TO:    PRESIDENT CHAS JORDAN & MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FROM:  JEFF ROBERTS, CHAIRPERSON
DATE:  JULY 15 & 16, 2016
RE:    GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

Activity Period:  2nd Quarter 2016 (April – June)

Governmental Affairs Committee Members
Chairperson: Jeff Roberts, PE (HNTB)  jkroberts@hntb.com  850 878-9777
Vice-Chair: Open
Members: Joseph DeMoss (Pinellas Co.)  jdemoss@pinellascounty.org  727 464-3631
        Amy Davies (CDM Smith)  daviesah@cdmsmith.com  239 938-9606
        Chris Evers, PE (PaveTech)  cevers@pavetechinc.com
        Charles McLendon (HDR)  charles.mclendon@hdrinc.com

Mission Statement
The Government Affairs Committee of the American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter is organized to provide awareness and advocacy for important public works and infrastructure-related legislation at the statewide and local levels.

Government Affairs Email Address: GovtAffairs@apwaflorida.org.
Please encourage your branch members to email us for any concerns or legislative actions they want us to track. This includes statewide AND local issues.

QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES – Current
No major activities to report. The committee met July 8th to discuss action items and prepare for legislative updates.

If you or one of your colleagues would like to make us aware of items we need to be watching, please contact us and we will follow up on the issue. We welcome open input and additional ideas from all members.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES – Next Quarter
Planned activities consist of:
- Prepare October annual update at Executive Meeting for statewide legislature proposals;
- APWA Position Paper for pending legislative proposals;
- Develop Government Affairs updates for inclusion in the APWA FL magazine;
- Email chapter members notifications on gov’t affairs information including:
o government/public agency sponsored trainings/certifications;
o other information as needed.

- Coordinate with FES/ASCE and other associations for “Legislative Days” or similar representation for APWA members.

A position paper will help define the Chapter’s interests on key upcoming legislative efforts that impact public works initiatives. For attending legislative meetings (i.e. “Legislative Days”), at least two members of the government affairs committee or executive board would plan to travel to Tallahassee in November or early December (Session was moved up to January) to meet with key legislators and staff.
Previous Information from 1st Quarter 2016:

UPDATE ON FEDERAL SPENDING BILLS
The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act:

- Overall, the FAST Act largely maintains current program structures and funding shares between highways and transit.
- The Act emphasizes the importance of Federal coordination to focus local governments on the needs of freight transportation providers.
- The FAST Act establishes a new National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau within the Department to serve as a one-stop shop for state and local governments to receive federal funding, financing or technical assistance.
- The TIFIA Loan program provides important financing options for large projects and public-private partnerships.
- The FAST Act includes a number of positive provisions, including reinstating the popular bus discretionary grant program and strengthening the Buy America requirements that promote domestic manufacturing through vehicle and track purchases.
- The Act includes a number of items that strengthen workforce training and improve regional planning. These include allocating slightly more formula funds to local decision makers and providing planners with additional design flexibilities. Notably, FAST makes Transit Oriented Development (TOD) expenses eligible for funding under highway and rail credit programs. TOD promotes dense commercial and residential development near transit hubs in an effort to shore up transit ridership and promote walkable, sustainable land use.

Learn more on the FAST ACT at: https://www.transportation.gov/fastact#sthash.k01o0kN.dpuf

2016 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Legislation of Interest - PASSED

Public Records Requests (SB 390 / HB 273) –
Modifies public records laws to mitigate non-owner’s exposure to litigation stemming from public records requests made to professional services firms. Requires requests for public records to be made to the owner’s custodian of records.

Water Resources (SB 552 / HB 7005) –
Establishes additional authorities for water management districts, identify water infrastructure projects and associated state funding using a planning-level process similar to how transportation projects are programmed at the state level.

Public/ Private Partnerships (SB 124 & 126 / HB 95 & 97) – Various changes in P3 law, including public records exemptions.

Legislation of Interest - **FAILED**

*Legislation to Watch: tbd*

**APWA FLORIDA CHAPTER GENERAL POSITIONS**

The Florida Chapter of APWA has adopted the following position statements regarding popular public works initiatives:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING – WE SUPPORT** increased funding in Florida’s infrastructure. Significant investment is needed to help reverse years of decay and such investment will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs. Studies show that every $1 invested in transportation infrastructure yields $5.50 in positive economic activity. Additionally, every $1 spent on preventative maintenance saves $7 to $10 over reconstruction costs.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING - WE SUPPORT** the indexing of all state and local gas taxes and removal of restrictions on use of local option taxes to allow for major road and bridge rehabilitations. We also support increases in funding from the FDOT to local governments for Transportation Regional Incentive (TRIP) grants, traffic signal maintenance and infrastructure to serve commuter rail.

- **STATE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND – WE OPPOSE** any effort to further divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes. We also oppose dedicating any more than 65% of funding for Strategic Inter-model Systems (SIS) facilities.

- **WATER – WE SUPPORT** alternative water supply programs. Almost $35 Billion is needed for water supply and wastewater initiatives over the next 20 years. For every $1 invested in water supply projects, there is a $6 return on investment. Water infrastructure projects also stimulate economic development and create jobs.