

The Road Ahead

Building Alabama's Future

Skip Powe, P.E.

Alabama Road Builders Association



ALABAMA ROAD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Overview

- Mission & Purpose
- Membership & Growth
- Advocacy – State Legislation
- Work Zone Safety
- The Road Ahead
- Advocacy Efforts



Mission & Purpose



Mission

- To foster and promote the finest in transportation for the State of Alabama
- Established in 1947, dedicated to serving the specific needs of businesses involved in Alabama's transportation construction industry
- Industry's forum for open communication with the Alabama Department of Transportation and other agencies.



Mission

Serve:

- Contractors & haulers
- Material suppliers & manufacturers
- Equipment dealers
- Fuel distributors
- Consulting engineers
- Other professional service firms – accountants, attorneys, bankers, bonding & insurance, etc.



Purpose

- <https://www.alrba.org/Mission/Purpose> - 14 points
- Foster/promote public & legislative awareness of advantages of an efficient & effective transportation system
- Protect/enhance transportation revenues for construction & maintenance
- Apprise lawmakers with factual data so legislation can be most accurately considered

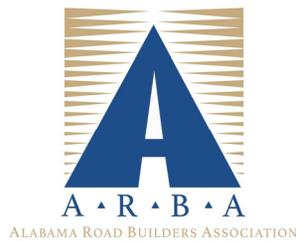


Purpose

- Provides vehicle for:
 - Developing relationships with industry
 - Improving communications with business associates
 - Advocating for legislation to benefit members' businesses (and industry) and work zone safety
 - Liaison efforts with ALDOT



Membership & Growth



Membership & Growth

Since February 2023

- Growth: 128 added members (108%)

and after accounting for buyouts...

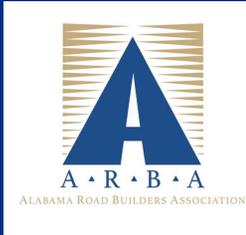
- Total: 237 and still growing
- Contractors: 103
- Associates: 134



Membership & Growth

Types:

- New, rejoin, recent start-ups, and new to market
- Contractors: grading, paving, bridge, structures, minor structure concrete, haulers, ITS, electrical, and quarries
- Associates: all types, including engineering firms



Membership & Growth

Minority & Female-owned Contractors

- Growth: 11, added
- Total: 21, >20% of Contractor members



Membership & Growth

Impact:

- More members means more networking / partnership opportunities
- With so many new faces, developing / strengthening relationships is vital for industry's future success



Advocacy – State Legislation



Advocacy / State Legislation

2019 – 2022:

- Rebuild Alabama Act – 2019
- Tougher double fines in work zones – 2021
- Prohibited pass down indemnification – 2021
- Sales Tax Exemptions on materials – 2021



Advocacy / State Legislation

2023:

- Roadbuilding Civil Liability, Act #2023-316
- Ended \$23.5 million transfer from ALDOT to ALEA



The Game Plan - 2023



Alabama is engaged in a highly competitive contest with our neighboring states for the high-paying jobs and game-changing investment projects that can lift our communities. We have a four-pronged approach to strengthen what's been working for us and provide clever solutions for what hasn't: THE GAME PLAN.



Photo: Alabama Governor's Office

<p>Play 1 ENHANCING ALABAMA'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renews the Alabama Jobs Act and the Growing Alabama program and extends their sunset dates to 2028 while adding strategic enhancements to increase their effectiveness. • Increases the Jobs Act's incentives cap by \$25 million annually for five years, ensuring Alabama remains competitive for mega projects • Makes renewable energy project eligible for Jobs Act support in response to demands from manufacturers for clean energy sources • Extends transferability period for income tax credits to five years and streamlines process. • Strengthens focus of Growing Alabama on site development by transferring tech accelerators and support for underrepresented businesses to Innovate Alabama • Increases funding for site development to \$35 million to encourage development of new shovel-ready sites amid a shortage
<p>Play 2 SITE EVALUATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SEEDS) ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows the State Industrial Development Authority (SIDA) to facilitate the development of industry-ready sites. • Expands SIDA's role in the preparation of industrial sites to accelerate their creation • Allows SIDA to issue grants to stimulate the creation of sites, making Alabama competitive with its neighboring states in having the tools to attract large job creators
<p>Play 3 INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims to accelerate growth in Alabama's innovation economy and to support underrepresented businesses and enterprises in rural areas. • Establishes the Alabama Small Business Credit with the transfer of tax credits for accelerators and support for underrepresented businesses that operate in innovative industries to Innovate Alabama • Makes \$25 million per year available for the Innovating Alabama Tax Credit to meet increasing demand as new tech accelerators begin operation and programs for small businesses in innovative industries are developed across the state • Increases accessibility to SBIR/STTR grant program as a way to encourage out-of-state companies to move to Alabama
<p>Play 4 TRANSPARENCY IN INCENTIVES ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Jobs Act to require the Alabama Department of Commerce to publish certain incentivized project information on its web site. • For each incentivized project, Commerce will publish the name of the company, the estimated capital investment, the number of jobs being created, an estimated hourly wage, the estimated value of the incentives and the project's location • Commerce will disclose the value of any cash incentive extended for the project • Commerce will publish the projected 10- and 20-year return on incentives to the state • Aggregated performance data on all incentivized projects will be made available

