

APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Members attend FHWA's EDC Summit

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Representatives from the American Public Works Association's Mid-Atlantic Chapter participated in the Federal Highway Administration's Everyday Counts Summit. The two day, by invitation only, event was held on October 16-17, 2012 in Baltimore, Maryland. FHWA's Administrator Victor Mendez was in attendance for the event and spoke to the participants regarding the initiative's goals.



The FHWA's Everyday Counts (EDC) initiative focuses on delivering highway transportation projects to the American people in a safer, smarter and faster way. The initiative is a significant attempt by FHWA to shorten project delivery time and incorporates related provisions of the newly signed transportation authorization bill: Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP 21).

The FHWA unveiled the EDC initiatives through eight summits to be held across the country. Baltimore was among the first to be presented. Following the summits FHWA will continue the effort by offering virtual conferences related to planning, environment, safety, and mobility.

The summit provided an overview of the EDC initiative and offered seminars on the EDC components. EDC consists of two major programs: shortening project delivery and accelerating technology and innovation in project delivery.

A toolkit for shortening project delivery is available on the FHWA website. The toolkit includes linkages between environmental and planning aspects of the project; legal streamlining through programmatic agreements; flexibilities in right of way matters; and streamlining the environmental impact statement process for smaller projects. The program also included the expanded use of alternative contracting methods such as design-build; construction manager and construction manager at-risk processes.

Integration of technology under the EDC initiative includes the use of warm mix asphalt; prefabricated bridge elements and materials; adaptive signal control technology; creation of a safety edge along paved road pavement sections; and geosynthetic reinforced soil.

For more information on the EDC initiatives visit the FHWA EDC website at the following link: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/everydaycounts/edctwo/2012/index.cfm>.