve already scheduled it according to Tip 1!

Tip 3: Empty your inbox every 24 hours

“Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.” – Leonardo da Vinci

Processing your email should be simple. I strive to have an empty inbox at the end of every day. There is something satisfying to see “0 unread messages” at the top of the screen. To keep this system working I use a method modified from

[Michael Hyatt](#). The only folders I use on a daily basis are: Inbox, Processed, and Trash. When an email is addressed but needs to be saved, I move it from Inbox to Processed. If it doesn’t need to be saved I move it to the Trash folder. Using this method, I know which emails need to be touched each time I open my inbox and I am not overwhelmed because I only see a handful of emails. More importantly, I can quickly jump in and start answering them.

If you work in a job where you need to keep copies of emails related to specific clients or projects you can set up separate folders for each one. Then schedule a time, say once a month, to move all related emails to these folders. Simply search for the key word(s) in the client or project name to find the emails, then select, and move. As an added bonus, this makes the archiving process fast and easy.

Tip 4: Unsubscribe as often as possible

How often do you open an email only to wonder how you ever got on the list? Even spam takes time for your brain to process and to recognize it. Your time is valuable; be sure that each email in your inbox deserves your attention. If you find that you are consistently receiving emails from the same person or group that you don’t read, you should unsubscribe from them to minimize clutter in your inbox. If that action is too drastic for you, or you occasionally want that coupon for Bed Bath and Beyond, set up a rule that any email from a certain sender gets automatically pushed to a folder other than your inbox. Then you can save the emails to read later and prevent them from congesting your inbox.

It is easy to get overwhelmed with email. Unlike previous generations, the modern businessperson has access to instant communication through email and they are not willing to wait a few days for a reply letter. If you are not careful, the amount of email you receive can become a significant stressor. Use one or all four of the tips above to manage your email efficiently and reduce stress. ■

ASCE-NCS Newsletter Patrons



Bitcoin and Currently More than 12,000 Cryptocurrencies: A Hope or a Threat?

How it all started

In 2008, a novel paper was introduced to the world, titled "**Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System**", written by Satoshi Nakamoto. In this paper, a new idea was explained about a system for electronic transactions that do not rely on trust. In other words, no "trusted third party" is needed for the system to work.

The physical person behind the name "Satoshi Nakamoto" has never been found and the real identity of Nakamoto still remains a mystery.

Money and the need for a "trusted third party"

In the long past, there were no monetary mediums. People in primitive societies would simply exchange goods using a barter arrangement. Bartering is the exchange of goods and services between two parties without the use of money, based on equivalent estimates of prices and goods. One of its main limitations is that one cannot store wealth in the long term.

Then came money, in the form of a shell, a metal coin, or a piece of paper that people could use as a medium of exchange, a unit of measurement of value and a storehouse for wealth. The invention of money played a significant role in the evolution and development of human societies as it allowed people to trade goods and services indirectly, providing also an effective way to store wealth. Historians believe that metal objects were first used as money as early as 5,000 BC.

The 21st century gave rise to a new form of currency, digital money, allowing digital, mobile payments. Mobile payments are money rendered for a product or service through a portable electronic device, such as a cell phone, smartphone, tablet device or a computer. Money nowadays sits in bank accounts and needs not have a physical form. Mobile payments offer the advantage that the two parties do not need to be in the same physical location for the transaction to take place. Unlike hand-to-hand physical payments by cash, digital payments can be made remotely, through a bank.



The bank acts as an intermediary or a trusted third party. When Helen pays John the amount of \$100.00 remotely, she makes the relevant request at a bank online. The bank needs to verify and process the transaction. It first checks if Helen has \$100.00 at her disposal. If yes, it proceeds with the payment to John. It will debit Helen's account with the amount of \$100.00 and credit John's account with the same amount. In such double entry bookkeeping, debits and credits are entries made in account ledgers to record changes in value.

