

**AUGUST 2011 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER**

Central Ohio Branch Chapter  
c/o Burgess & Niple, Inc.  
5085 Reed Road  
Columbus, Ohio 43220



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

**COAPWA TRAINING PRESENTATION**

**Gorman-Rupp Company, Mansfield, Ohio  
Thursday, September 22, 2011**

The Central Ohio Chapter of APWA is planning a day long presentation on pump design hosted by the Gorman-Rupp company in Mansfield. The program will be held in the G-R training facility which features clear piping allowing you to observe the flow characteristics of the fluid being pumped. Additional information on the agenda, times and costs will be posted. You can also visit the Gorman-Rupp website to learn more about the training facility.



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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**by Randy Bowman, City of Columbus  
2011 COAPWA Board President**

Greetings from your Central Ohio Branch Chapter Executive Committee. We hope your summer is going well.

This season for some is a time for vacations, but for public works professionals, it is a time for fleet and building maintenance; infrastructure construction is in full swing, and it's time to prepare next year's budgets. Already!

Your Central Ohio APWA leaders aren't on vacation, either. We are hard at work organizing and planning events and training sessions. On June 15, we held a training and factory tour of the Babbert Precast Concrete plant. And on June 26, Central Ohio APWA and WTS teamed up on a joint social event at the Columbus Clippers game.

There are more educational events coming up later in the year! There are two ways we make announcements of training sessions: through this newsletter, and through broadcast email messages. Registration is handled through our website, and you can pay using a credit card!

I want to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, who volunteer their time and resources to making available to you these events and educational opportunities! We are working on a survey of opinions on future training and events to the members later this year, so watch for further announcements – we need your input!

September in Denver, anyone? APWA hosts its annual International Congress & Exposition in the Mile-High City September 18-21. If you have never been to a Congress, then you are missing a lot! And it is not too late to register.

There is a multitude of training sessions on the various aspects of operating and managing public infrastructure, and there are vendors representing so many products, vehicles, and services. It's a great way to learn of new trends in public works, and to meet fellow public works professionals from across the continent, and other countries.

For more information, go to <http://sites.apwa.net/congress/2011/home.aspx>.

If you go, don't forget to register for the Ohio Chapter Dinner, to be held on Tuesday night, September 20. Have dinner and enjoy fellowship with other Ohioans!

For more information on the Chapter Dinner, call Amy Guild at 440-354-9700 ext. 3202 or email you can email Amy at [amy.guild@burgessniple.com](mailto:amy.guild@burgessniple.com).

If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Thom Evans at 440-461-7266.menu.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome to Our New Member:  
Scott Lucas, CPM, MBA, ODOT Central



## PICKERINGTON'S AWARD WINNING ACS LITE ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC SIGNAL INTERCONNECT SYSTEM

The City of Pickerington received the 2011 Ohio ACEC Small Project of the Year award for its ACS Lite Adaptive Traffic Signal Interconnect System. The ACS Lite System was installed in 2009 on 8 interconnected traffic signals on SR 256. The signals on the SR 256 system are from Stonecreek Drive North to Diley Road, a 1.7-mile long 5 lane wide corridor with vehicular traffic of 25,000 to 35,000 per day.

The City of Pickerington had rapid population growth during the 1990s. SR 256 was expanded from 2 lanes to 5 lanes from I-70 south to Diley Road in 1995. A typical traffic interconnect system was installed with this 1995 roadway expansion. The roadway expansion and traffic interconnect system helped immensely with reducing roadway congestion, but even this was not enough. By the mid 2000s congestion was again causing major traffic problems on SR 256. Land to further widen SR 256 was not available and the city could not afford another major widening project.

Led by Mayor Mitch O'Brien and W.E. Stilson Consulting Group, the city investigated a next generation traffic interconnect system called ACS Lite. ACS Lite modifies the timing of traffic signals, both coordinated offsets and individual intersection timings, based on the amount of traffic that is on the system – in real time.

A common traffic scenario is a queue of vehicles backed up in a left turn lane. The ACS Lite system will give more green time to that left turn movement the very next time that the left turn cycle is called. Queues are usually cleared out within 5 to 10 minutes. The ACS Lite system dynamically balances the traffic load on the entire system.

How much does ACS Lite improve traffic flow over a standard traffic signal interconnect system? That is a question that the FHWA is trying to determine. The FHWA is doing an operational study of Pickerington's ACS Lite System, along with ACS Lite Systems in Anaheim California, Tyler Texas and Annapolis (Ann Arundel County) Maryland. The results of the study should be available next year, but Pickerington residents have already noticed the difference.

Also, OODT is doing a study to quantify the benefit of adding an adaptive traffic control system to the traffic signals that they control on SR 256 on either side of I-70. This would improve the Pickerington system even more.

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## Pickerington Signal Map



Pickerington's ACS Lite system cost \$338,000 (less than \$50,000 per signal). The system included upgrading and standardizing traffic controllers in the system, adding video camera detection at key intersections, installing ACS Light hardware and software and updating the signal communication with Ethernet over copper modems.

Upgrades also included LED re-lamping of all City traffic signals and installing uninterruptable power supply (battery backup systems) at two key intersections.

ACS Lite is an affordable system that could benefit a number of other central Ohio communities. Contacts for further details on the system are:

Greg Bachman, Pickerington City Engineer 614-833-2221, [GBachman@pickerington.net](mailto:GBachman@pickerington.net)

Scott Seaman, W. E. Stilson Consulting Group 614-847-4670, [SSeaman@stilsonconsulting.com](mailto:SSeaman@stilsonconsulting.com)

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