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I am pleased to share with you that last year was another record year for Volkert. Our employees take great pride in their work, which continues to generate unprecedented success. We finished 2018 with over $200 million in marketing, reaching that threshold for the first time in company history.

I would like to thank you—our valued clients—for trusting Volkert with your projects. Without you, we would not be where we are today. Whether we are serving you by assisting in writing a federal grant proposal (p. 5), by inspecting your timber bridges (p. 7), by reimagining your historic streets (p. 8), or by expanding the roadways in and around your growing community (p. 10), you help make Volkert one of the leaders in the infrastructure engineering industry.

I look forward to working together again this year as we continue to make history.

Jerry Stump, PE
President and CEO
News and Awards

The Lodge at Gulf State Park Now Open

The ribbon cutting for The Lodge at Gulf State Park, a Hilton property in Gulf Shores, Alabama, took place in November. Volkert’s program management team provided construction management services and coordinated environmental compliance for this state-of-the-art facility.

The original Gulf State Park lodge, which had a larger footprint and was closer to the water, was destroyed by a hurricane in 2004. When the new lodge was designed, it retained the name of the original facility along with the moniker “established in 1974.” Perry Hand, Volkert’s chairman of the board, helped complete the original lodge in the seventies.

The public spaces and 350 guest rooms feature expansive views of the Gulf of Mexico and the 6,150-acre park. The meeting facility includes a variety of meeting spaces for groups of all sizes, including the largest ballroom in the area with Gulf views.

The Lodge is a model of coastal sustainability and resiliency. It has recently earned its FORTIFIED Commercial certification through the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, and is expected to receive its LEED Gold and SITES Platinum certifications as well.

The facility cleans and absorbs rainwater on site; features sand dunes to maintain a healthy habitat for the endangered Alabama Beach Mouse and to protect against storm surges; uses low-energy and automatic-shut-off appliances; and comports and recycles. The Lodge’s exterior lighting is filtered to minimize light pollution and to deter local fauna (birds and sea turtles) that might be attracted inland by the light.

Volkert Chairman Perry Hand Inducted into AGC Alabama Construction Hall of Fame

On Thursday, January 10, the Alabama chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America inducted Perry Hand, Volkert’s chairman of the board, into the Alabama Construction Hall of Fame. Hand was one of five honorees in this year’s selection and the only representative from an engineering firm.

The Alabama AGC established the Alabama Construction Hall of Fame to honor and recognize outstanding individuals in the construction industry. These individuals are held in esteem by their peers and have demonstrated their professionalism through active support of the industry through their civic and community involvement.

Perry Hand remains an influential figure in Alabama business and politics. From his leadership in both the public and private sector, Hand has demonstrated what it means to be a builder—of infrastructure, of businesses, and of a life committed to service.
Repairing the Bridge to Wilmington

As part of an ongoing CEI contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Volkert is working with the City of Wilmington to make much-needed repairs and structural upgrades to the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

The Cape Fear Memorial Bridge is a vertical lift bridge that acts as a major artery to and from downtown Wilmington. There are many restrictions on when lanes can be closed, requiring the work with lane closures to be performed at night.

A fourteen-day complete shutdown of the bridge was eliminated from the contract at the request of the North Carolina Ports. Instead, the work has been performed with teams working Sunday through Thursday nights, and two weekends over fifty consecutive days.

The project includes concrete and steel substructure repairs, painting of the structural steel, and polyester polymer concrete overlay on the approaches. Additionally, repairs to the structural steel, mechanical elements, and the grid deck on the center lift span were completed. Architectural renovations to the control house are also planned as part of this project.

The scope and the schedule of the project were negatively affected by Hurricane Florence, which directly hit Wilmington in September 2018. The roof on the west tower was blown off during the storm, resulting in the replacement of the roofing on both towers being added to the contract.

Volkert Carolinas Team Members:
Warren Walker: Executive Oversight
Wayne Currie: Project Manager
Matt Smith: Inspector
About ten years ago, current Volkert staff began working with the City of Spring Hill and Williamson County, Tennessee, to identify a potential location for a new I-65 interchange.

Currently, there is a 4.5-mile stretch on I-65 between the I-840 and SR 396 (Saturn Parkway) exits. This high-volume portion of the interstate needs another exit option, and residents of this rapidly-growing area need another access point for I-65. A new interchange would increase safety, improve regional traffic flow, reduce idling emissions, and encourage economic development.

