

skills and tools to solve complex problems," said APWA Director of Sustainability Julia Anastasio. "Sustainability in public works means that new solutions can be developed in environmentally and socially responsible ways, while delivering services and infrastructure citizens expect with the best economic choice in the long term."

APWA is also currently creating professional development and educational activities that focus on the Center's public works sustainability principles so that public works professionals have the tools and resources they need to advance sustainable change in their communities. A full realm of sustainability ideas and innovations will be explored more fully at the APWA Sustainability in Public Works Conference in Minneapolis, MN from June 8-10. "The conference is designed to explore and promote the evolving role of public works professionals in the creation and management of sustainable communities," Anastasio said.

More stimulus-funded work to come in 2010

Stimulus funded infrastructure projects are saving and creating more direct construction jobs than initially estimated, according to a new analysis of federal data released by the Associated General Contractors of America. The analysis also found that more contractors are likely to perform stimulus-funded work this year as work starts on many of the non-transportation projects funded in the initial package.

"The stimulus is one of the very few bright spots the construction industry experienced last year and is one of the few hopes keeping it going in 2010," said Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist. "The stimulus is saving construction jobs, driving demand for new equipment and delivering better and more efficient infrastructure for our economy."

Simonson noted that new federal reports show the \$20.6 billion dollars worth of stimulus highway projects initiated over the past twelve months have saved or created nearly 280,000 direct construction jobs. That amounts to 15,000 jobs per billion dollars invested, well above pre-stimulus estimates that every billion invested in infrastructure projects would create 9,700 direct construction jobs.

The economist added that heavy and civil engineering construction employment was stable in January even as total construction employment declined by 75,000. Meanwhile, highway and road construction was one of the only areas to see an increase in spending last year even as total construction spending fell by \$100 billion. The two figures are a clear sign the stimulus is having a significant, and stabilizing, impact on the industry, Simonson noted.

Google FTTH Initiative hopes to shape U.S. broadband policy

Google's announcement that it is launching a fiber to the home (FTTH) trial should not be viewed as a move by the Internet giant to become a major transport player in the U.S. ultra-

Testing Completed For Corrugated HDPE Pipe In Shallow Cover Railroad Apps

A study funded by the Plastics Pipe Institute Inc. (PPI) that evaluated the successful use of corrugated, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe for use under heavy rail car loads with shallow cover, is now available on-line: www.plasticpipe.org/drainage/cppa_technical.html.

The test was conducted by the Transportation Technology Center at the Facility for Accelerated Service Testing (FAST) in Pueblo, CO, where it operates a test bed for railroad track. The methodology of the project included repeatedly running a train consisting of four locomotives with 80 rail cars weighing 315,000 pounds over 48-inch corrugated HDPE pipe with just four-feet of cover from the top of the pipe to the bottom of the rail. In addition, the long-term impact of heavy, static loads on the pipe was assessed by parking the cars, with one set of wheels on the track directly over the same pipe for six weeks. The corrugated HDPE pipe used in the test was manufactured by Advanced Drainage Systems Inc., a PPI-member company.

"The instrumented pipes performed perfectly after 96 million gross tons of heavy axle loading, with measured strains and deflections well below the material limits," stated Michael Plumier, director of engineering for PPI's Corrugated Plastic Pipe Division.



"The maximum measured combined deflection from construction and dynamic loading was less than 1.5 percent and the maximum deflection due to dynamic loads alone was 0.14 percent. The maximum measured tensile strains were negligible, and the maximum measured compressive strains were less than one percent. Operators noted that track ride quality was acceptable, and no track geometry maintenance was required at the conclusion of the test."

high-speed broadband market – at least not for the foreseeable future.

According to Rupert Wood, principal analyst at consultancy and research firm Analysys Mason, the move shows that Google is determined to influence U.S. telecoms' policy by showing how user and service provider behavior could change under radically different conditions from those that currently prevail in the United States, and at the same time to understand how it can monetize those changes.

"Google has dabbled in access before. Its municipal Wi-Fi in Mountain View, CA, has been a flop, and its joint bid with EarthLink to provide a city-wide wireless access network in San Francisco didn't work out. The location of these FTTH networks (serving between 50,000 and 500,000 households, according to Google) has not yet been decided. We expect Google will want to experiment with a variety of predominantly urban areas," explains Wood.

In two key respects, Google will be offering something new with these trials.

- 1Gbit/s symmetrical access is a step change from what telcos and cable companies currently offer. It is 20 times faster than Verizon's FiOS service, for example.

- It will provide a fully open access model to service providers, the opposite of the model used by U.S. cable and major telcos.

Michigan communities still without cable competition

Michigan's experiment with deregulation of cable services has failed, according to the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (MI-NATOA), whose member communities previously oversaw local franchise agreements with cable providers.

Cable and phone companies promised that the elimination of cable regulation would increase cable competition and create thousands of jobs in Michigan. Many observers hoped that more competition would reduce prices and improve customer service.

"Communities watched in 2006 as AT&T made promises to the Michigan legislature about lower prices and more competition," recalls Caren Collins, president of MI-NATOA.

"Three years later, there is little more than disappointment. Cable prices continue to outpace inflation, and service remains poor. Eighty-four percent of communities who re-

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