

ESWP and ARTBA Join Together in Strategic Partnership for the International Bridge Conference
Remarks presented on June 16, 2009 at the 26th Annual IBC, Pittsburgh, PA

Louis J. Ruzzi, P.E. 2009 IBC Chairman's Remarks:

On behalf of the IBC and the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania, I am delighted to announce a strategic partnership that will help us to continue to build on the success of the IBC and further enhance its stature as the premier bridge conference in the world.

Today, we signed a multi-year partnering agreement with the premier national—and I would say international—organization in the transportation design and construction arena—the American Road & Transportation Builders Association.

Under the agreement, the ESWP and IBC leadership will work together with the ARTBA leadership and staff to further enhance our IBC educational program... and build on our existing attendance and exhibitor bases through marketing support.

Bridge planning... financing... design... construction... management... and technology involve every sector of the transportation construction industry.

That's one reason why this partnership makes so much sense.

ARTBA is the only organization that has a membership base that brings professionals from all of these market functions together in united purpose. And the association's involvement with, and support of, the bridge sector has become even stronger with the start-up, last year, of the ARTBA Bridge Policy & Promotion Council.

We are pleased that IBC, starting in 2010, will be part of the ARTBA agenda.

I personally would like to offer special thanks to ARTBA President & CEO Pete Ruane, whose vision and dedication to the IBC helped make this historic partnership a reality. Pete...

Dr. T. Peter Ruane, ARTBA President & CEO Remarks:

Thank you, Lou, for those very nice comments. On behalf of the ARTBA leadership, I want to express our thanks to you, the Executive Committee and Dave Teorsky. We are delighted to be entering a strategic partnership with your fine organization to help you continue to build on the success of the International Bridge Conference.

ARTBA has a rich history in the bridge area. We were founded in 1902 to advocate federal support for construction of a "Capital Connecting Highway System" which would link every state capital with the others and our national capital in Washington, D.C., through a network of modern, paved highways. That vision of our founder, Horatio Earle, was realized with the enactment of legislation to finance the Interstate Highway Program in 1956.

And that program, as we all know, initiated the largest bridge building program in the history of man.

In the 1970's, ARTBA was a primary advocate and architect of the federal bridge categorical program.

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And today, with the creation of the Bridge Policy & Promotion Council—which will hold its first membership meeting here tomorrow afternoon—we aim to bring even more attention—and investment—to the bridge market.

And by investment, we don't mean just dollars. We also mean the introduction and implementation of new products, technologies and techniques... financing mechanisms and project delivery methods... safety practices... and federal program reforms in the bridge sector.

We believe that mission will be advanced through our partnership on the International Bridge Conference.

And I would be remiss if I didn't also salute Bob Luffy of the American Bridge Company. Bob's personal involvement and leadership has been instrumental in the development of our Bridge Policy & Promotion Council and in bringing ARTBA and the ESWP together.

Ladies and gentlemen, the future is bright for the International Bridge Conference! Together, we will accomplish much! Thank you.