These online payments need a trusted third party to act as an intermediary. Unlike cash transactions that are truly peer-to-peer, traditional online payments need to go through a bank. This can cause problems and difficulties as banks may delay or censor transactions, while in some cases transaction fees may be too high. This is the case with international payments between two banks in distant countries and especially when a third world country is involved. In addition, one needs to open a bank account to send or receive payments. There are certain requirements for opening an account and rules on who can pay and who can get paid. Privacy is another concern as a lot of personal information is revealed in every transaction and the bank or a bank employee has access to this sensitive information.

The "beauty" of cash, digital cash and the "double-spending problem"

Cash payments do not have these problems. The beauty of cash lies in the fact that there are no intermediaries. But cash has another problem: For example, when Helen gives John a

bank note of \$100.00, the two parties need to be in the same place at the same time. In addition, cash is bulky and therefore it cannot be easily used for big transactions. The question arises: Could we have online payments that are just like cash, i.e. peer-to-peer, with no need for intermediaries, no banks, no delays, no censorship and no privacy issues? Is there a way to have digital money that behaves exactly like cash?

Many researchers had tried to deal with this issue, but they faced the so-called "double-spending problem". Double spending is the risk that a digital currency can be spent twice. Physical currencies do not have this problem because they cannot be easily replicated, and the involved parties in a transaction can easily verify the authenticity and past ownership of the physical currency. In other words, with digital currency there is a risk that the holder of the digital currency might make a copy of the digital token and send it as payment, while retaining the original.

The solution to the double-spending problem

Bitcoin was the first successful implementation managing to solve the double spending problem. It was described as a peer-to-peer electronic cash system. The code of Bitcoin was released in 2009, after the publication in 2008. In Bitcoin, there is no bank, no central system, no single institution in the middle playing a special role. That's why it is called a "decentralized network". All players in this network are equal and there is no central or special player. The technology that enabled Bitcoin to make this breakthrough, is called **Blockchain**. Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, all based on blockchain technology, offer peer-to-peer transactions with privacy for any amount of money, just like cash!

In a blockchain, timestamps for a transaction are added to the end of previous timestamps based on proof-of-work, creating a historical record. Because the record of transactions is

continued on page 6

distributed across many nodes in the system, it is practically impossible for a bad actor to gain enough control of the system to rewrite the ledger to their own advantage. The blockchain records are kept secure because the amount of computational power required to reverse them is enormous. This technology allows Bitcoin to transfer value across the globe without resorting to traditional intermediaries, such as banks.

Bitcoin controversy

For many, Bitcoin is the ultimate democratic tool and the currency of the future. Its advantages include the following:

- **Payment freedom.** Bitcoin allows us to send and receive money anywhere in the world, peer to peer, at any time.
- **Availability.** It is theoretically available to populations of users without access to traditional banking systems, credit cards, and other methods of payment.
- **Total control over our money.** There is no form of central authority in the Bitcoin network.
- **Security.** The protocol cannot be manipulated by any organization, government or bad actor, because Bitcoin is cryptographically safe. The network remains secure even if not all of its users can be trusted.
- **Transparency.** The information is fully transparent. With the blockchain, all completed transactions are visible to everyone, but personal information remains hidden.
- **Low fees.** Although there are transaction fees to be paid, they are very low.

On the other hand, some economists have characterized Bitcoin as a speculative bubble or even an advanced Ponzi scheme. Bitcoin has been criticized for:

- **Use in illegal transactions.** Bitcoin offers a dark medium to engage in illegal activities including money laundering, financing terrorism, collecting ransoms in hacks or cyberattacks, and buying or selling banned substances.
- **Large carbon footprint.** Bitcoin is power-hungry as it is "mined" (created) using high-powered computers around the globe. Cambridge researchers claim that mining Bitcoin currently consumes around 110 Terawatt Hours per year. That's roughly 0.55 percent of global electricity production, and more energy than the annual consumption of countries such as Argentina, Malaysia, and Sweden.
- **Price volatility.** Since it was first introduced, Bitcoin has had a choppy and volatile trading history. Its price has undergone multiple bubbles in a short history. It reached an all-time high price of \$64,863 on April 14, 2021.
- **Scalability problem and low speed.** The scalability problem refers to the limited capability of the Bitcoin network to handle large amounts of transaction data on its platform in a short span of time. Bitcoin processes 4.6 transactions per second on average, compared to Visa's 1,700-plus per second. For many, this is a major barrier to its wider adoption.

