

Final Agenda – 18 September 2026

Times, descriptions, and presenters are final.

Monday, September 28th

330pm – 530pm – Council Bluffs Room – **NCSC States Council Meeting**
Closed meeting for State and Authority Representatives

6pm – 8pm – Elkhorn Room – **Event Reception and Registration**
This is the first opportunity to network with industry partner providers and new existing contacts with industry professionals. **Menu:** *Pasta Station* | *Slider Station* | *Cash Bar*

Tuesday, September 29th Confirmed Speakers & Topics

8am – 815am – Elkhorn Room – **Host State Introduction**
Welcoming thank you to all attendees and a word from our host state, Kansas DOT, **Susan Barker**, Structural Materials Engineer, Kansas DOT



815am – 845am – **Gold Meeting Sponsor Introduction**
Brief discussion on the importance of Quality Assurance Oversight
Alicia Georger, Chief Sales and Development Officer



845am – 915am – **Understanding the Impact of Edge Preparation on the Life of High-Performance Coating Systems on Highway Bridges**
Mike O'Brien, MARK 10 Resource Group, Inc.



DOT specifications vary considerably regarding requirements for edge preparation on steel bridges. Laboratory testing on high-performance coating systems, including inorganic zincs, thermal spray metallizing, and hot-dip galvanizing reveal insufficient edge preparation leads to early corrosion on edges. Actual field observations on bridges indicate the same results - corrosion starts first on the edges of flanges, stiffeners, cross-frames, and connection plates. This practical presentation will discuss the common methods for preparing edges and explain the problems with the current requirements that are resulting in the failures of coatings on edge. It will conclude with recommended changes for a significant reduction in corrosion on edges.

915am – 945am – **Avoid Coating Failures of Duplex Coating Systems Applied over Hot-Dip Galvanizing**
Mike O'Brien, MARK 10 Resource Group, Inc.

Premature coating failures, sometimes massive and expensive, continue to occur on highway bridges when coatings are applied over hot-dip galvanizing. This extremely practical presentation, showing numerous duplex coating failures on hot-dip galvanizing, will examine why these failures occur, and will explain the steps required to eliminate coating failures with duplex coating systems. Understanding the various stages of galvanizing after its application and the surface preparation issues that promote failures of duplex systems, and the best time to apply coatings to eliminate failures will be discussed.

945am – 1015am – **I-70 Polk-Quincy Viaduct Replacement**

Christopher Rech, A.M. Cohron & Son, Inc. & **Craig Koetting**, Quality Control Manager, Delong's

I-70 Polk-Quincy Viaduct in Downtown Topeka, Kansas was built in 1962 and is being replaced. The viaduct project seeks to improve safety by replacing and flattening out Interstate 70's sharp curve. The New viaduct will consist of two elevated viaduct Steel Bridges, one for eastbound traffic and the other for westbound.

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1015am – 1045am – **Morning Break & Networking Time**

Menu: Sliced Fresh Fruit | Breakfast Breads | Coffee | Tea | Soda

1045am – 1115am – **AISC Industry Updates**

Todd Alwood, Vice President Membership & Certification, American Institute of Steel Construction

This session provides an update on AISC initiatives, resources, and certification programs that support state DOTs and bridge fabricators. Attendees will learn about new fabricator education and online learning opportunities, plus receive a preview of key bridge-related highlights planned for the 2027 NASCC in Denver.



1115am – 12pm – Presentation – **Hybrid Galvanize/Metalize Coating of Steel Bridges**

Ben Bristol, Director Railroad Marketing & Customer Support, Industrial Steel Construction

James Malaguti, Marketing Development Manager, Valmont

This presentation will focus on the advantages of a hybrid approach that combines the galvanizing of splice plates and cross-frames with the metalizing of girders. This method is a cost-effective solution for achieving long-term protection through these two coatings while maintaining a competitive cost of coating steel bridge structures.



12pm – 1215pm – **AWS Structural Inspector Bridge Updates**
Anna Petroski, President, DOT Quality Services

As Chair of AWS Q&C Sub Committee on the Bridge Structural Inspector, Anna will provide an update on the program, including recent developments, key initiatives, and other relevant committee information.



1215pm – 130pm – **A word from our gold lunch sponsor, HRV**
Catered Lunch & Networking
Menu: *Parmesan Encrusted Chicken | BBQ Pulled Pork | Salad | Vegetables | Dessert*



130pm – 215pm – **Utilizing Optimized Steel Plate Girders as an Economical/Structural Alternative**
Dr. Michael Barker, University of Wyoming, Director of Education, SSSBA

An evaluation of optimized steel plate girders as an economical and structurally efficient alternative solution for 60'–100' bridge spans, particularly in cases where larger rolled beams may be less cost-competitive compared with other bridge systems. The presentation includes design comparisons, case studies, optimized design examples, and implementation guidance for engineers and fabricators, with Tanner Genenbacher, Business Development Manager at DeLong's, providing a fabricator's perspective on practical application and constructability.



215pm – 245pm – **Fabrication Quality Management: Why Assessment Expertise Matters**
Jim Callahan, Director of Technical Services and Development, Atema

This presentation highlights the importance of fabrication quality management, covering best practices, common challenges, and how expert quality assessments help ensure compliance, reduce risk, and deliver successful bridge projects.



245pm – 315pm – **AWS D1.5: 2025 - A brief overview of recent code updates and how State DOTs and fabricators can apply them to improve quality**
Kent Nelson, Quality Systems Specialist, DOT Quality Services

Explore key updates to the Bridge Welding Code and how to understand these changes can help DOTs and fabricators improve the fabrication process.



315pm – 345pm – **Afternoon Break & Networking Time**
Menu: *Assorted Cookies | Assorted Trail Mix | Milk | Coffee | Tea | Soda*

345pm – 430pm – **Fabrication and Erection of the Black Hawk Bridge over the Mississippi River**
Tom Ringelstetter PE, Chief Engineer, Kraemer North America, LLC



430pm – 515pm – **Panel Discussion: Meeting the Fabrication Needs of Our North Central States**

Join DOT Fabrication Engineers as they discuss common project requirements that are often overlooked during bidding and fabrication planning. Panelists will share practical insights on meeting field fit requirements, coordinating sequential testing performed outside the fabrication shop, managing post-fabrication vendor responsibilities, and other critical considerations that can help fabricators avoid costly delays, ensure compliance, and successfully deliver bridge projects.

Wednesday, September 30th

830am – 12pm – **Valmont Valley Campus Tour of Hot-Dip Galvanizing and Laser Seam Welding**
Ralph Beam, General Manager, Valmont Valley Galvanizing
Justin Boelter, Engineering Product Manager, Valmont

During the galvanizing tour at Valmont - Valley Galvanizing, attendees will walk through the facility and see the hot-dip galvanizing process from surface preparation through inspection, gaining a high-level understanding of how steel is protected to ensure long-lasting performance and quality.



Attendees are asked to bring their own hard hat, eye protection, and safety vest. Safety toe boots are preferred and recommended; however, they are not required. Closed-toe shoes are required for all tour participants.





Goal of NCSC

To make the job of the State Engineer or Technician easier because they learn how other States handle problems, find solutions, improve their programs and projects, and stay informed on new direction from government agencies and code writing bodies such as AASHTO, FHWA, AWS and other entities that affect steel bridge work.

To serve in the knowledge and continuing education for State and Agency bridge engineers and technicians and managers involved with steel bridge construction and maintenance.

Conference Organization – Website

