

## Infrastructure Improvement Act Introduced in Senate

According to ASCE's 2001 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, U.S. infrastructure got a grade of D+. In 2003, the Progress Report for America's Infrastructure showed poor outlook for improvement in these grades.

Sen. Bob Graham (D-FL) together with Sen. George Voinovich (R-OH) introduced the National Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2004 (S. 2993), legislation that would establish a National Commission on the Infrastructure of the United States to ensure that the country's infrastructure meets current and future demand and facilitates economic growth.

"The reality is that our nation is in the midst of an infrastructure crisis," Sen. Graham said in a statement on the Senate floor. He gave examples of what he called a growing "infrastructure deficit" in the United States, where our infrastructure fails to fulfill the needs of our growing economy and cited ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure and the decline in grades since 1988 when the National Council on Public Works Improvement released its final report.

"This infrastructure deficit will erode our economic productivity advantage, the principal hope for Americans to maintain our standard of living in the face of fierce global competition," said Graham.

The bill calls for the Commission to report back to the Congress on the state of the nation's infrastructure and make appropriate recommendations by February 15, 2007.

A copy of the legislation is available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>

In March 2005, ASCE will release an updated Report Card, evaluating the nation's infrastructure through 15



different categories. The Report Card serves to inform the public about the needs of our infrastructure from the perspective of the engineers who design and maintain it.

All ASCE members are invited to get involved in this effort. Sections and Branches are encouraged to evaluate infrastructure in their local areas and identify local spokespersons that will be available to discuss infrastructure with news media.

Prior to the March release, ASCE will team up with the American Public Works Association to produce Town Hall Meetings in four cities across the country: Harrisburg, PA, Orlando, FL, St. Louis, MO, and Phoenix, AZ. These events seek to engage local leaders and citizens in a dialog about our infrastructure, how it benefits our lives, and the extensive needs it faces in continuing to support the nation's economy and standard of living.

SEI members should seek to engage local and national leaders in discussions about infrastructure in the United States. Contact your Congressman or Senators to let them know of the needs in your community and ask them to support legislation that will improve and enhance infrastructure across the country. Stay tuned for more information and ways to help.



### National Timber Bridge Competition

Entry Deadline:  
April 8, 2005

[www.msacd.org/bridge.htm](http://www.msacd.org/bridge.htm)

For more information on the Report Card, visit <http://www.asce.org/reportcard> or contact ASCE's Communications and Government Relations staff at [govwash@asce.org](mailto:govwash@asce.org).

Mark Your Calendar Today –

2005  
NEW YORK, NY



# STRUCTURES CONGRESS

METROPOLIS & BEYOND

APRIL 20-24, 2005

New York Hilton & Towers



*With over 90 technical sessions, this Congress is designed to maximize the learning opportunities for structural engineers.*

## CONFERENCE TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Analysis
- Concrete and Steel Design
- Bridges
- Buildings
- Codes and Standards
- Forensic Engineering
- Business and Professional Practice in Structural Engineering
- Construction and Constructability
- International Case Studies



Visit the conference web site at [www.seinstitute.org](http://www.seinstitute.org)



**Structural Columns**

Structural Engineering Institute of ASCE