



MONDAY MORNING NEWS

Puget Sound Chapter • National Electrical Contractors Association

JUNE 22, 2020

No Meetings Scheduled



TOPCON – NEW NECA ASSOCIATE MEMBER

NECA would like to welcome Topcon Solutions Store, as a new NECA Associate Member. Topcon is known throughout the industry for their Positioning Systems, as well as being an Autodesk Platinum Partner. Andrew Dwight is the NECA Accredited Representative and can be reached by phone at (425) 251-9722 or by email at adwight@topcon.com. The office is located at 18040 72nd Ave S, Kent, WA. 98032.

For more information on Topcon visit www.topconsolutions.com. Welcome Topcon to the NECA family!

CONSTRUCTION PRODUCTIVITY STATS APPROACH PRE-CORONAVIRUS LEVELS

Statistics are indicating construction work may be approaching pre-coronavirus numbers, according to data collected by Procore and the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC).

Using worker hours to measure construction activity during the pandemic and related government shutdown orders, Procore found that recent numbers are comparable, or in some cases higher, than those on March 1st, the last week before shutdowns began.

The majority of states and cities are seeing this change, which AGC Chief Economist Ken Simonson said could also be attributed to the warmer weather increasing the seasonal demand of construction work.

In Seattle, the worst was the week of March 19th, where worker hours dropped by 71% in comparison to the beginning of the month, and in San Francisco, the worst drop was the week of April 5th, where worker hours were down 53% from March 1st.

In addition, AGC also released the latest results of the organization's member survey. Notably, while the number of projects delayed by coronavirus shutdowns has slowed, cancellations of projects continue to rise, Simonson said, likely due to a lack of expectation for demand. At the same time, contractors surveyed said they want Congress and the Trump administration to take more action to protect them and the industry in the uncertain environment.

Other notable results include: (The survey taken by AGC members between June 9th and June 17th).

- 48% said they were directed to halt or cancel work by a project owner in the time period.
- COVID-19 was the most cited result for halting a project (33%) followed by an expectation of reduced demand (28%).
- Only 10% cited PPE shortages as a cause for delays, down 40% from two months prior.
- 46% of respondents said there had been no change in worker headcounts onsite during the measured time period.
- 30% said they expected it to take more than six months for demand to return to normal.
- 57% said they thought Congress and the Trump administration should enact “safe harbor” legislation to clearly protect contractors from liability in the event that they fail to prevent COVID-19 infections among workers.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE \$1.5 TRILLION INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

House Democrats have unveiled a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill that includes almost \$500 billion of green measures proposed as part of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America (INVEST in America) Act earlier this month. In addition to the spending, included in the INVEST in America Act, the larger Moving Forward Act also would provide: \$300 billion for structurally deficient bridges; \$100 billion for facility upgrades at high-poverty schools; \$100 billion for affordable housing infrastructure; \$100 billion in broadband internet; \$40 billion for wastewater infrastructure; \$70 billion for the electric grid for more renewable energy and upgrades; \$30 billion for hospitals and other healthcare infrastructure; and \$3 billion for "shovel-ready" Great Lakes, coastal and marine projects.

FEDS GRANT WSDOT \$74 MILLION TO REDUCE I-5 CONGESTION, COMPLETE “MISSING LINKS”

The U.S. Department of Transportation plans to grant Washington’s transportation department about \$73.7 million for Puget Sound region highway improvement projects, the agency announced Thursday. The proposed WSDOT grant would help the state to complete 12 miles of highway projects to reduce congestion on Interstate 5 and complete "missing links" on the highway freight system that connects to Sea-Tac International Airport and the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma, according to a proposal summary. It includes projects on Interstates 5 and 90 and state Routes 509 and 167. “This federal grant, along with \$1.9 billion in state and local contributions, will help close key gaps in the nation’s freight highway network,” Washington Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar said in a statement. “We are immensely grateful to Washington’s congressional delegation for all their work securing this important grant to support trade-dependent jobs and improve freight connections for the entire Northwest.” WSDOT’s proposed work includes four miles of improvements on Interstate 5. The SR-167 project will extend the highway four miles to I-5; build a two-mile connection from I-5 to the Port of Tacoma; and include three

interchanges at 54th Avenue, Valley Avenue and SR-161. The SR-509 project will extend the route two miles to connect to I-5 and create a new interchange at 24th Avenue S.



ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY 1944 – U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the G.I. Bill, an unprecedented act of legislation designed to compensate returning members of the armed services—known as G.I.s—for their efforts in World War II.

As the last of its sweeping New Deal reforms, Roosevelt’s administration created the G.I. Bill—officially the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944—hoping to avoid a relapse into the Great Depression after the war ended. FDR particularly wanted to prevent a repeat of the Bonus March of 1932, when 20,000 unemployed veterans and their families flocked in protest to Washington. The American Legion, a veteran’s organization, successfully fought for many of the provisions included in the bill, which gave returning servicemen access to unemployment compensation, low-interest home and business loans, and—most importantly—funding for education.

By giving veterans money for tuition, living expenses, books, supplies and equipment, the G.I. Bill effectively transformed higher education in America. Before the war, college had been an option for only 10-15 percent of young Americans, and university campuses had become known as a haven for the most privileged classes. By 1947, in contrast, vets made up half of the nation’s college enrollment; three years later, nearly 500,000 Americans graduated from college, compared with 160,000 in 1939.

“You Learn More From Failure Than From Success. Don’t Let It Stop You. Failure Builds Character.”

– Unknown

As of Friday, June 19th, there are 258 JW on Book 1 and 160 JW on Book 2. There are currently 29 Commercial Apprentices, 0 S&C Apprentices, and 0 Residential Apprentices available for dispatch. There are 0 unfilled Commercial, 1 unfilled S&C and 0 unfilled Residential Apprentice requests.