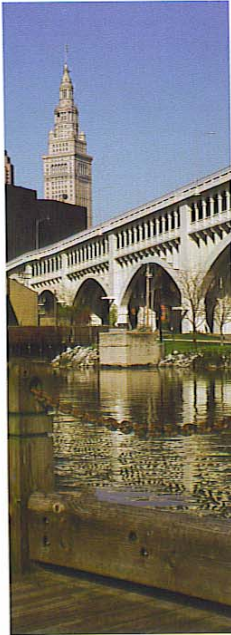


Bugsy? No, it's BUGC, and it's very important

This innovative partnership now involves the CES and focuses on workforce development

In the face of the recent bridge collapse in Minneapolis, we thought it would be good to take a new look at the infrastructure situation here in Ohio to get a more positive spin on events. One force for good that we have in this area is Build Up Greater Cleveland, an innovative pub-



The collapse of a Minneapolis bridge is encouraging a new look at our infrastructure's condition.

lic and private partnership to build up the regional infrastructure that has been in place since 1983. Its mission was to support our physical and economic development and quality of life through the enhancement of the county's transportation, water and wastewater systems by eliminating duplication of construction costs, targeting limited financial resources toward the most serious needs and avoiding competition for local tax dollars. Over the next two decades, BUGC worked toward crisis resolution, management capacity enhancement and strategic regional infrastructure support.

In 2003, BUGC took a new direction, evolving into a model separate from the newly formed Greater Cleveland Partnership, with the idea of focusing on developing stronger public/private partnerships and making a collaborative effort to prioritize projects that will have the greatest economic impact on the region. (More on this will appear in a future issue.)

In 2004, BUGC developed a 10-year forecast of projected infrastructure investments needed in Cuyahoga County of \$8.5 billion, \$5 billion for preservation and rehab of existing systems and \$3.5 billion to add new transportation and wastewater investments. This means a yearly investment of \$850 million (vs. the \$398 million annual average before that).

In 2005 BUGC partnered with the Cleveland Engineering Society, giving CES responsibility for its administrative functions. The partnership al-

lowed BUGC to integrate its education initiatives with those of CES as well as continue with its mission towards public/private collaboration.

Now, the BUGC Human Resources Task Force has set objectives towards educating area high school students to fill the engineering pipeline. Through its *New Faces of Engineering RoadShow program*, CES educates more than 2,000 students in Northeast Ohio each year about the engineering profession. The joint efforts of CES and BUGC also provide opportunities to increase student awareness about engineering through shadowing and internships.

BUGC recognizes that collaboration, public awareness and sustainable infrastructure are critical for economic growth in Northeast Ohio. Its Public Education Program Committee is working to build a strong support network among local, regional, state and federal officials for public infrastructure planning and investments in Northeast Ohio. These initiatives will be met through the joint efforts of BUGC, CES and Greater Cleveland Partnership.

Current BUGC stakeholders are the City of Cleveland, Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Cuyahoga County Engineer, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District. The BUGC chairperson is Eugene Baxendale, president, Osborn Architects and Engineers. Stay tuned to this station for another update on the BUGC agenda. **BXM**



cindy@bxmagazine.com

The BUGC Human Resources Task Force has set objectives towards educating area high school students to fill the engineering pipeline through its *New Faces of Engineering RoadShow program*.