"NEW PARTNERS, NEW SCALES"

For the first time in its history, the Transportation Research Board’s Environmental Analysis and Transportation committee’s summer meeting is being hosted by a non-governmental organization, The Conservation Fund, and held at the home of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC). The states of Maryland and West Virginia are serving as co-hosts. The theme of the meeting is Looking Beyond the Transportation Footprint: New Partners and New Scales.

Why now? The answer is simple: our country is primed for a substantial reinvestment in its infrastructure. To ensure our nation’s long-term competitiveness and to bolster our economy, our transportation system needs to function at an optimal level. The Obama administration has pledged to make this happen—making reinvestment in our national infrastructure a top priority. But to be successful, we must recognize the critical role that natural resources play in public infrastructure. Across the country, elected officials, government agencies and transportation managers face the challenge of stimulating the economy while simultaneously addressing the complex issue of climate change and other environmental challenges. Join us as we Look Beyond the Transportation Footprint!

PROGRAM: JULY 13-16, 2009

This event will be highly interactive, allowing transportation and resource agency professionals time to engage in constructive dialogue on these pressing issues. Program components will include:

- Plenary Sessions: Participants will engage in dialogue on issues such as: how to incorporate large scale assessments (e.g. climate change) into project planning, how to effectively plan the green and the grey as complementary systems, and more.

- Discussion Forums: Each sponsoring agency has agreed to host a facilitated discussion session. Topics selected by these agencies include: how to manage linear projects that cross multiple jurisdictions, how to use the new USFWS recovery crediting guidance, how tiered documents compare to traditional or project-level NEPA documents, etc. Sessions will be structured to focus on issues, challenges/trends, solutions and research. This event will attract a broad constituency, and participants should come prepared to talk. To Practice Together Tomorrow, We Need to Learn Together Today.

- Town Hall Meeting: As NCTC is within close proximity to Washington, D.C., the new leadership from various agencies will be invited to participate in a town hall meeting.

Select Speakers Include:
- Governor Joe Manchin III, West Virginia (invited)
- Paul A. Maddox, Jr., Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Transportation
- Neil Pedersen, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration
- Larry Selzer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund
LOCATION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) will serve as the venue for the meeting. A world-class training facility, NCTC has hosted a wide range of events, including the Mid-East Peace talks. NCTC is located in historic Shepherdstown, West Virginia, on a 500-acre farm bordering the Potomac River. NCTC is a walking campus and offers a restaurant, bar, fitness center, library and over 5 miles of hiking, biking and walking paths. West Virginia’s eastern panhandle is home to a plethora of national and state parks, white-water rafting sites and art galleries. Nearby Sharpsburg, Maryland is the home of the Antietam Battlefield. Plan to bring your family and tour the area.

CONFERENCE AND LODGING REGISTRATION

Register by April 15, 2009 and receive the early bird registration rate of $175. After April 15th, the registration fee will be $200. Visit our website to register: conservationfund.org/node/921. Click on “add to cart,” then proceed through the checkout process.

Lodging is available at NCTC for $121/night, which includes a full meal plan (3 meals/day). To reserve your room, please call 877-706-6262 by June 15, 2009, indicating the room block “TRB Meeting.”

Limited scholarship funding and travel assistance are available for registered speakers and federal transportation liaisons. Contact Kris Hoellen at khoellen@conservationfund.org for more details.

Special lodging rates apply for USFWS, BLM and NPS employees. Inquire for details.

SPONSORS

This meeting is hosted by The Conservation Fund and sponsored by AASHTO, ACQE, FHWA, USFWS, USDA Forest Service, Maryland State Highway Administration and the WV DOT Division of Highways.

THE CONSERVATION FUND

America's Partner in Conservation