

# Session Six

## District Engineers Panel

### About the Panel Members

**Doug Weiszhaar**, Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer, Minnesota Department of Transportation. In July 1999, Douglas Weiszhaar became the Deputy Commissioner / Chief Engineer of the Minnesota Department of Transportation whose objective is to develop a coordinated transportation network providing safe, timely, and efficient movement of people and goods. Mr. Weiszhaar is a native of South Dakota and is a graduate of South Dakota State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He began his career with the Kansas Department of Transportation, served 5 years as the Assistant County Engineer in Otter Tail County, Minnesota, 6 years as the county engineer in Chisago County, Minnesota, and 12 years in Stearns County, Minnesota where the Stearns County Highway Department was selected as the 1992 "Highway Department of the Year." Some achievements include:

- Served as Secretary / Treasurer for the Minnesota County Engineers Association.
- President of Minnesota Transportation Alliance
- Chair of the Research Council on Transportation Infrastructure for the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation Studies.

**Nelrae Succio**, Mn/DOT District Engineer - District 6 Rochester

As transportation district engineer, Succio is responsible for the overall management of all Rochester district (District 6) operations and oversees an annual operating budget of approximately \$26 million. District 6, one of eight regional Mn/DOT offices, supports the transportation network within the eleven counties of southeastern Minnesota. The district includes more than 14-hundred miles of state roadway, 837 bridges, 624 miles of bike 'friendly' roadways and eleven transit systems. Approximately 400 Mn/DOT employees work within District 6. Prior to her District Engineer appointment, Succio served as the assistant district engineer (ADE) for Mn/DOT's Willmar District. She was also Willmar's ADE for technical resources. Before moving to Willmar, she served as manager of the Minnesota Road Research Program (Mn/ROAD) and with Mn/DOT's Brainerd District in areas such as hydraulics, design and construction.

**Mike Robinson** is an Iowa State grad with Bachelors and Masters degrees in Civil and Transportation Engineering. He has worked in many positions at Mn/DOT during the last 28 years, and is currently the District Engineer in Duluth.

**Frank Pafko** is a twenty-three year veteran of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), joining the then Office of Environmental Affairs in 1977, after working two years for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. He is a 1975 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries. Frank has held the positions of Mn/DOT Aquatic Biologist, Environmental Development Unit Chief, Environmental Process Section Director and Assistant Chief Environmental Officer before being appointed to his current position in 2001. Presently, Frank is the Metropolitan Division's Area Manager of Anoka, Ramsey and northern Hennepin Counties, with responsibility for Mn/DOT program delivery activities in that area. He shares the distinction (with fellow Area Manager Lezlie Vermillion) of being the first non-registered engineer to hold this level of program delivery responsibility.

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**Alan R. Steger** is the Division Administrator for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Minnesota Division. He is a native of Wisconsin where he received a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He also holds an M.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University, and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Michigan. Mr. Steger has been with the FHWA since 1969. During this time, he has served in many positions across the country including five years in FHWA's headquarters office in Washington, D.C. He has been Division Administrator in Minnesota since February of 1995. His office is in St. Paul.