In 2016, Volkert entered into a contract with the City of Spring Hill and Williamson County to conduct an Interstate Access Request study, with the intent of obtaining Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval for a new interchange. The study confirmed the need for a new I-65 interchange at the proposed extension of Buckner Road.

When the City of Spring Hill received the FHWA approval in February 2018, it called on Volkert to assist in writing a BUILD grant application for the U.S. Department of Transportation. The BUILD program awards grants for communities across the country to fund significant infrastructure projects.

Volkert staff worked closely with the City to develop and submit the grant application in July 2018. In December, the City of Spring Hill was notified by Senator Lamar Alexander’s office that the project had been awarded a $25 million BUILD grant, the highest possible award amount.

This project is the only 2018 grant-winner in the state of Tennessee and is one of only 12 projects in the nation to win the full grant amount of $25 million.

Using the BUILD grant, the City of Spring Hill will extend Buckner Road from Buckner Lane to U.S. 431 and construct a new diverging diamond interchange at I-65.

The award notification kicked the project into high gear in order to meet the BUILD grant deadlines. In February, Volkert was awarded a contract to begin the preliminary engineering and National Environmental Policy Act studies for the extension of Buckner Road and the interchange. Both must be completed by the end of January 2020 in order to begin right-of-way acquisition, final design, and construction.

“This interchange project in southern Williamson County is a critical component of the transportation infrastructure as it relates to providing for the efficient movement of people and goods in the region,” explains Volkert vice president Brad Thompson. “Volkert’s planners and engineers are excited to have played a role in getting the project to this point, and we look forward to seeing the project through to completion.”

Volkert Central Team Members:
Bob Polk: Principal in Charge
Brad Thompson: Project Director
Justin Eckel: Project Manager
Krystle Bratton: Senior Engineer
BUILD Grant Team: Jay Dickson and Robby Dickenson
Getting a Good Look

Volkert has an eight-year asset management contract with DBi Services. One of the included projects is inspecting bridges in Indian River County along Florida’s east coast.

The work includes inspecting bridges—some quite lengthy—carrying state roads over the Intercoastal Waterway and the Sebastian Inlet. There are also some small bridges and culverts that carry roadways over canals and wetlands.

The first cycle of inspections took place in Vero Beach, Florida, and along State Road 60 in the rural wetlands just west of the city. The schedule of inspections was consolidated to two months to eliminate multiple inspection trips and to concentrate maintenance activities associated with the inspections. This cycle of inspections is now complete.

Volkert inspectors used a snooper truck and a power boat to inspect the long bridges over the Intercoastal Waterway and the Sebastian Inlet.

The Inlet has vertical poles attached to the handrails on each side of the main bridge span. These poles were installed to prevent pelicans from crashing into traffic. DBi removed and replaced these poles using the snooper truck during the bridge inspections.

“DBi and Volkert staff worked together to provide a safe working environment during these inspections,” comments Volkert bridge inspection supervisor Edward Rucks. “Some of the work required lane closures, and that was handled well.”

**Volkert Florida Team Members:**

Dan Teal: Project Manager
Edward Rucks: Certified Bridge Inspector
Steve Eorgan: Certified Bridge Inspector
Tom McCutcheon: Certified Bridge Inspector
Anthony Bibelhauser: Certified Bridge Inspector
Matt Massatto: Certified Bridge Inspector
Scott Hughes: Certified Bridge Inspector
Dave Walker: Certified Bridge Inspector
Since 2013, Volkert has assisted Mississippi’s Office of State Aid Road Construction (OSARC) and the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) with the inspection of locally-maintained bridges across Mississippi. In 2017, Volkert was selected to provide bridge inspection and load rating services for timber bridges throughout the southern part of the state.

The first task order included 173 bridge inspections and load ratings, which Volkert completed in eight months. The current assignment includes 383 bridge inspections and load ratings. The inspections were completed in five months, and the load ratings should be completed in March 2019.

As a result of Volkert’s work, approximately 40 bridges were recommended for closure for safety reasons. “The timber bridge inspections were a major undertaking for us,” says bridge inspection services lead Aaron Immel. “As usual, our team rose to the challenge and delivered a quality product on time. The real accomplishment, though, is improved safety for the traveling public.”

For each bridge, Volkert inspectors prepared sketches and a report detailing deficiencies, National Bridge Inventory condition/appraisal ratings, load rating analysis, scour evaluation, photographic evidence of findings, and recommendations for any repairs.

“The completing this number of inspections in a short amount of time was a big ask for our team, but I am proud of how they responded,” comments project manager Robert Scheeler.