Advocacy / State Legislation

2024:

- Amended Alabama Move Over Act, #2024-295
- Defended Quarries in Limestone County
- Changes to the Sales Tax Exemption process



WORKING FOR ALABAMA



Photo: Business Council of Alabama



Advocacy / State Legislation

2025:

- Changed Project Advertising, Act #2025-383
- Protected Overweight Log Trucks, #2025-272
- Def. Local/Sales Use Tax Exemptions, #2025-280
- Defended Quarry Restrictions, HB-578



Advocacy / State Legislation

- Act #2025-383 – Project Advertising (Elliott & Pringle)
 - www.alabamabuilds.gov – live on 10/1
 - All public works except ALDOT and Counties
 - Still have to advertise in paper, but no rejection if paper errs





Alabama Builds



Legal Notices for Public Works Projects

Home About How It Works Contact FAQs

Log in

View Advertisements for Bids



Coming Soon
View Bid Results



Coming Soon
View Completion Notices



Submit Advertisements



Sign up for Notices



Advertisements for Bids

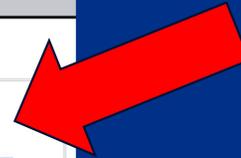
Export

Show 10 entries

Search:

Build ID#	Municipality	County	Authority Category	Authority Entity	Project Name	Prequal Required	Prebid Meeting	Due Date
20250050	Montgom ...	Montgom ...	Municipality Government (Inclu ...)	Montgomery	SW Well 4, 10, Well 57, and Ho ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01/13/2026
20250037	Auburn	Lee	Public University	Auburn University (AU)	25-213 - Woltosz Football Perf ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/15/2026
20250047	Orange ...	Baldwin	Water Authority	Orange Beach Water Authority	Ono Island BPS Replacement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01/15/2026
20250052	Birming ...	Jeffers ...	Public University	University of Alabama at Birmi ...	Pittman Biomedical Research Bu ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/15/2026
20250036	Auburn	Lee	Public University	Auburn University (AU)	25-095 - Central Dining Common ...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01/20/2026
20250048	Wetumpk ...	Elmore	Water Authority	Wetumpka Water Works and Sewer	CWSRF 12 Inch Force Main Rehab ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	01/20/2026

April / May 2026



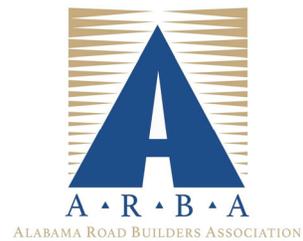
In accordance with Act 2025-383, the Alabama Builds website is maintained by the Alabama Department of Finance. Awarding Authorities can increase transparency, expand competition, and coordinate bid openings for their public works projects by also posting

Advocacy / State Legislation

Importance of Association Growth & Industry Voice on the Legislative Process



Work Zone Safety



Work Zone Safety

- ARBA's most constant advocacy – a must to protect our work family
- Work zone fatalities are up 26% since 2018; this trend cannot be ignored
- 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 – each year are record highs



NWZAW Logo/Theme

— PROTECT —
AL WORK
ZONES





Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, National Work Zone Awareness Week was established on December 15, 1999; and

WHEREAS, in Alabama, in 2024, data shows within the 2,043 crashes in Highway Work Zones, there were approximately 13 fatalities and 527 injuries; and

WHEREAS, work zone crashes and fatalities have increased nationally since 2007, and the state of Alabama recently had an increase in work zone crashes and a decrease in work zone fatalities; and

