

The Mid-Allegheny Minutes



February 18, 2026 Dinner Meeting

ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section participated in a joint meeting along with the Altoona and Clearfield Sections. The event was held at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) in the Living-Learning Center.

The evening started with a presentation by **Michael Stone, PE** of PennDOT District 9-0 along with **Steve Moore, PE** of Stantec. They presented on US 219 from Meyersdale PA to Old Salisbury Road MD Project providing an update on the status of the project that once completed extends a combined total of 70 miles. The US 219 corridor from Meyersdale extends 8 miles in Somerset and Garrett County and 2 miles in Maryland. US 219 will be a 4-lane undivided highway connecting US 219 in Pennsylvania to I-68 in Maryland.

The project had several key elements that enhance the area including geometric alignments, safety improvements and increasing truck traffic. Working with multiple states included agencies from each state to work with for approvals. The Record of Decision (ROD) was required to select the alignment and advance the project. This was the first transportation project to receive an ROD under the new federal administration and the first in Pennsylvania since 2006. The project worked around historical properties, schools, farms, and state game lands.

All of the sections would like to thank PennDOT and Stantec for providing an update on this project.

Two students from UPJ discussed their events throughout the year. The Steel Bridge competition from 2025 named Truss Fall required construction without entering the river. UPJ placed 4th overall. UPJ is hosting the steel bridge competition in 2026. In the 2025 Concrete Canoe competition UPJ with the Locafloation came in FIRST place overall. The students also host/participate in a surveying competition and have an upcoming Engineering & Computer Science Employer Day.

Keep up the great work and good luck in this year's competitions.

Photos: Jason Galli, Altoona Section President, Mike Stone, Steve Moore, and two students from UPJ



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March 11, 2026 All day workshop

ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section and PennDOT District 10-0 hosted a daylong workshop covering an array of topics. Kicking off the day **Gary Madey, PE**, ASHE Mid-Allegheny President, gave an update on the section and upcoming events.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly presentation by **Paul Koza, PE** was interactive and several District ACE's elaborated on the situations that occurred on their projects. Good: partnering meetings occurring between the contractors and designers, paving ride quality, Bad: existing pavement depth varied from the design, but taking concrete cores sheds light on the differences; drainage issues adjacent to median barrier, Ugly: the case of the overhead utility vs the crane picks and the line being hooked in the rigging, and the attenuator at the end of temporary barrier is wider than the barrier, therefore extending into the temporary lane width. Paul provided us with items to note for future efforts.

Next up was a presentation including innovations and lessons learned on the Major Bridge P3. **Vaughn Schlachter, PE** and **Greg Schnur** presented several projects in construction within District 10-0 including Canoe Creek and North Fork along I-80. Their discussion included quality control, using templates for micropile and steel H pile installation, mass concrete placement and using an App to monitor temperature ranges. Several lessons learned involve concrete inconsistencies, tie-ins at the ramp and mainline contrast between the temporary and final conditions, and shrinkage cracking in the substructure units. Construction is scheduled to be completed in June 2028.

Mark Wasilko and **Kirk Schrecengost, PE** presented on CPM schedules, Traffic Restrictions, and RULD's. The use of Floating schedules are beneficial on small projects, box culverts and project with less than 1 construction season. A new calculator for the RULD's will be available in the File Cabinet in this summer. Traffic restrictions are governed by peak hour limitations and require coordination with the local municipality.



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After lunch Digital Delivery, PDCC, and Autodesk were discussed by **Alice Hammond, PE** and **Matt Burkett, PE**. The district has had several Digital Delivery pilot projects completed and are continuing to increase the number every year. PennDOT's Digital Delivery website, PDCC, provides resources and expands upon CADD support, model criteria and quality management. There are 2 manuals available.

A significant project that impacts those living in and around the City of Pittsburgh, is the Commercial Street Bridge Project in District 11. **John Myler**, Senior Assistant Construction Manager, presented on the projects background, design, public involvement, construction including photos and videos, the upcoming full closure from July 10 – August 3. The project website contains extensive information about detour routes. The existing structure is a concrete arch and the replacement structure is a steel delta frame that maintains a similar appearance to the existing structure.

The Bridge and Geotech groups discussed situations encountered as part of their 2025 review. **Matt Mucha**, **Ron Schreckengost, PE**, and **Doug Zubal, PE** presented on conditions to consider for the elastomeric bearings when in conjunction with galvanized beams, bearing pad tests and the use of Method B, PPC overlay increase depth by $\frac{1}{4}$ " to allow for grinding, under cuts and drainage, allowing enough room to work when temporary shoring is placed, and predrilling 2 feet into sloping rock.

The last presentation of the day was given by **Chad Mosco, PE** presenting on the 2026 Design Forecast. Topics included the Districts funding, average number of projects they are able to complete each year, the TIP for 2027, the selection committee, marketing to the District and District expectations. Chad also reviewed upcoming projects and the District Consultant PMs.

Many thanks to all who attended and presented. The subjects open discussion on topics that are important to the department, designers, and contractors alike.



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Upcoming events include:

- Joint Dinner Meeting – April 9, 2026
- Tour of Valmont Coatings – April 10, 2026
- May Dinner Meeting – Wednesday May 13, 2026
- Golf Outing – May 15, 2026
- Sporting Clay Shoot – July 31, 2026
- Bill Young Memorial Golf Outing – August 14, 2026

Additional information on the events above can be found on our website.

Membership Renewals can still be made online.

Please use the following link.

<https://ashemidallegheny.simpletix.com/>

We sincerely thank all our Members and Sponsoring Firms for your continued support of the Section.

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If you have comments or suggestions related to presentations, meetings, or this newsletter, please forward a brief e-mail to the effect. Our board welcomes feedback so we can better serve our membership and industry.