Background

This seismic conference is 5th in a series of biennial workshops sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration focusing on the highway infrastructure. Past conferences have been held in San Diego (December 1995), Sacramento (July 1997), Portland (April 2002), and Memphis (February 2004). This one will be held in San Francisco to commemorate the devastating earthquake that struck the city in 1906.

The purpose of the conference is to increase awareness of seismic and geological hazards and to enhance the level of technical expertise of engineering professionals so they can mitigate the risk of failure or damage to our bridges and highways.

The conference will also provide a forum for exchanging ideas. Researchers will share their findings from recent large scale testing enabled by NEES funding; code developers will explain the maturing practice of performance based design and the importance of good seismic detailing; and practicing engineers will share insights from completed seismic retrofit projects and the design of major structures. While some speakers will address the audience from their own regional perspective, others will summarize national trends. The conference will also feature select international speakers, recognized as authorities in the field, who will be able to provide yet another perspective. Equal attention will be given to areas of low to moderate seismicity as well as high.

Activities

Also planned as part of the conference are:

- On-Site Technical Exhibit Area to learn the latest technologies that are available
- Poster Display of projects and studies
- Technical Tour of the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge construction project (boat tour with a separate fee)
- Short Workshop on FHWA’s new Retrofit Manual
- Discussion Panel on Multihazard Design Retrofit

Who Should Attend?

The 5th National Seismic Conference on Bridges and Highways is tailored to the needs of engineers, design consultants, researchers, and others responsible for transportation facilities who are interested in learning about advances in earthquake-resistant design and retrofitting, highway system performance, and the latest in research results.
Honorary Chairman
Myint Lwin, Federal Highway Administration, Director, Office of Bridge Technology Steering Committee

Steering Committee
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Kevin Thompson California Department of Transportation (Co-Chair)
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Technical Committee
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Paul Somerville URS Corporation
S. Thevanayagam University at Buffalo / MCEER
Daniel Tobias Illinois Department of Transportation
Joe Wang Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.
Fifth National Seismic Conference on Bridges & Highways
Innovations in Earthquake Engineering for Highway Structures
September 18-20, 2006 | San Francisco, California

Call for Abstracts

The Chairmen of the Technical Committee are now soliciting abstracts of papers. The Technical Committee will select papers on merit for presentation during for plenary sessions, technical sessions grouped according to topic, and for poster display. It is anticipated that 50 to 60 papers will be selected for formal presentations during the conference. In addition, approximately 25 papers will be selected for the Poster Session.

Suggested Topics

Abstracts related to the following topics are requested for consideration by the Committee:

- Liquefaction and Mitigation Strategies
- Effects of Near-field Earthquakes on Bridges
- International Technologies and Practices
- Lessons Learned from Recent earthquakes
- Design and Analysis of Major Bridges in Areas of High or Moderate Seismicity
- Emerging Seismic Design and Retrofit Technologies
- Soil-structure Interaction and Foundations
- Seismic Risk Assessment of Highway Networks
- Performance Criteria and Economic Considerations
- Seismic Design and Retrofit of Foundations and Geotechnical Considerations
- Use of Innovative Technologies and Materials (including Protective Systems and Energy Dissipating Devices)
- Seismic Instrumentation and Monitoring Systems

Send Abstracts to:

Submit an abstract by December 31, 2005 to:

- Online: http://mceer.buffalo.edu
- E-mail: mceer-5ns@buffalo.edu

A brief abstract of no more than 300 words is requested. Please indicate the paper’s topic area. All abstracts will be reviewed by the Conference Technical Committee, which will determine the final conference program. The Committee will complete the selection process and notify the authors by February 1, 2006. Final papers will be due no later than May 1, 2006.