



Driving Continues to Fall

America's trend of declining driving continued into its second year with 3.7 billion fewer vehicle-miles traveled (VMT), or 1.6 percent less, in December 2008 compared to the same month a year earlier.

"The nation's driving decline is another indication of just how important the President's economic recovery plan is," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood.

The consecutive 14-month trend of declining driving - between November 2007 and December 2008 - now tops 115 billion VMT, compared to the same period a year earlier. As it has since the trend began, the decline in rural driving in December 2008 outpaced urban driving.

At 4.8 percent fewer VMT

compared to December 2007, the new data show the West - a bloc of 13 states - experienced the biggest decline. At 14.7 percent and 11.1 percent fewer VMT respectively, Oregon and Washington led the nation with the largest single-state declines that month which is due, in part, to unusually large snowfall.

Despite the overall national decline, 17 states posted slight increases - the first identified since August. Colorado led the nation in increased single-month travel, with 5.4 percent - or about 200 million VMT - more than in December 2007.

To review the VMT data in FHWA's "Traffic Volume Trends" reports, including that of December 2008, visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ohim/tvtw/tvtpage.htm>.

And They're OFF!

Exciting times for the CASF are here. The start of the annual "**Membership Challenge**" commenced on Monday, March 2. The teams this year are:

- Coastal Construction Group
- James A. Cummings
- Stiles Construction Co.
- Suffolk Construction
- Turner Construction Co.
- Whiting-Turner Contracting

and two joint-ventures:

- Moss/Miller JV
- DooleyMack/Skanska JV
- Last year the **Stiles**

Construction Team won the competition and Stiles' Arlett Hudson won the ski trip for two to Crested Butte, CO by bringing in 52 of the 116 new members.

This year's Challenge concludes on June 30, 2009.

Member News

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Pirtle Construction Company recently announced the promotion of Jeff Miles, Leonor Flores and Matt Mahoney to Senior Project Manager. The firm is also pleased to announce the addition of Steven Roth, Senior Project Manager, to the Pirtle project management team.



Jeff Miles

Steven Roth joins Pirtle from Gryphon Construction, LLC. A graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in Construction Management, Steven has more than 21 years experience in the construction industry.



Leonor Flores

Zbigniew (Zbig) Wlosek, has been appointed Director of Construction for



Matt Mahoney

Roepnack Corporation. A

Construction Manager with more than three decades of experience, Wlosek has held management positions with major commercial construction firms in South Florida.

He also served as president of Ontario, Canada-based Portfolio Development Corporation for seven years.



Steven Roth



Zbig Wlosek

Dedicated to Teamwork & an Eye for Detail

The architectural firm of Norberto Rosenstein Architects Inc. is located in Dania Beach and offers a full range of architectural, engineering, construction management, planning, interior design, mechanical design, landscaping and structural services. The firm was founded in 1991 by the Owner and Principal Norberto Rosenstein, AIA, NCARB. His firm strives "To create and environment that is responsive to the people it serves."

Norberto is a Florida licensed Architect as well as licensed by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. He holds a Masters Degree in Architecture from Rheinisch Westfaelish Technische Hochschule Aachen in Aachen, Germany and has over 24 years work experience.

He oversees a strong professional staff of individuals as well as consultants who are dedicated to serving the

construction industry. Norberto comments, "Our team offers a wide range of knowledge and experience with South Florida regulations, their regulatory agencies and accessibility compliance." He adds, "The best aspect of this firm is the



dedication to teamwork that is exercised. We have developed a strong support system with our employees and consultants that give everyone the opportunity to contribute their input and ideas to all of our projects

that are currently in progress. This helps us to maintain the eye for detail that the industry has come to expect from us." They strive to adapt to constant evolutionary changes within the architectural and construction markets.

He concluded that "From the inception of a project through the completion of construction we constantly maintain good communication with contractors, clients and building department officials to achieve a successful outcome regardless of the magnitude of the project. We offer a keen eye for detail and quick project completion to ensure client satisfaction."

A Design/Professional Member since January of 2007, Norberto recommends the association to others because of the valuable networking opportunities offered.

