

Future Events

Chat-n-Chew
8/29
Austin, TX

Houston Sustainable Building Expo & Conference
9/17-18
Houston, TX

Environmental Seminar
9/29-30
San Antonio, TX

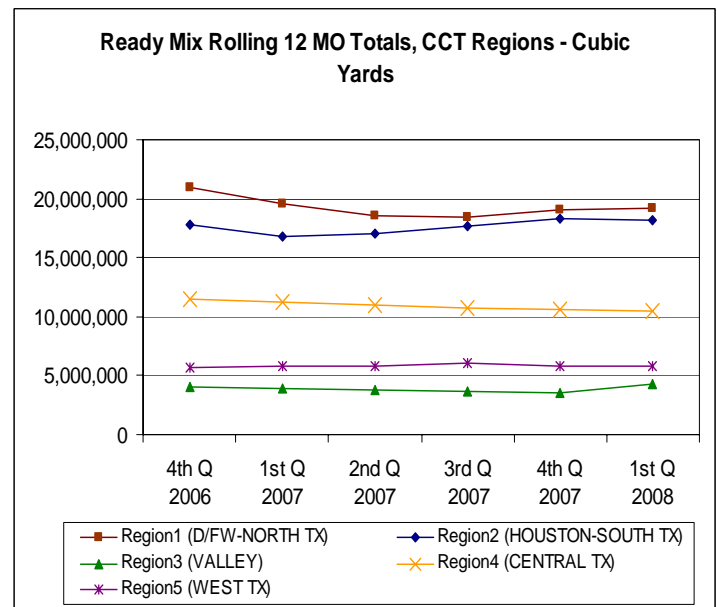
Visit tx-taca.org for more information on TACA events!

Bob James
Director of Marketing and Technical Standards
Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association
900 Congress Avenue, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78701
512.451.5100



Cement Shipments-Year to Date are Up 4.73% Through May

According to the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts reports received monthly by TACA staff, cement shipments are holding up reasonably well considering various market pressures, especially in the residential sector. Tons Distributed, Sold or Used in Intrastate Commerce reported 7,325,147 tons thru May 2008 year to date versus 6,994,424 for the same period in 2007. Shipments in the early months for both years trended equally lower than other months as expected due to traditional weather issues. TACA cement member shipments remain at normal levels compared to the whole at 83.6 percent of all cement shipments statewide. Ready Mixed Concrete projections for this same period in 2008 indicate 22,707,956 cubic yards. Ready mixed concrete is calculated at 62 percent of total cement use and 400 pounds of cement per cubic yard. According to 1st quarter data from Cement Council of Texas, the DFW and Rio Grande Valley markets are leading the state in gains over the same period in 2007.



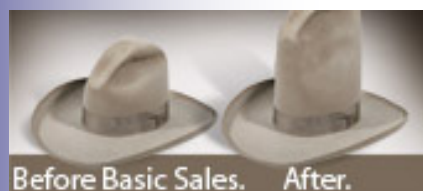
NSSGA Offering - Add Basic Sales Course to your Objectives

Each year, companies develop performance goals for their company and employees. Ignoring sales training actually can have a negative impact on business and provide competition an opportunity to connect with your customers. Companies report again and again that sales training delivers one of the highest ROIs of all staff training. Aggregates companies are no exception. The people who attend NSSGA's Basic Sales training programs indicate that they saw immediate benefits from their training. Even more importantly, their bosses saw it, too.

NSSGA is offering a Basic Sales course to be held in Austin, Texas, on Oct. 20-23. You can register yourself or on behalf of your new sales people. This course is designed for aggregates sales people with three years or less of sales experience or who are new to the aggregates industry altogether.

The four-day course covers technical/product training on day one, so that sales people can understand the product that they're selling and the characteristics that can affect a sale. Days two and three cover, in detail, selling skills that sales people need in an industry that demands aggregates. Day four wraps up with students being filmed as they role play for review with the instructor.

This is a course where sales people return with new skills and ideas that will help them face the challenges of today's market. Furthermore, they develop a network with other sales people from around the country, a cohort that stays together and offers advice when sales people face new challenges. Over time, this network has proven to be the greatest value for attendees.



Be sure to send your sales people to this event and make certain they are selling at their best. NSSGA's discounted hotel room block at the Omni Austin-Downtown is available through Sept. 27, so [register today](#) to reserve your spot in the class. If you have any questions about the course, contact [Tim Reagan](mailto:Tim.Reagan@nssga.org) with NSSGA at treagan@nssga.org

TxDOT Concrete Overlay Seminars Rolling Out from Industry



Selection, Design and Construction of Concrete Overlays in Texas seminar is being offered through the collaborative efforts of the Concrete Pavements Working Group. This group was formed in 2007 and is supported and comprised of industry partners TACA, Cement Council of Texas (CCT), Texas Concrete Pavement Association (TCPA), University of Texas, Texas A & M University and TxDOT. The seminar is being

delivered in August, September and October to TxDOT Districts - Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, Lubbock, Pharr, San Antonio and Tyler. Presenters and topics include Bob James of TACA - *Why Concrete Overlays*, Dennis Warren, TCPA - *Concrete Overlay Case Studies*, Jim Mack, CEMEX and Richard Rogers, Transtec - *Selection of Overlay Type*, Lisa Lukefahr, TxDOT - *Overlay Pricing and Alternate Bidding*, Moon Won, UT and Andrew Wimsatt, TAMU - *Overlay Design Methodology*, Dennis Warren - *Overlay Construction Practices*, and Moon Won and Andrew Wimsatt - *Lessons Learned*. Those attending are TxDOT personnel involved in pavement design, construction, maintenance, rehabilitation and pavement type selection. Local city and county personnel with similar areas of responsibility are welcome as space is available in each district venue. For more information, contact Bob James, Director of Marketing and Technical Standards, TACA, bobjames@tx-taca.org or call the TACA office at 512.451.5100.

