

CIVIL ENGINEERS GIVE TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE A “C-“ IN THE 2004 TEXAS INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD

The Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released its *2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card* at the Section Fall Meeting in Houston on October 1, 2004. An overview of the Report Card was subsequently presented to the Austin Branch of the Texas Section on October 19, 2004. The Report Card gave the state’s infrastructure a cumulative grade of “C-“ for 13 infrastructure areas.

The condition of Texas’ roads, bridges, transit, aviation facilities, schools, drinking water systems, wastewater systems, dams, solid waste facilities, hazardous waste facilities, navigable waterways, flood control, and energy infrastructure were examined in terms of conditions and performance, capacity versus need, and funding versus need. The dismal cumulative grade of a “C-“ for Texas indicates a below average condition in most infrastructure categories. Although the state has made significant investments and improvements in some areas, many other areas continue to need substantial investments for repairs, rehabilitation, and expansion in order to provide quality service to the growing state population.

The *2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card* follows the *2001 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure* and the *2003 Progress Report for America’s Infrastructure*, in which ASCE determined that our nation’s infrastructure rated a grade of “D+” for 12 infrastructure areas. On both a state and national level, problems that contributed to the overburdened infrastructure include population growth, voter opposition to infrastructure projects, and the continuing deterioration of an aging system. By distributing the *2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card* to our state legislators and local elected officials this winter, the Texas Section hopes to encourage support of infrastructure funding and legislation in the coming legislative session.

The Texas Section Governmental Affairs Committee is developing a plan to “get the word out” across the state. The *Report Card* and accompanying support documentation will be made available on the section’s web site, and members are encouraged to meet with their local representatives in person and discuss the issues. If you would like to become more involved in this effort, contact John Furlong, P.E., Texas Section Vice President Professional, at jfurlong@half.com or through the section website www.texasce.org.

- Martha F. Juch, P.E., 2004 Texas Infrastructure Report Card Committee.