

MDTA Facility Inspection Program– An Inside Look

To continue to provide safe facilities for the public, the Maryland Transportation Authority has spent the last several years successfully transforming its facility inspection program from a defect based inspection to a full biennial hands-on condition based inspection. The system was transformed from only documenting defects to a full condition assessment. Changes were made that meet the MDTA's trust agreement while meeting or exceeding the National Bridge Inspection Standards. The process began with an evaluation of the current system and determining where improvements could be made. The Authority made major changes to the inspection program, including funding for the program. Two other key items that were necessary for program development were the MDTA Inspection Manual and the bridge management system called ASIR (Authority Structural Inspection and Repair management system). The Inspection Manual was developed to ensure a uniform level of inspection from the multiple consultants as well as provide a reference for documenting inspection findings. The ASIR system provides full electronic documentation of the inspection findings in a network based database which can be accessed from anywhere in the world. This data is then easily accessed and utilized to develop task orders for necessary repairs. There have been growing pains but everyone involved, from the owner to the inspectors to the operations personnel, will attest to the numerous beneficial changes that the system has undergone.

Moderator: **Dave LaBella**, Project Manager, **MDTA**

Speakers: **Lillian Sidrak**, Project Engineer, Structures Division, **MDTA**
 Reta Kabtimer, Project Engineer, Structures Division, **MDTA**
 Ryan Nolan, Acting Bridge Inspection Manager, **MDTA**

Lillian Sidrak

Lillian Sidrak is currently a Project Engineer in the Structures Division of the Maryland Transportation Authority. Her responsibilities include overseeing all inspection work, Letters of Concern, tracking of bridge defects, using the Authority's new Bridge Inspection Software called ASIR, and assisting the structures group with task order preparation, design, and remediation measures. She manages consultants, coordinates with the MDTA's operations groups of all facilities, and performs in house reviews of all inspection work, ensuring that the work complies with the MDTA's facilities inspection manual.

Prior to working with the Maryland Transportation Authority, Lillian acted as Deputy Project Manager for Segment I, as well as Managed Lane Gantry Design Leader, for the I-95 Express Toll Lanes Project. Her involvement included the overseeing of design consultants from the inception to the construction phase. In addition, she performed the design of the new express toll lane gantries, corridor-wide, carrying vibration sensitive tolling equipment, which are currently undergoing construction.

Lillian has more than 14 years of experience in Structural Engineering with emphasis on Bridge Inspection. She graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York with a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering. Her engineering experience is diversified encompassing a wide range of inspection and design projects. She is currently an active member of ASCE and the Women in Transportation Group and stays up to date in acquiring new NBIS certifications. Lillian will be sitting for her PE exam this coming April.

Reta Kabtimer

Reta Kabtimer is a Project Engineer in the Structures Division of the Maryland Transportation Authority. Since being hired by the Authority six month ago, as a member of inspection Team at MDTA, he has been tasked with performing audit inspections, reviewing repair recommendations and developing repair task orders. Reta is working with Operations personnel in tracking and documenting the completion of repairs. Mr. Kabtimer also performs in house reviews of all inspection reports, ensuring that the reports comply with the MDTA's facilities inspection manual.

Reta began his career working for the State Highway Administration in Ethiopia as a project engineer where he spent three years in the road construction division. He was tasked with overseeing road construction projects and performing quality control of a variety of engineering services provided to the Highway Administration by multiple consulting firms.

Reta graduated from Addis Ababa University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a certified EIT in the State of Maryland.

Ryan Nolan

Ryan Nolan is the Acting Bridge Inspection Manager at the Maryland Transportation Authority. Ryan has been involved with the MDTA's facilities inspection program since 1999 and has been serving in his current role since April 2010. The Inspection Manager's tasks include leading the MDTA's bridge inspection staff, developing and implementing the MDTA bridge management system and inspection manual, reviewing inspection findings and recommendations, as well as overseeing the multiple consultants performing the annual facilities inspections.

Mr. Nolan has over 17 years experience in structural design and inspection. As a project engineer with RK&K, LLP, he has been involved in the inspection and condition evaluation of bridges, water treatment facilities, sign structures and luminaires in Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Mr. Nolan is an NBIS certified program manager and has attended NBI Fracture Critical and Ancillary Structure courses as well as ASCE and ACI courses on Structural Condition Inspection of Existing Structures and Concrete Repairs.

Ryan graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Maryland and Virginia as well as a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers.