

67th Chapter Conference & Equipment Show (*WRX*)
Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Public Works Association
May 4 – 7, 2027
~ Virginia Beach Convention Center~

2027 Theme - *All Hands on Deck: Navigating the Future of Public Works*

Abstract Instructions

We are looking for presentations to support the conference theme focused on:

- ✓ **Asset Management**
- ✓ **New and Emerging Technologies**
- ✓ **Workforce Development**
- ✓ **Environmental**
- ✓ **Education**
- ✓ **Municipal Management**
- ✓ **Current or Future Project**

Important Dates:

- Abstracts are due on or before **November 20, 2026**
- Selected speakers will be notified by January 15, 2027
- Presentations will be delivered May 6 or 7, 2027

Presenting at the APWA Mid-Atlantic Chapter Conference is a great opportunity to:

- Share your knowledge, expertise and innovations with other public works professionals from the region
- Discuss current public works trends and challenges with your peers and colleagues
- Be recognized by the chapter
- Advance your career
- Mentor new and younger public works staff

Abstract Submission

- Abstracts are submit using an online form available via a link on the chapter website. [Call for Abstracts form.](#)
- Information required:
 - Speaker names and contact information
 - Presentation Title
 - Presentation Summary (limited to 250 words). Note any connection to the conference theme, such as:
 - New and emerging technologies
 - Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure
 - Recent changes in upstream flood mitigation and coastal resilience
 - Impacts of current project implementation practices on future operations
 - Other evolving and future challenges

- Three learning objectives (limited to 150 words each) that complete the phrase “By attending this session, participants will be able to...”. Per IACET guidelines, you must use approved "action" verbs. Examples of learning objectives using active, measurable verbs are available on the chapter website.
- Presentation Interest Areas. The Presentation Interest Area you select will allow the Technical Program Committee to group your presentation with other similar presentations in the program. Select one or more from the following list:
 - Asset Management
 - Career & Personal Development
 - Community Outreach, Social Equity, & Environmental Justice
 - Construction Management
 - Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in the Workforce
 - Emergency Management
 - Engineering & Technology
 - Facilities
 - Fleet Services
 - Management
 - Parks & Grounds
 - Public Works Advocacy
 - Solid Waste & Recycling
 - Stormwater & Flood Control
 - Streets, Roads, & Bridges
 - Sustainability & Resilience
 - Traffic Engineering
 - Transportation
 - Utility & Public Rights-of-way
 - Water & Wastewater
 - Winter Operations
 - Young Professionals
- Special requirements, such as needing access to the internet, showing a video clip, or requesting an easel.
- Speaker biographies (limited to 200 words each). This information will be used by the session moderators to introduce the speakers at the conference.
- Presentation Length Preference. Select 35, 52, or 105 minutes.

Abstract and Presentation Processing

- Submission of abstracts represents the commitment to meet the established deadlines, allow the materials to be subjected to review for CEU certification, allow the Chapter to post the materials on our website, and deliver the presentation at the conference. Information about your abstract and presentation, once accepted, will be included in conference marketing materials.
- Once the abstract is accepted, you will receive written confirmation containing speaker instructions and expectations.
- **Abstracts not received by November 20, 2026, may not be included in the conference agenda and related marketing materials.**

Presenter Expectations and Responsibilities

- The Chapter’s preference is to have municipalities be identified and listed as co-presenters for each abstract. This improves the chances of being selected to present.