WHEREAS, nationally, 80 percent of people killed in work zones are drivers or passengers; and

WHEREAS, the primary reasons for work zone-related crashes include alcohol, speeding and distracted driving; and

WHEREAS, state agencies, road builders, contractors and local officials are joining together statewide to heighten awareness encouraging motorists to drive safely through work zones; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 campaign theme is "Respect the Zone, So We All Get Home;" and

WHEREAS, drivers, passengers and highway workers share the risk in work zones;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim April 21 through April 25, 2025, as

National Work Zone Awareness Week

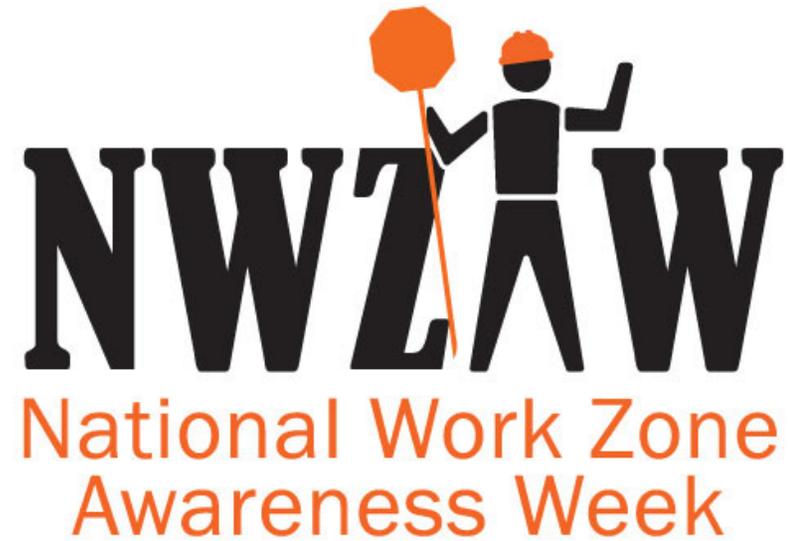
in the state of Alabama.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 4th day of April 2025.

Kay Ivey
Kay Ivey, Governor



Governor Kay Ivey's Proclamation



NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK

**WEDNESDAY:
Go Orange!**

Everyone wears
orange to work.

GO ORANGE DAY 2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

ALL ROADWAY SAFETY PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR **ORANGE** TO PROUDLY SHOW THEIR SUPPORT OF WORK ZONE SAFETY. GO **ORANGE** DAY AND NWZAW IS AN IMPORTANT TIME TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ROADWAY SAFETY INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY TO THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN WORK ZONES.

#NWZAW

#WORKWITHUS

#WORKWITHUSALABAMA

#ORANGE4SAFETY

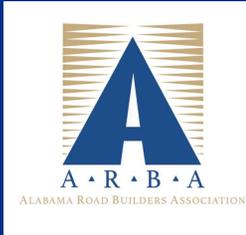
#WATCHFORUS

#RESPECTTHEZONE

****MOBILE AREA ORANGE DAY PICTURE WILL BE
WEDNESDAY 4/23 @ 2:00 PM IN FRONT OF ADMIN****

NWZAW Events

- Week prior – Capitol Kickoff Press Conference in Montgomery
- Saturday – Truitt News Radio Talk 99.5 in Birmingham
- Monday
 - Midday Mobile FM Talk 106.5 Interview
 - Mobile Press Conference
- Wednesday – **Go Orange Day** / Birmingham Press Conference
- Thursday – Social Media Storm Day
- Friday – Moment of Silence Day



