Year End Activities

MassDOT Intersection Update: We continue to work with MassDOT towards a concrete intersection program. We have 2 project currently in the design phase and in November we spent a day with MassDOT to visit 2 additional project in Districts 4 & 5. I anticipate the first concrete intersection being place in the first half on 2020. That being said, after a discussion at the fall Board of Directors meeting, we will refile our Life Cycle Cost Bill in January to keep that effort alive as we continue to work towards a real concrete intersection program with MassDOT.

Build with Strength Efforts: With the support of John Loyer and the NRMCA, Guy Glodis and I are in the process of building a coalition of building trade unions, fire safety organizations, contractors and legislators to support our initiative to ban combustible construction above 3 stories in Mass. Our goal is to drop a bill during the next legislative session to change 4+ story buildings back to non-combustible materials. As we are aware, the Wood Industry continues to take more of our mid-rise building market and is working towards taking high-rise market as well. They made a great stride towards that goal with the recent vote of the ICC to allow CLT wood structures to go to 18 stories. This will be apart of the 2021 building code. We will work hard to make sure the BBRS does not adopt this code here in Massachusetts.

Concrete Sidewalk: As many of you have experienced or heard about, there has been a rise in concrete sidewalk surface failures across the state. This issue is not unique to Massachusetts. This is occurring across the entire Northeast Region of the country. The majority of the failures are due to the use of new deicing agents that are not concrete friendly and are compromising newly installed sidewalks. Brian Barry (Chair of the Tech & Spec Committee) and I have been working with CIM & UCANE on recommended changes to the MassDOT sidewalk specification. These changes will make great strides towards improving sidewalk surface durability & performance. We have reached a final agreement with the other 2 associations and will meet with MassDOT sometime in next several weeks to present our findings and recommendation. A special thanks to Brian Barry, Henry Prenger, the NRMCA & the CP Tech Center, for all there input and expertise to help us put our recommendation together.

On behalf of Guy Glodis and myself, I want to thank you all for your support in 2018!! It's an honor and a privilege to work for the betterment of our industry. I hope 2019 brings us all good health and good fortune!!