Conclusion and discussion

Bitcoin is a new and experimental currency in continuous development. It has many advantages that physical money does not provide to its users, however, it also has disadvantages. Various other cryptocurrencies use a consensus mechanism called proof-of-stake (PoS), which is much less energy-intensive than the Proof-of-Work technology on which Bitcoin is based. The No. 2 cryptocurrency, *Ethereum*, is moving to PoS soon. This can solve one of the major problems of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies, which is the large carbon footprint of traditional mining.

With more than 12,000 different cryptocurrencies now listed by CoinMarketCap, competition between bitcoin and other major cryptocurrencies is reaching a fever pitch. Cryptocurrency is a nascent phenomenon and numerous unresolved issues still remain before it becomes close to reshaping the major shortcomings of today's financial systems.

Dr. Vagelis Plevris
vplevris@qu.edu.qa

About the Author

Dr. [Vagelis Plevris](#) is an Associate Professor at the [Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering](#) of Qatar University in Doha, Qatar. Currently, Dr. Plevris serves as the Chief Editor for "[Computational Methods in Structural Engineering](#)", a section of the journal *Frontiers in Built Environment*, by Frontiers in Switzerland.

ASCE-NCS Newsletter Patron

Michael Baker

I N T E R N A T I O N A L



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (2021/2022)

PLATINUM: \$5,000

Recognition at Annual Awards Ceremony

Business card recognition in eNewsletter for one year

Recognition on Section website homepage

Firm spotlight in two newsletters

Opportunity to make announcement at one Section Meeting, plus eight section meeting passes in year

Recognition at all Section Meetings

Five copies of Centennial Commemorative Book

Recognition in each Section Meeting email announcement

(only 2 available)

GOLD: \$2,000

Recognition at Annual Awards Ceremony

Business card recognition in eNewsletter for one year

Recognition on Section website homepage

Firm spotlight in one newsletter

Opportunity to make announcement at one Section Meeting, plus eight section meeting passes in year

Recognition at one Section Meeting

Two copies of Centennial Commemorative Book

(only 6 available)

SILVER: \$1,000

Recognition at Annual Awards Ceremony

Business card recognition in eNewsletter for one year

Recognition on Section website homepage

Recognition at one Section Meeting

(unlimited)

BRONZE: \$500

Recognition at Annual Awards Ceremony

Business card recognition in eNewsletter for one year

(unlimited)

Contact us today to learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to customize a sponsorship package that's right for your company.

Note: 2021 Section Meetings are in a virtual format. 2022 Annual Awards Ceremony and Section Meetings may be virtual or in person.

Why Sponsor?

- Our Section Meetings attract some of the best civil engineers in the DC area and are an opportunity to meet potential clients, teaming partners, and staff. Attendance typically includes ~20% from federal or local government, ~20% from universities, and ~60% from industry, including many of the nation’s largest firms.
- Potential topics for Section Meetings in 2021/2022 include the following:
 - Zero Emissions Buses
 - Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge
 - Climate Change/Resiliency
 - Transportation Project
 - International Activities in Civil Engineering
 - Volunteer Project in Developing Community
 - Art in Transportation
- The Annual Awards Ceremony includes many award winning leaders in the industry and is a great opportunity to engage with our region’s outstanding civil engineering students.
- Our eNewsletters are issued throughout the year and are distributed to more than 8,000 local engineers.

Sponsorship Form

Please email completed form to:
lynn@repicture.com

Company:	
Address:	
Contact Person:	
Email Address:	

Sponsorship Selection(s):

	Enter Amount
Platinum (\$5,000)	\$
Gold (\$2,000)	\$
Silver (\$1,000)	\$
Bronze (\$500)	\$
Scholarship Trust (\$100 or other)	\$
Other	\$
Total	\$

Payment Method:

Check

Please make check payable to **ASCE-NCS** & mail to:

ASCE-NCS
PO Box 25186
Arlington, VA 22202

Credit Card

Please contact treasurer@asce-ncs.org



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES 2021/2022

Questions?

