

MARYLAND QUALITY INITIATIVE - 20 YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnering

- Developed nationally recognized Partnering process to improve construction and design
- Reduced construction change costs due to better communication at the project level
- Recognized as a national leader in Partnering by the International Partnering Institute and the former National Partnership for Highway Quality

Project Development

- Implemented new ways to deliver projects faster and more efficiently.
- Modified Erosion and Sediment Control practices to improve water quality and reduce run-off.
- Implemented performance evaluation of contractors and consultants.
- Developed an Americans with Disabilities Act Training program for employees and consultants.
- Implemented “Thinking Beyond the Pavement” and “Context Sensitive Solutions.” The program helps SHA explain streetscape projects to residents of local communities.
- Improved contract specifications for quality control.
- Reached out to and established mentorships with minority business firms.
- Developed training for employees and consultants on Complete Streets Guidelines and SHA's New Bike Policy.
- Educated employees and consultants on "Green" Highway Specifications – sustainable design and construction.
- Partnered with MD Department of the Environment to improve the permitting process.
- Educated the industry and government on the Stormwater Management Act of 2007.
- Educated the transportation industry on Maryland's draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan and EPA's draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL “Pollution Diet”
- Developed the Design/Build process - a successful highway construction method that increases efficiency.
- Educated the transportation industry on Federal Highway "Every Day Counts" Initiative

Transportation Operations and Safety

- Created multi-disciplined participation in roadway safety audits
- Promoted the use of traffic detectors, digital message signs, and public access traffic cameras.
- Improved the use of technology in detecting congestion and responding to highway crashes.
- Introduced construction mediation as a way to resolve disputes at lower costs.
- Improved contract monitoring and timeliness of final records for construction projects.
- Developed method to reward contractors for smooth pavement and penalize them for less than acceptable pavement.
- Implemented technologies and innovations:
 - Using satellites and GPS to monitor construction equipment.
 - Piloted use of moveable traffic barriers to protect highway workers/travelers
 - Piloted a method to better predict concrete strength.
 - Developed ways to recycle old pavement and other construction materials.
- Implemented new state of the art paving practices known as “Superpave.”
- Developed resurfacing analysis to determine the most cost effective materials and methods.
- Reduced design changes during construction. This saves the State money.
- Improved how SHA works with utility companies on construction projects – improving coordination and timeliness.

Industry Training and Recruitment

- Provided opportunities to more than 500 high school students each year to explore careers in Construction and Engineering in partnership with local school systems, including:
 - Annual participation in and promotion of Construction and Engineering Career Day.
 - Lead “Consider a Career in Engineering” Outreach Programs with visits to middle and high schools.