- Presentations are not to be advertisements for a company's products or services. If a product comparison is part of your presentation, disclose (when submitting the abstract) your financial interest in the product or service and then discuss the merits and weaknesses of competing products fairly.
- Based on the abstract submittal, your topic may be paired in an educational track with a similar or related topic. We will advise you of this so you can coordinate with the other presenters.
- We encourage panels featuring a common theme; if you have a proposal for a panel, we can accommodate up to three presenters per panel.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate presentation length preferences.
- Most of the conference rooms will be set up as auditorium style seating with a podium and microphone. Dependent on conference location, you may need to bring your own laptop. A conference committee member will let you know as your presentation is selected.
- Plan to be at your session no later than one hour before your scheduled time.
- Preparation of materials and presenting at the conference is voluntary; the Chapter does not compensate presenters. The Chapter or APWA does not reimburse travel expenses or make lodging arrangements for presenters and/or educational session speakers. Presenters are responsible for registering for the conference, making their own travel arrangements, and covering the expenses. A block of rooms will be reserved for conference participants. Details will be available on the Chapter website.

Presentation File Format

- Each presentation shall be provided using MS PowerPoint format.
- There is no PowerPoint template for presentations, and you do not need to submit your slides in advance.

Suggested Presentation Topics

- If you have a topic area you would care to learn more about at the 2027 Conference and can possibly suggest a speaker that we can contact regarding the topic, please e-mail Becca Russell (rrussell@cityofmartinsburg.org) the suggested topic, speaker, and their contact information. Thank you for your recommendations.

American Public Works Association

Examples of learning objectives using active, measurable verbs

(Note: Verbs such as know, understand, comprehend, learn do not measure behavior and **should not be used in learning objective statements**. Below are examples of learning objectives that include active, measurable, behavioral verbs.)

By attending this session, participants will be better able to:

- **List** the steps for Fleet managers to become NIMS certified.
- **Design** and **conduct** a systematic inventory and inspection of sidewalk assets.
- **Identify** facility deficiencies that impede efficient and economical customer service.
- **Make** informed budgeting decisions about the “real” costs of services and projects.
- **Prepare** a pre-operation safety inspection checklist.
- **Plan** for and **implement** a curbside organics collection program.
- **Evaluate** maintenance management systems features and **choose** which options will work best your operations.
- **Convince** governing bodies of the benefits of adopting smart growth techniques.
- **Promote** the benefits of investing in an in-house advanced leadership program.
- **Develop** a public information and media strategy.

Here’s a list of behavioral verbs to use when composing learning objectives:

Achieve	Conceptualize	Engineer	Invent	Purchase
Acquire	Conduct	Enhance	Investigate	Rebuild
Adapt	Construct	Establish	Justify	Recognize
Administer	Contrast	Estimate	Launch	Recommend
Advise	Control	Evaluate	Lead	Reconstruct
Advocate	Convince	Examine	List	Renovate
Aid	Coordinate	Exceed	Maintain	Repair
Analyze	Correlate	Excel	Make	Report
Anticipate	Correspond	Execute	Manage	Represent
Apply	Counsel	Expand	Measure	Resolve
Arbitrate	Create	Experiment	Mediate	Review
Arrange	Decide	Explain	Mentor	Revise
Ask	Define	Explore	Modernize	Schedule
Assemble	Delegate	Facilitate	Modify	Select
Assess	Demonstrate	Finance	Motivate	Serve
Assist	Deploy	Generate	Negotiate	Set up
Author	Describe	Guide	Notify	Solve
Begin	Design	Handle	Operate	Study
Budget	Determine	Identify	Organize	Succeed
Build	Develop	Illuminate	Originate	Summarize
Calculate	Diagnose	Illustrate	Participate	Supervise
Challenge	Differentiate	Implement	Perform	Support
Choose	Direct	Improve	Persuade	Survey
Clarify	Discern	Increase	Pilot	Teach
Coach	Discuss	Inform	Plan	Test
Code	Draft	Initiate	Prepare	Train
Collaborate	Edit	Inquire	Present	Translate
Communicate	Educate	Inspect	Preside	Use
Compare	Effect	Inspire	Procure	Utilize
Complete	Eliminate	Instruct	Produce	Write
Compose	Employ	Integrate	Program	
Compute	Encourage	Interpret	Promote	
Conceive	Engage	Interview	Provide	