

## The Mid-Allegheny Minutes



### March 17, 2022 Dinner Meeting

The fourth meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2021-2022 program was held at the Rustic Lodge. Following a welcome by Section President William Ferko, P.E. and dinner, **Paul Koza, PE**, PennDOT District 10-0 Assistant District Executive - Construction, gave a presentation that provided a review of "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly" of the 2020-2021 Construction Season.



*Paul Koza, PE*

Paul presented several projects that have recently been completed or are near completion. He highlighted a variety of issues encountered during construction and called attention to several items through specific pictures taken during construction for designers to consider as projects advance through the design process to construction.

The Mid-Allegheny Section again sincerely thanks Paul for his willingness to present what has become an annual topic of interest and education for those involved with both project design and construction.

### May 19, 2022 Dinner Meeting

The fifth meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2021-2022 program was held at the Rustic Lodge. Following a steak dinner, **Jane-Ann Patton, PE**, Office Manager and Senior Project Manager and **Matt Cochran, PE**, Senior Structural Engineer, both with Lochner gave a presentation on the I-79 over North Boundary Road bridge replacement project. The project was selected for the ASHE Mid Allegheny Outstanding Highway Engineering Award and is further described in the Mid-Allegheny News section below.



*Jane-Ann Patton (left) and Matt Cochran (right)*

Lessons Learned in Construction 2020-21



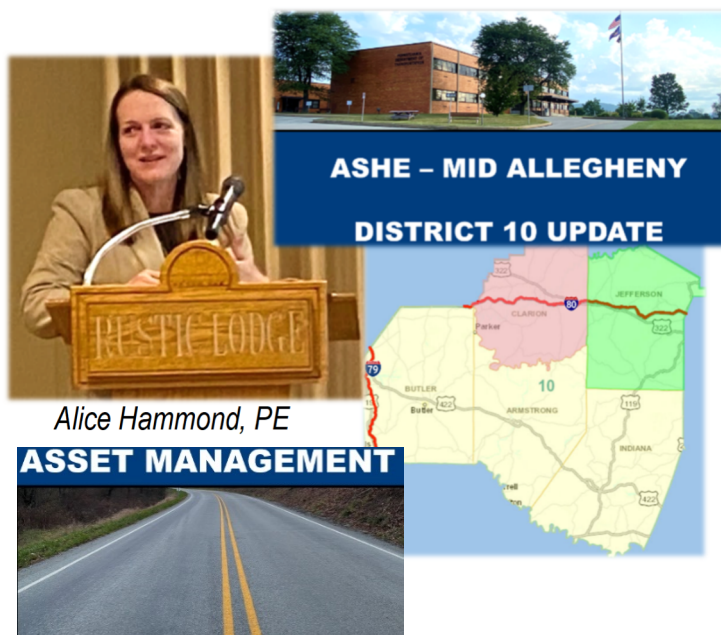
### September 14, 2022 Dinner Meeting

The first meeting of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section 2022-2023 program was held at the Rustic Lodge. Following dinner **Alice Hammond, PE**, PennDOT District 10-0 Assistant District Executive - Design, gave an update on several topics in District 10-0 including District organizational highlights and changes, funding allocations, and District specific pavement and bridge asset management statistics and goals. Alice also discussed the District's challenges and future plans regarding project delivery and safety and called attention to recent quality and constructability issues. Alice wrapped up the presentation with a summary of upcoming design projects to be advertised by the District.

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Alice's presentation will be available on the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section's website. The Mid-Allegheny Section thanks Alice for taking the time to again share with our Section about what's currently happening in District 10-0.



