

FIFTH NATIONAL SEISMIC CONFERENCE ON BRIDGES & HIGHWAYS

Innovations in Earthquake
Engineering for Highway Structures

September 18-20, 2006 | San Francisco, CA



Press Release

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Release Date: May 15, 2006

The *Fifth National Seismic Conference on Bridges & Highways* will be held September 18-20, 2006 in the San Francisco area (San Mateo, California). The key organizers are the Federal Highway Administration, the Transportation Research Board, and California Department of Transportation. The Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research at the University at Buffalo is orchestrating the event. Parsons Brinkerhoff Inc., T.Y. Lin International, and the University Transportation Center at the University of Missouri-Rolla are also major supporters of the conference.

It is the fifth in a series of biennial workshops sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration focusing on the highway infrastructure. With the theme of "Innovations in Earthquake Engineering for Highway Structures," the conference's purpose is to increase awareness of seismic and geological hazards and to enhance the technical expertise of engineering professionals so they can have the latest tools to mitigate the risk of failure or damage to our bridges and highways.

Past conferences have been held in San Diego (December 1995), Sacramento (July 1997), Portland (April 2002), and Memphis (February 2004). Caltrans' Chief Engineer Rick Land welcomes all: "In this commemorative year of San Francisco's Great Earthquake of 1906, it is fitting that the 5th National Seismic Conference on Bridges and Highways be held in the Bay area. Come enjoy San Francisco's current state of recovery while getting the latest information on the state of seismic research and practice around the world."

The conference will provide a forum for exchanging ideas. A total of 60 papers will be presented at two concurrent technical sessions. 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. In addition to the oral presentations, poster displays will detail other interesting projects and studies. Both oral and poster presentations will be published on a proceedings CD.

In conjunction with the conference, FHWA is also delivering a workshop for the seismic retrofitting of existing bridges. This will be based on the new Seismic Retrofitting Manual which is being released this year.

A special evening discussion panel, chaired by Frieder Seible, UCSD, will address the topic of multiple hazards.

The conference will feature a technical exhibition of the latest technologies and earthquake related services. Over 30 companies are expected to have a technical exhibit on hand.

On the last day of the conference, there will be two optional technical tours organized by Caltrans. One will be a boat tour of several major bridges in the area including the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge construction project. The other will be a bus tour to various bridge sites. Caltrans staff will provide a narrative at each site, explaining the significance and unusual features of the bridge.

Corporate support from engineering firms, institutions, and companies who provide products and services for use in the field have joined forces to make this conference possible. Additional sponsorships remain available. Space at the concurrent conference technical exhibit is also available, although on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, go to: <http://mceer.buffalo.edu/meetings/5nsc>