Recent Projects Include:

- ◆ American Express Offices
- ◆ Zahalsky Medical Offices
- ◆ Piola Restaurants
- ◆ Poverello Center - LEED
- ◆ Shops at Newberry Street
- ◆ Verizon Offices
- ◆ OXXO Care Cleaners
- ◆ FAU Sky Box Arena

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

The DBPR Sweeps Florida to Fight Unlicensed Activity

In an effort to combat unlicensed activity, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Regulation is planning a statewide unlicensed activity sweep during the last week in February. This effort is part of the division's three-tiered approach to combat unlicensed activity through education, prevention and enforcement. Investigators will perform compliance checks across Florida in an effort to prosecute unlicensed individuals and assist them with becoming licensed.

"DBPR is dedicated to ensuring compliance with state laws and protecting Floridians from the harm posed by hiring unlicensed individuals. We are sending a strong message that unlicensed activity will not be tolerated," said Secretary Charles W. Drago.

Hiring an unlicensed person can have dire consequences. Unlicensed activity can threaten the financial and personal safety of consumers, as well as the livelihood of state-licensed professionals. In one case, nearly 100 senior citizens reported that an unlicensed contractor promised to install hurricane shutters and then disappeared with their money. In another situation, a consumer suffered a financial loss of \$130,000 for home improvements after being deceived by an unlicensed individual.

The Division of Regulation will conduct sweeps from the ten district offices around the state. To perform these operations, they will

partner with other agencies, including local law enforcement, building and code enforcement departments, State Attorney's offices, and the Florida Department of Financial Services' Division of Workers' Compensation. Specific locations will not be disclosed at this time; however, an extensive summary will be distributed at the conclusion of the operation.

Through education, prevention and enforcement, the department works to eliminate this risky activity. These increased efforts are in response to concerns from both citizens and

State of Florida license.

- ◆ Note the license number and verify that the license is current and in good standing. To check a license, call 850-487-1395 or visit MyFloridaLicense.com.
- ◆ Ask for references and check each one.
- ◆ Do not pay cash and be cautious of writing checks made payable to individuals, especially when dealing with a company.
- ◆ Get everything in writing, including a detailed description of the work to be completed, a completion date and the total cost.



Unlicensed activity threatens the livelihood of state-licensed professionals.

licensed professionals. Efforts include a public awareness campaign consisting of public service announcements, educational brochures, Google Ad Words, online advertising, and a soon-to-be unveiled unlicensed activity Web page.

Below are precautions that consumers can take to help protect themselves from unlicensed individuals:

- ◆ Always ask to see the

The department's mission is to license efficiently and regulate fairly. The department licenses more than one million businesses and professionals ranging from real estate agents, veterinarians, and accountants to contractors and cosmetologists. For more information, please visit www.MyFloridaLicense.com.

Stimulus' Will Save or Create 2 Million Jobs

The over \$135 billion in construction and infrastructure investments included in stimulus legislation that were signed into law by President Barack Obama will create or save nearly 2 million jobs over the next two years, the Associated General Contractors of America concluded in its final analysis of the legislation.

The analysis, conducted by the association's chief economist, Ken Simonson, concluded that the infrastructure and construction funding would create or save 650,000 construction jobs and 300,000 positions in related fields such as equipment and material sup-

ply. An additional 970,000 jobs in the broader economy would also be created or supported by the investments.

"There's no doubt the stimulus will have a positive impact for construction businesses and their workers across the country," said Stephen Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. *"When you get beyond the politics and the policy, the fact remains these investments will put people to work, save businesses, and help rebuild aging infrastructure."*

In addition to estimating the number of jobs to be created by the construction funding, the association also calculated the benefits to personal earnings and gross national product (GDP).

Association economist Ken Simonson noted that the \$135 billion for construction would increase personal earnings nationwide by \$75 billion and add \$230 billion to GDP.

"Whether or not you wear a hard hat for a living, these construction investments will make a difference for the better," said Simonson. *"Beyond the immediate benefits, the new infrastructure projects will make businesses more efficient, commuting more reliable and our economy more prosperous for years to come."*

Simonson said the new analysis is based on research on the economic benefits of infrastructure investments conducted by the association in cooperation with Professor Stephen Fuller of George Mason University.



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