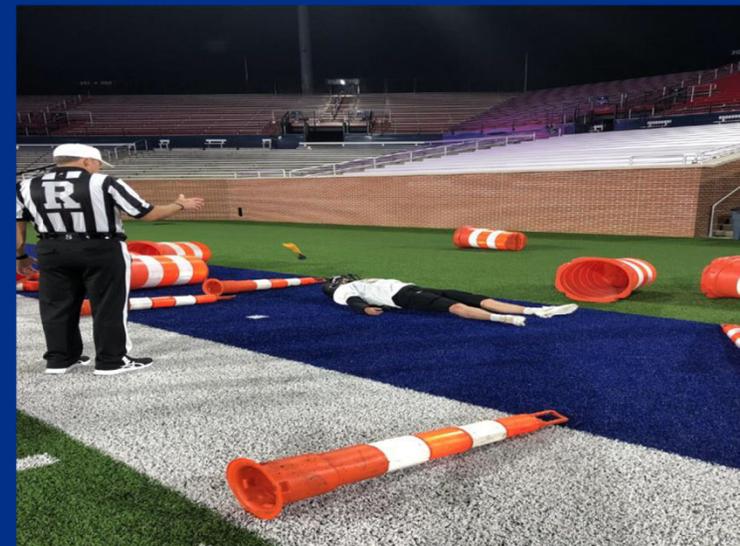
Education

- ALDOT PSA
- AGC Alabama PSA
- National AGC PSA
- Millie
- School Programs & Coloring Books



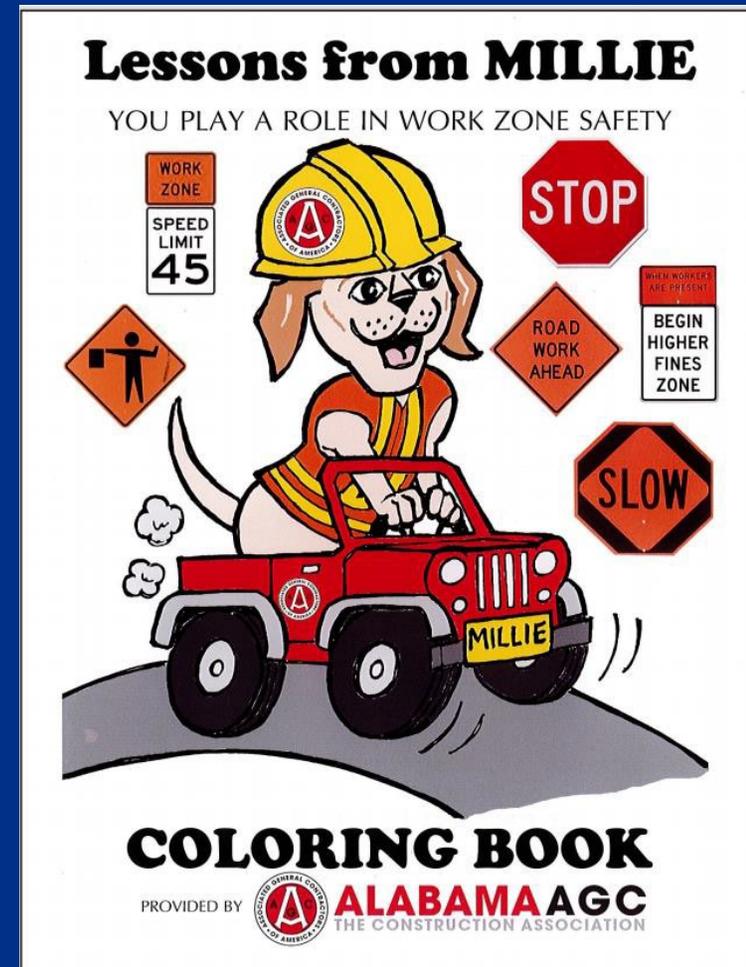
AGC Alabama PSA

- AGC Mobile's for *"Driving through Work Zones is NOT a GAME!"*
- Goal:
 - Bring awareness to drivers of the need to drive safely and **UNDISTRACTED** through **WORK ZONES**.
- Stars:
 - Jake Coker, former QB at Alabama
 - Millie, AGC's Work Zone Safety Dog



Coloring Books & School Programs

- Borrowed idea from South Dakota DOT
- AGC Mobile Section, ALDOT, and ARBA collaborated for messages and sketches
- AGC produced book
- Morris & Millie touring elementary schools across the state
- “No Phones in the Cone Zone” program
- Coloring book is homework



WHY?

