

BEST PAPER AWARDS

James Cooper Best Paper Award

The Jim Cooper Best Paper Award will be awarded to the paper with the greatest potential impact, contribution to society and best overall quality.



James D. Cooper, 63, an internationally recognized structural engineer and leader in the field of bridge engineering, with a specialty in earthquake engineering, died on November 23, 2005.

Mr. Cooper, who retired from the Federal Highway Administration in 2003 as Director of the Office of Bridge Technology, served as a bridge engineer for over three decades. As Director, he provided national leadership in the development of policies, standards, and criteria for the location, design, construction, management, and maintenance of bridges and other highway structures, along with leadership on the Federal Aid Highway Bridge Program. He championed the development of advanced technologies and fostered their implementation in practice. These efforts were instrumental in the development and delivery of new technology for structures, including the application of high performance materials and in the success of the FHWA Innovative Bridge Research and Construction program.

Prior to serving as Director, Mr. Cooper held a variety of positions at FHWA during his tenure, which began in 1973. He served as Division Chief, responsible for the administrative leadership and technical guidance of a broad structures research program. Following a major FHWA reorganization in the mid-1990s, he was appointed Technical Director for all bridge related research and development (R&D) activity. It was during this time that Mr. Cooper coined the phrase "find it and fix it" to represent the primary focus of the FHWA structures research program.

Mr. Cooper has been recognized by many organizations and agencies both nationally and internationally. Among the most significant was the 2004 ASCE Charles Martin Duke award, for his lifelong contributions and achievements in the field of lifeline earthquake engineering.

James Roberts Best Paper Award

The James Roberts Best Paper Award will be given to a Caltrans employee whose paper discusses a deployable research innovation that is expected to have a significant impact on the practice of the bridge engineering profession.



James E. "Jim" Roberts, 75, who capped his half-century career with Caltrans as the state's top bridge engineer, died on July 6, 2006.

Mr. Roberts, who retired in 2001 as the Department's Chief Deputy Director, served as a structural engineer at Caltrans for more than half a century, including 15 years as California's State Bridge Engineer. He spearheaded the Department's \$4.5 billion seismic retrofit program and oversaw nearly \$50 million in seismic research projects. He was also named to the National Academy of Engineering in 1996, the only state-employed engineer to be so honored.

During his half-century of service, Mr. Roberts compiled a comprehensive background in planning; budgeting; design; construction; administration; equipment acquisition, maintenance and management; and major project management.

From 1995 to 1999 he was Director of the Engineering Service Center where he managed a staff of more than 1,700 professional engineers, architects and support staff, as well as 600 consultants, who designed and delivered an annual structures construction program exceeding \$650 million.

He was an acknowledged expert in bridge technology, and he wrote and published dozens of technical papers on bridge design and maintenance.

Mr. Roberts received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1953 and a Master of Science degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Southern California in 1966. After completing college, he spent two years of active duty in Korea with the U.S. Corps of Engineers. He completed 33 years as a reserve officer, and retired as a colonel.