

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the 2008 International Bridge Conference®! The Executive Committee of the International Bridge Conference®, (IBC) has been planning for 18 months in anticipation of the 2008 IBC. There are many major changes which will dramatically increase the value of the 2008 IBC for all attendees. We are proud to announce the following major new features and events at the 25th Anniversary IBC:



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Keynote Session: Our Keynote session will feature nationally known leaders **Ms. Mary Peters**, US Secretary of Transportation (invited), **Dr. Peter Ruane**, the President & CEO of ARTBA, and **Mr. John Horsley**, the Executive Director of AASHTO.

Federal Highway Administration: As the Featured Agency, the IBC Executive Committee sought to invite the single agency that represents all of us, which funds much of the infrastructure development in the US and provides leadership worldwide – the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). FHWA has accepted our invitation and has developed an exciting, landmark program featuring a host of presentations dealing with the Federal-aid highway program itself, as well as major projects and substantial issues reflective of the challenging times we all face.

New Location: The 2008 IBC will be located at Pittsburgh's new David L. Lawrence Convention Center (DLCC). The conference hotel headquarters will be the Westin Convention Center Hotel. The relocation of the Conference has allowed for major changes in the Exhibit Hall, a major feature of the Conference.

Expanded Trade Show: There will be over 150 exhibitors at IBC 2008 (an all time high). They are all providers of goods and services to the bridge industry. IBC has traditionally had a long list of exhibiting firms who see the value in IBC and return year after year. They are joined by 50 additional firms, both repeat and first timers. We heartily welcome both those returning as well as the first time exhibitors.

Expanded Technical Program:

The Conference will also feature a substantial expansion in our Technical Program. The additional meeting space and presentation rooms at the Pittsburgh Convention Center will allow the IBC to offer over 80 technical presentations from well qualified authors who have important information for Conference attendees. Technical Sessions offered will include **Design, GeoTechnical, Inspection/Analysis, Long Span Bridges, Accelerated Bridge Construction, Construction, Historic Structures, Rehabilitation, and Seismic.**

New Workshops: IBC will feature programs organized and presented by other groups. The IBC is pleased to welcome workshops from a myriad of groups including:

- The American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) TIG
- American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA)
- ADSC - The International Association of Foundation Drilling
- American Galvanizing Association (AGA)

- American Railway Engineers and Maintenance of Way Association (AREMA)
- Bridge Construction Workshop, by IBC Construction Committee
- Construction Technology Laboratories (CTL Group) on Bridge Failures
- FHWA – ABC/HFL
- FHWA - Heat Straightening
- The National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA)
- Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
- SSPC: the Society for Protective Coatings (SSPC)
- Subcommittee For Economic Fabrication (SCEF)
- Transportation Research Board (TRB)
- University of Pittsburgh's Western PA Transportation Research Forum

Training Opportunities at IBC: The IBC is excited to offer these seminars as great training opportunities:

- The Use of Strut and Tie Modeling (1/2 day seminar)
- Getting the Best Proposal and Project (1/2 day seminar)
- Integral Abutments (1/2 day seminar)
- NHI Course No. 130081, LRFD for Highway Bridge Superstructures – Concrete (2 day seminar)
- NHI Course No. 130081A, LRFD for Highway Bridge Superstructures – Steel (2 day seminar)

Committee Meetings at IBC in 2008: The IBC extends a warm welcome to three groups that have decided to hold a meeting of their groups at the Conference:

- Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
- The Mid-Atlantic States' Committees for Economic Steel and Prestressed Concrete Fabrication (SCEF and PCEF)
- TRB Subcommittee AFF10 (2) Bridge Aesthetics, Mid-Year Meeting



25th Anniversary Celebration: We are eagerly anticipating the celebration of our 25th Anniversary. We will have major Commemorative Events including our 25th Anniversary Birthday Party on Tuesday evening, June 3. The party is sure to be a "don't want to miss" event! We are thrilled to have the FHWA as our featured agency, and we look forward to the new Conference venue.

We are dedicated to providing you with the best Keynoters, the best Featured Agency, Technical Program, Workshops, Training Courses, Seminars and Trade Show and the best IBC possible. Please mark your calendar and join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of IBC in Pittsburgh in June 2008! Remember, the IBC is all about bridges!

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Eric S. Kline
2008 International Bridge Conference General Chair
KTA-Tator, Inc.