Contact Corporate Relations
Committee Chair
Lynn Mayo
(202) 681-3030 or
Lynn@RePicture.com

ASCE-NCS Committee and Branch News and Updates

Environmental & Water Resources Institute

On October 7th, 2021, the EWRI National Capital Section heard Dan Holod speak on Inclusive Engagement in the Low Carbon Transition. This discussion focused on addressing the need for proper and continuous stakeholder engagement as we go on our journey towards decarbonization. The conversation was rooted in two case studies. The first was on inclusive engagement in international development, focusing on eastern Africa where Daniel worked with the USDA on climate development and has a startup on the topic. The second was on a New York example to highlight challenges for renewable deployment in the US and the need to change how we approach the low carbon transition to avoid continued systemic racism and economic bias.

About the Speaker: Daniel is a consultant in ERM's ESG Advisory and Sustainable Finance group, based in Manhattan and has international experience leading sustainable strategy and climate development, with a strong focus on inclusive stakeholder engagement and environmental justice. With this passion he co-founded a startup in western Kenya focused on food sovereignty for women farmers. Daniel was a consultant at the UNESCO – Inclusive Policy Lab, designing M&E in climate and migration in SE Asia and East Africa and being the lead on stakeholder engagement, prior working with the FAO and USDA in Southeast Asia and eastern Africa. Daniel holds an MBA and an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford.

ASCE-NCS Reston Branch

By Michael J. Magyarics, P.E., Reston Branch Vice President

On September 14th, the Reston Branch hosted Doug Schweizer, P.E., S.E., a Senior Project Engineer at Thornton Tomasetti's Washington, DC, office for a virtual presentation. Mr. Schweizer presented on "Reston Next – Bridging the Gap Between the Reston town Center and Metro". He holds a B.S degree in Civil Engineering and a M.S. degree in Structural Engineering from North Carolina State University. Doug joined Thornton Tomasetti in 2013 and has specialized in the design of complex

building structures including new design of steel and concrete structures and the renovation of historic structures. He is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and a licensed structural engineer in Illinois.

Mr. Schweizer's presentation provided a detailed overview of the structural engineering and the challenges encountered during the construction of Reston Next, a new, 2.5 million square foot, development located in Reston Virginia, situated in the Reston Town Center, adjacent to the future WMATA Silver line Reston station. The project consists of a 5 story below-grade shared parking garage, a 20-story office tower, a 28-story office tower and a 13-story hotel (hotel construction anticipated to start in 2022). The two office towers are connected by a long-span king-post-truss connector structure at Levels 7 and 8. The ground floor plaza includes active retail space and a quarter acre of public plaza and green space. The structure is primarily constructed with cast-in-place concrete with 2-way mild steel slabs below grade and post-tensioned concrete slabs above grade. Steel construction was utilized over the 80' clear span loading dock and the 100' connector structure between the two towers. Thornton Tomasetti provided structural engineering for the project, working in collaboration with the Owner: Boston Properties; Architects: Duda | Paine Architects and Cooper Carry; and Contractor: Clark Construction.

On October 12th, the Reston Branch will host Steven K. Starrett, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, F.ASCE. F.EWRI and Dr. Carlos Bertha for their virtual presentation entitled, "Watershed Changes to ASCE Code of Ethics."



Dr. Starrett became the Dean of Engineering and Engineering Technology at LeTourneau University in 2017. LeTourneau University, the Christian Polytechnic University, has been providing an innovative, hands-on engineering education since it was founded in Longview, Texas in 1946. He obtained a BS in civil engineering from Missouri University of Science & Technology in 1989. He obtained an M.S. and Ph.D. in civil engineering from Iowa State University in 1992 and 1994, respectively. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Dr. Starrett served on the civil engineering faculty at Kansas State University for 23 years and was also the Director of the institutional wide Honor and Integrity System. He served as the ASCE-Environmental and Water Resources Institute President in 2017. In 2017, Dr. Starrett received the prestigious Professional Practice Ethics and Leadership Award granted by the American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE). In 2018, Dr. Starrett received the Service to the Institute Award from the ASCE-EWRI.