Our Family

*“Construction and maintenance workers risk their lives each day on behalf of the public in order to build and maintain the roads and bridges we all need for our daily activities. **These workers are husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, friends and co-workers.** They are little league coaches, team moms, Sunday School teachers, high school buddies... who, like everyone else, simply want to go home to their families each day when the shift is over. Their families need them, just like yours need you.”*

- Skip Powe, ARBA

Distracted Drivers Change Lives FOREVER

SLOW DOWN IN WORK ZONES

Safety is Everybody's Responsibility.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FLORIDA STRUCK-BY ALLIANCE
DRIVE SAFE ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Marshall J. Walton
12-22-89 ~ 2-13-15

STAY ALERT IN WORK ZONES

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FLORIDA STRUCK-BY ALLIANCE
DRIVE SAFE ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Jacob Smith
1980 - 2016
Brake for Jake

In Memoriam

- Some in AL over last 10 years:
 - Marshall Walton, John G. Walton Construction
 - Jake Smith, ALDOT
 - Leo Fournier, ALDOT
 - Clay Crutcher, John G. Walton Construction
 - Cartis Leive, Good Hope Contracting
 - Sammy S. Blankenship, Dunn Construction
 - Terry Smith, C&H Construction
 - Keith Edwards, Vulcan Materials Company
 - Brandon Barber, ALDOT
 - Todd Jackson, Neel-Schaffer
 - Kyle McGuire, Hornsby Striping
 - Barry McCard, East Alabama Paving
 - Tara Renee Harris, D & J Enterprises



Work Zone Legislation

Multiple legislative changes through the years

- Double fines when workers present, pre-2004
- More stringent on double fines in 2021
- Hands-free in 2023
- Move Over Act revisions in 2024
 - Adds construction, maintenance, and surveying vehicles



Work Zone Enforcement

Seen some improvements, but

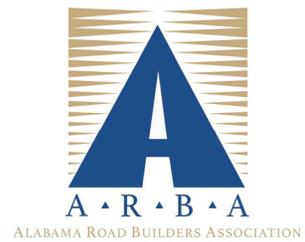
- Still not enough; too much risk to workers (and drivers)
- ALEA Blue Lights help initially
- Studies and experience shows only ticketing changes driving behavior
- But ALEA is currently 40% staffed



Work Zone Safety



The Road Ahead



The Road Ahead – 2026



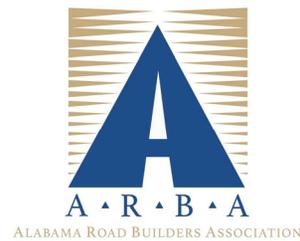
- National Role – ARTBA
- Alabama Legislature
 - 2026
 - 2027 and beyond



National Role



American Road
& Transportation
Builders Association



National Role – ARTBA



- Board of Directors – Kevin White (3-year term)
- Renew 2026 Task Force (2 of 26 members)
 - IJA expires September 30, 2026
 - Developed Industry's policy statements for federal surface transportation reauthorization bill

The Road Ahead - 2026



MOVING AMERICA FORWARD: A BLUEPRINT FOR STRATEGIC HIGHWAY & PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT



MOVING AMERICA FORWARD

A BLUEPRINT FOR STRATEGIC HIGHWAY & PUBLIC TRANSIT INVESTMENT

America's surface transportation infrastructure is essential to mobility, economic strength and quality of life. As Congress prepares for the 2026 reauthorization of federal highway and public transit programs, the following represents a unified, outcome-focused vision from the public and private sectors of the transportation construction industry.



Increased Funding

Secure increased funding, **\$84.6 billion** for highways and **\$26.3 billion** for transit for Fiscal Year 2027 to enhance the safety and efficiency of the nation's transportation systems through a **diversified user-based funding model** and General Funds, as needed.



Project Streamlining

Encourage states to take on NEPA assignment, lower the threshold for **categorical exclusions**, strengthen **One Federal Decision**, and promote government-wide standardization, to maximize federal investment.



Buy America

Deploy **targeted waivers** where needed, establish meaningful **de minimis thresholds** and maintain existing exclusions for **pavement-related materials** to grow domestic manufacturing without disrupting projects.



Modernizing Processes

Facilitate wider adoption of lessons learned from **emergency rebuilds**, reward success by cutting unnecessary federal oversight of major projects, and enhance resources for **deploying digital construction**.



Expanding Financing Options

Complement increased core transportation investment with **flexible financing** tools like eliminating the cap on **Private Activity Bonds**, lifting the ban on **tolling**, and strengthening the **TIFIA program**.



A Strong, Skilled Workforce

Invest in the **research, technology, and training programs** that promotes roadway worker safety. This includes supporting **workforce development and training** programs to foster the next generation.



www.TransportationInvestmentAtWork.org

National Role – ARTBA

CONSTRUCTIVE QUOTES



House Transportation
& Infrastructure
Committee Chairman
Sam Graves (R-Mo.)