Alice Hammond, PE

### Mid-Allegheny News

#### 2022 ASHE Mid-Allegheny Outstanding Highway Engineering Awards

At the dinner meeting on May 19, 2022, the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Outstanding Highway Engineering award was presented for projects for the 2021 construction season. There were no applications submitted for projects in the \$2.5M or less category. For the greater than \$2.5M category, the I-79 over North Boundary Road bridge replacement project was selected for the award:

##### (>\$2.5M) – I-79 over North Boundary Road

**Owner:** PennDOT District 10-0

**Prime Designers:** Lochner

**Contractor:** Golden Triangle Construction Company

Interstate 79 (I-79) in Butler County is a high-volume corridor connecting Cranberry Township to the greater Pittsburgh area. North Boundary Road is a local road linking residential communities to neighborhood amenities

and State Route 19. Before replacement, I-79 was carried over North Boundary Road by existing dual three-span concrete slab bridges constructed in 1967. Both I-79 northbound and southbound bridges had shallow superstructure depths, substandard vertical clearance, and were deteriorating rapidly. As a result, PennDOT District 10 prioritized the I-79 bridge replacements. During the alternatives analysis phase, an inspection revealed increased structural deterioration. As a result, the design was accelerated and preliminary and final design of the new dual, single-span steel beam bridges was delivered in just nine months.

Due to the rapidly deteriorating existing structures and complications with the existing caisson-supported multi-column piers arising from phased construction, the team determined traffic would best be maintained via a temporary roadway/bridge in the I-79 median between the dual structures. This allowed the project to proceed on an accelerated schedule and within existing right-of-way (ROW), eliminating the need for ROW takes or temporary construction easements. The existing southbound bridge was replaced first due to its condition. During the first construction season, two lanes of southbound traffic were shifted onto the temporary roadway/bridge while the southbound bridge was replaced; this sequence was then repeated for the northbound structure in the second construction season. Though District 10 had previously used temporary bridges on non-interstate projects, this marked the first project to use a temporary bridge on an interstate within the District. Closures on North Boundary Road were limited to 3 weekend closures per construction season.



I-79 over North Boundary Road



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Left to Right: Brian Allen and Alice Hammond (PennDOT District 10), Matt Cochran and Jane-Ann Patton (Lochner)

### Fall 2022 Scholarships

The winner of the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Fall 2022 Scholarship is Nicholas Benko. Nicholas is a native of New Kensington and started his college education at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe where he was the treasurer for the Engineering Club and on the Dean's List. Nicholas transferred to the University of Pittsburgh to complete his engineering degree and is active with the ASHE Pittsburgh Section where he speaks to high school students about STEM Education and what it is like to be a Civil Engineer. Nicholas interned at ms consultants, inc. and looks forward to working on our nation's highway infrastructure to improve the mobility for the people and goods of this country as well as to impact society in a positive way as an engineer.



Bob Schmidt (left) and Nicholas Benko (right)

### ASHE Mid-Allegheny Golf Outing

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Mid-Allegheny Section golf outing was held on June 3, 2022 at Lenape Heights Golf Resort. The weather was perfect for a round of golf and an outdoor meal following golf.



2022 ASHE Mid-Allegheny Golf Outing Winners  
Left to Right: Matt Pierce, Maggie Talarico, Dean Morrison, and Derek Rogers

### ASHE Mid-Allegheny Website

The Section's website has been updated with a new look and will be live at the end of September. The website address will remain the same ([www.midallegheny.ashe.pro](http://www.midallegheny.ashe.pro)) and will provide information similar to that in the past.

### Upcoming events include:

- Dinner meeting on Wednesday November 2, 2022 with a presentation on AASHTO Bridge Preservation Guidelines and Pennsylvania Example Applications. **Please note: This dinner meeting will be held at Chestnut Ridge in Blairsville, PA**
- ASHE National Conference from June 7-11, 2023 in Atlanta, GA

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

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<https://www.facebook.com/ASHE-Mid-Allegheny-371654143573335>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14045035/>

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

### Contact the ASHE Mid-Allegheny Section

Website: [www.midallegheny.ashe.pro](http://www.midallegheny.ashe.pro)

Email: [ashe.midallegheny@gmail.com](mailto:ashe.midallegheny@gmail.com)

*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.*