Dr. Bertha is a Professor of Philosophy at the US Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He received a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Florida (USF) in 1989. After working at the Savannah District Corps of Engineers for 5 years, he returned to USF, this time to study philosophy. He has been at USAFA since June of 2000, teaching Ethics, Analytic Philosophy, Symbolic Logic, and Philosophy of Science. Carlos recently retired from the US Army Reserve after 30 years of service, achieving the rank of Colonel. He served a combat tour with the US Army Corps of Engineers in Gardez, Afghanistan. Carlos was an instructor for the Command and General Staff Officers



continued on page 10

Course, focusing on organizational leadership, joint doctrine, and professional ethics. His last assignment was Deputy Commander of the Army EPLO Group, under the 76th Operational Response Command, in Salt Lake City, UT.

Dr. Starrett and Dr. Bertha's presentation will discuss the transformational change to ASCE's Code of Ethics as approved by The ASCE Board of Direction in October 2020. The way it is organized and structured, the language used and several new aspects were incorporated. By weaving together ethical theory and practical, Dr. Starrett and Dr. Bertha and I will show why ASCE's New Code of Ethics is, indeed, a "watershed moment" in engineering ethics.

The Reston Branch has launched a [group](#) on LinkedIn to provide regular updates for the Branch as well as offer a place for branch members to connect. See the following link for additional information: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13759693/>.

Upcoming Events:

October 12, 2021 at 12 PM – Virtual Meeting – Watershed Changes to ASCE Code of Ethics



Younger Members Forum

By Kush Vashee, P.E., CAPM, M. ASCE

Monthly Happy Hour.

The NCS Younger Members Forum (YMF) holds monthly happy hours, alternating between Arlington, VA and Washington, DC. Happy hours are usually the first Wednesday of each month unless a holiday falls during that week.

The group held a virtual happy hour on Wednesday September 1st and on Wednesday October 6th on Webex! Stay tuned for details on our next happy hour tentatively starting at 6PM on Wednesday November 3rd on Webex. Look out for some emails soon with registration details. We hope to see you there!

We have our planning meeting coming up soon, where we will discuss the organization of future professional development and social events, as well as electing and installing a new leadership board for the 2021–2022 year. Keep a lookout in your email for registration details.

Professional Development:

Additionally, if you have suggestions for professional development meeting topics or would like to become more involved with the YMF in other areas, please contact the YMF President at ncsymfpresident@gmail.com.

Stay Connected! Check out photos and stay up-to-date with YMF events by visiting the new YMF Facebook page (ASCE National Capital Section Younger Members Forum), following us on Twitter (@ASCE_NCS_YMF), LinkedIn (ASCE National Capital YMF), and Instagram (@asce_ncs_ymf)

Get Involved! Are you interested in getting involved with more Younger Members activities? Do you have ideas for social events or volunteering activities? The NCS Younger Members Group is always looking for new members! Let us know if you are not already on our mailing list! If you would like to become more active with the YMF or would like more information on our events, please email the YMF President.

Employment Clearinghouse

St. Mary's County, Public Works & Transportation, Director

St. Mary's County is seeking a director for activities of various divisions within the public works sector. These divisions include County highways, building services, engineering services, solid waste & recycling, transportation, construction and inspections, and administrative functions. This position directs, coordinates, and assesses the work of subordinate staff to facilitate the achievement of departmental goals and objectives, working under the general direction of the County Administrator and must possess a wide latitude for independent action and judgement. [Click here](#) for more

information and to apply on the website, [click here](#).

Apply to join the Green Building Advisory Council

The Green Building Advisory Council (GBAC) is a volunteer commission that makes recommendations on green building policies and monitors the District's compliance with green building requirements. Made up of representatives from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, the GBAC continues to support the District as a leader in green building innovation. To view previous agendas and minutes from recent meetings, visit the [GBAC webpage](#).

The GBAC currently has two openings to join the volunteer board: one private sector and one nonprofit sector representative who lives or works in the District. [For more information or to apply, visit the GBAC website.](#)

The 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](#).