Texas Condos Aim for Biggest and Best

The South 5th Condominiums in Austin, Texas, set out to be the finest in sustainable and energy-efficient condominium living, but also turned out to be the largest insulated concrete form project ever undertaken in the central Texas.

With ICF work on the first three-story, three-unit building completed, construction continues on the remaining 17 buildings. The project was designed with a focus on green building and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

Energy-efficient design elements include the use of insulated concrete forms for structural walls, rooftop solar arrays, low-E windows, ultra-efficient HVAC systems, and engineered lighting plans. The building also utilizes cast-in-place concrete floors.

One of the key environmentally friendly design innovations on this project is the integration of the storm water detention system within the building foundation. The concrete basin will not be visible and will serve as a catchment system to hold storm water runoff allowing the city's system to keep pace with heavy rainfall.

Residents of the project will also enjoy near silence as a result of the window and wall combination. Acero Construction is the contractor for the project, which uses Amvic ICF systems.

Reprinted from PCA-Executive Report August 4, 2008



ACI Board Approves Strategic Plan

During its Spring 2008 Convention in Los Angeles, the ACI Board of Directors approved a new strategic plan that would focus the organization to collaborate with its related organizations with the expressed intent to improve the quality and sustainability of concrete construction. The Board has determined it will review its plan every 18 months and will also add the plan as an exhibit to the agenda of the planning and discussion session for full review and comment by board members, committee chairs and staff liaisons. The entire strategic plan can be found at www.concrete.org/strategic.

Items of a technical nature on the board agenda included reorganization of the 318 Code to help designers in their work, allow for future innovation and simplify methods to provide safe solutions. Also, the Concrete Knowledge Center received agenda attention focusing on procedures for reviewing and updating the website on a regular basis so member value is maintained. Funding commitments for staff support was also approved to under gird these priorities.

In the education realm, an Education Task Group has evaluated current educational offerings to determine the feasibility of additional needed products. Four new programs recommended are 1) an audio version of *The Contractor's Guide to Quality Concrete Construction*, 2) a sustainability and emerging technologies web page with extended access to both members and non members, 3) development of training programs for inspectors to support ACI certification programs and 4) development of web based "e-learning" products based on ACI documents.

Texas Aggregates and Concrete Association

900 Congress Avenue
Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701

PHONE:
512.451.5100

FAX:
512.451.4162

We're on the Web!
<http://www.tx-taca.org>

American Society of Concrete Contractors to Meet in San Antonio



ASCC meets in San Antonio, September 11-14, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Riverwalk and has slated a full agenda to support the mantra of "Enhancing the capabilities of those who build with concrete". Seminars on wall construction, fall protection, marketing and selling concrete parking lots, decorative concrete technical developments, slab on ground cracking and joint application and legal issues in concrete construction are some of the topics that will be offered. Also, Rich Szecsy of TACA member Lattimore Materials will join Christina Palpal-Latoc with contractor T.B.Penick and Sons, LLC to present "How Green Building is Effecting the Concrete Contractor".

Various roundtable topics to be available on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pervious Concrete | Being a Green Contractor |
| Decorative Concrete Layout | Contracts/Risk Management |
| Immigration | Estimating Technology |
| Decorative Concrete-What's New? | Prospering In a Down Market |
| Safety Incentive Programs | Branding Your Company |

TACA will provide instruction and examination for the NRMCA Pervious Contractor Certification on Thursday of the conference. Sean Van DeList of Cement Council of Texas and Bob James of TACA will present the four hour certification training.

\$100 Million Mixed-Use Project Planned for Fort Worth

Fort Worth-based Trademark Property Co. in a partnership with RP Partners and local investors has purchased seven acres along Interstate 30 and the Trinity River in Fort Worth and has begun construction on a \$100 million mixed-use project. Three parcels of land on the banks of the Trinity River on University Drive south of U.S. Interstate 30 will become transformed into the 350,000-sq-ft WestBend, with 100,000 sq ft of specialty retail and restaurants, 30,000 sq ft of new Class A office space above retail, a 135-room hotel above retail and the fully renovated 120,000-sq-ft River Plaza office building. The first phase of WestBend will open fall 2009. Hotel developer LodgeWorks LP will have a 135-room Hyatt Place in the project and WestBend will seek LEED certification. Dallas-based Gensler is working on the project along with Fort Worth-based Gideon Toal.



Fort Worth's new \$100 million mixed-use project, WestBend, is under way on some seven acres on the banks of the Trinity River, aiming for LEED certification. Designer firms include Gensler and Gideon Toal.

Corporate Executives rank Texas' business climate No. 1

Texas' business climate is the best in the nation, according to a new survey of corporate executives.

Economic development firm Development Counsellors International asked 281 corporate executives to name the best state for conducting business in the United States. With 40.8 percent of the top votes, Texas ranked first in the nation for the fourth year in a row. Executives credit the Lone Star State's work force costs, pro-business atmosphere and favorable tax structure for making the state attractive to companies.

"Texas is far and away the best place in America to do business," said Gov. Rick Perry after learning about Texas' ranking. "Business leaders throughout the world recognize the Lone Star State as a place where their business can grow and thrive thanks to our reasonable regulations, low taxes, fair legal environment, educated work force and an unparalleled quality of life."

The Texas Governor's Office says Texas' other accomplishments include the state's overall economy — which is growing almost three times the national average — and the fact that more than half of the nation's new jobs in 2007 were created in Texas.

Reprinted from the Dallas Business Journal