Nov. 4

“ This is going to be the most important highway bill we’ve seen since 1956. The reason for that is never have we had a time when the needs are so great and the resources are so small. ”

National Role – ARTBA

- AASHTO-AGC-ARTBA Joint Committee
 - Writes each's annual policy statements + joint
 - (1-15 for ARTBA; 1-2 State Directors)
 - ARTBA's Policy presented at Transportation Conference next month – Thursday morning

Transportation Construction Cost Drivers

By Rich Juliano, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, Washington, D.C. and Tony Boals, Wright Brothers Construction Company, Signal Mountain, TN



Alabama Legislature



2026 Legislative Session

- Gov. Kay Ivey – she isn't a lame duck; stay tuned to her final State-of-the State tonight
- Session begins: January 13
- Term: 30 meeting days over 105 calendar
- Last possible day: April 27
- Note: expect it to be weeks sooner



2026 Legislative Session

Anticipated highlights:

- Budgets – General fund has some challenges
 - Education largest ever; career tech education focus
- Local bills
- Confirmations and agency reauthorizations
- Healthcare costs, rising insurance, and rural health funding
- Criminal justice
- No gaming anticipated



ARBA's 2026 Legislation

- Speed Safety Cameras in Work Zones
- Education appropriation for Heavy Equipment Simulators in high schools/CTEs
 - Plagiarizing Georgia's program
- HR-367 Interim Study Commission on Utility Relocation Costs



ARBA's 2026 – Speed Safety Cameras

For last several years,

- Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) being implemented across the country
- How it works
- Civil penalty
- Statistical studies shows changes driver habits
- Emphasized this year by ARTBA



ARBA's 2026 Speed Safety Cameras

Here at home,

- Conversations with ALEA and ALDOT
- Both want it
- 2 systems depending on type of project and need



Simulators in High Schools / CTEs like Georgia

CAT® SIMULATORS

Heavy Equipment Simulator Systems

catsimulators.com



AUTHENTIC CAT CONTROLS



Actual Machine Cab

Simulated Machine Cab

- **Authentic Cat Controls:** Operators learn the same procedures as in the actual machine.

Other Industry 2026 Legislation

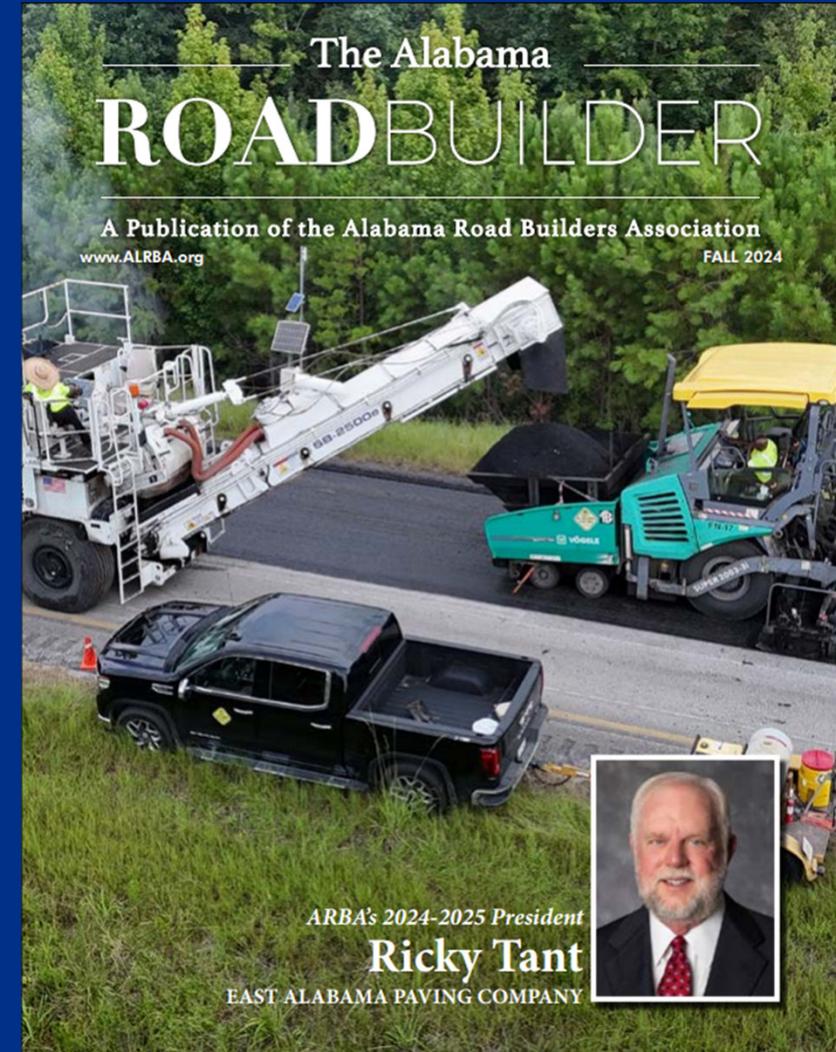
- Underground Damage Prevention Law (Alabama 811)
 - Extend Sunset Date – from 1/1/2027 to 1/1/2037
 - Hand Digging
 - Complex or Large Projects
- Sales Tax Exemptions for Propane (for asphalt production)
- Transportation Commission



2027 & Beyond

Here at home – ARBA public relations effort:

- **#celebrateyourwins**
- Social media (Facebook & LinkedIn)
- *The Alabama Roadbuilder* magazine
- Email system



2027 & Beyond

Here at home – ARBA public relations effort:

- Utmost importance to **sell our wins:**
 - Project announcements (MRB)
 - Ground breakings
 - Ribbon cuttings (SR-158, SR-5, Mobile's Ziegler Blvd, US-82 Prattville)
 - Completion ceremony (US-82 in Tuscaloosa)
 - Congressional Project Tours



Transportation Infrastructure Investment

Tripod analogy:

- Each is a leg supporting the future of the state's economic development (Game Plan, Workforce Development, and Infrastructure)
- All 3 have a role and each relies on the others
- Absolute must for transportation infrastructure keep up and carry its load



Transportation Infrastructure Investment

Practical reality is

- Success of the three and our state's economic future hinges on each
- Due to our current transportation funding, addressing our infrastructure needs is a major challenge on our horizon
- One we look forward to advocating for solutions with our state's leadership in 2027 & beyond
- **#celebrateyourwins**

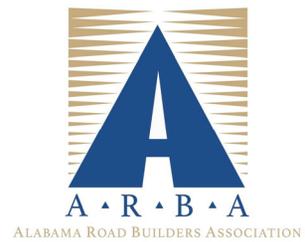


2027 & Beyond

- Between the Port of Mobile and increase in businesses
 - From 2022 to 2050
 - Value of freight shipments to and from in-state
 - Increase from \$318 billion to \$540 billion (+70%)
- ***Imperative our transportation network keeps pace***



Advocacy Efforts



Advocacy Efforts

- How do we advocate?
- How are we successful?



Advocacy Efforts

Greg Reed, Senate Pro Tem President (2024) – paraphrased:

- Legislators are faced with problems to solve.
- Associations and lobbyists, on behalf of members and businesses, have solutions to these problems.
- But if you don't have a relationship with your legislators, you are wasting your time.
- It is all about the relationship.



Advocacy Efforts

- Identifying problems
- Discussions with Executive Committee & Board
- Determine solutions and options forward
- Advocate with legislators and supporting industries
- Utilize lobbying firm



Advocacy Efforts

- Bills each year need to be prioritized
- Even if multiple problems/solutions
- Limit yourself to top 1 or 2
- Okay to support others from behind-the-scenes
- Must manage your political capital

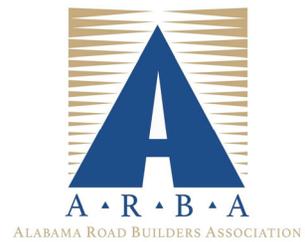


Advocacy Efforts

- Reliance of members' relationships with their legislators
- PAC efforts
- When a bill needs heavy lifting, rely on members to reach out to those same legislators



Conclusion



Conclusion

- Association & Industry is growing on The Road Ahead
- ARBA focusing on legislative and technical issues:
 - Protect its members and workers at all levels
 - Promote efficient business practices
 - Increase networking / partnerships
 - Lead to growth
 - **Benefit industry's 11,253 businesses and 51,463 workers**
- While advocating for transportation infrastructure investment to ensure our state's continued economic growth and stability



#buildingAlabamafuture

Questions



Skip Powe, P.E.
Executive Director
skip@alrba.org
(334) 239-1444