The load rating of the substructures was streamlined by using a spreadsheet created by load rating team member Jesse Parrish, which utilized STAAD (structural analysis and design) software models based on OSARC bridge standards and field measurements. Volkert’s quality assurance / quality control process was also critical in successfully completing the additional work.

“This project has been a great example of the importance of teamwork and collaboration,” vice president Mark McConnell summarizes. “Our inspectors, load raters, office staff, and managers have worked together to perform a much-needed service for the community. I also want to recognize our partners on this project—OSARC and MDOT—for their leadership and continued working relationships with Volkert.”

**Volkert Gulf Design Team Members:**
Mark McConnell and Aaron Immel: Principals in Charge
Robert Scheeler: Project Manager
David Benton: Assistant Project Manager
Britt Bumpers: QA/QC

**Inspection Team Leaders:** Gary Kelley, Todd Powell, and Paul Swann

**Inspection Assistants:** Charlie Ziebach, Marc Robertson, and Corey Boss

**Load Rating Team:** Matt Burnett, Jacob Parker, Jamie Monohan, Hannah Leumas, Jhamal Davis, Matt Salmon, Dean Kidd, and Jesse Parrish

**Report Processing:** Sandy Sumner, Gloria Nguyen, Elana Rouse, Phan Tran, and Shashunda Williams
Volkert’s design of the District Department of Transportation’s (DDOT) Reconstruction of Oregon Avenue project in Washington, D.C., recently earned the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure’s Envision Silver Award.

Envision is the industry’s benchmarking framework for sustainable infrastructure. Fundamentally, it supports higher performance through more sustainable choices.

Conditions along the current 1.7-mile corridor of Oregon Avenue include substandard roadway geometry, deteriorating pavement, inadequate stormwater drainage, and deficient structures, lighting, and pedestrian facilities.

Volkert’s redesign features a new sidewalk, new curbs and gutters, reconstructed driveways, utility undergrounding and relocations, LED lighting, full-depth roadway reconstruction, and a new bridge over Pinehurst Run. The comprehensive green infrastructure design supports stormwater management and protection of existing tree strands to preserve the character of adjacent Rock Creek Park. Oregon Avenue construction is set to be completed in 2021.

“Designing Oregon Avenue was a complete team effort,” says lead designer Oliver Boehm. “The design phase included collaboration across numerous disciplines, the local community, and many vested stakeholders. Our final holistic design not only addresses the transportation and safety issues, but also seeks to provide benefits for the community.”

An extensive stakeholder engagement process was critical in developing the design. DDOT and Volkert staff held public meetings, hosted site walks with concerned citizens (pictured below), met with community groups, and sought input through a project website. This outreach helped convert a resistent community to project advocates and was key to the design obtaining the Envision Silver Award.

Volkert Team Members:
Dennis Morrison: Principal in Charge
Cesar Vargas: Project Manager
Oliver Boehm: Lead Designer and Public Outreach
Bharat Bhargava: Project Senior Engineer
Brendan August and Christopher Weir: Landscape Architects
Kaleab Maregn: Roadway Engineer
Brian Graham and David Simon: Structural Engineers
Paul Koh: Stormwater Management
Ken Powers: Electrical Engineer
Hari Thaker and Jacob Green: Traffic Engineers
Earl Wilkins: Production Manager
Matthew Whitaker: Production
Managing Millions

Volkert’s program management team is overseeing Jefferson County (Alabama) Board of Education’s facility upgrades. Volkert provided assessments of the School District’s current facilities and worked with District representatives to develop a Capital Improvement Program. The 36-month program’s current budget is $228,500,000.

By 2020, the District will add 800,000 square feet of new space, renovate over 350,000 square feet at three area middle schools, and install artificial turf football, baseball, and softball fields at select schools. The program also includes maintenance projects, such as reroofing and kitchen upgrades.

While developing the program, Volkert helped the client outline design criteria and standardized the District’s electrical, mechanical, and kitchen systems for ease of maintenance.

Volkert is continuing to work for the client during the construction phase by managing nine architecture firms and their associated subconsultants, three surveying firms, three geotechnical engineering firms, and the pre-qualified general contracting firms that win bids for specific projects.

Volkert will also manage the selection, purchase, and installation of furnishings, computers, and interactive boards.

To comply with a Department of Justice desegregation consent decree, the program ensures that all facilities have equality of amenities and programmatic consistency.

“Volkert is proud to have been chosen to create and manage this program for Jefferson County,” says assistant vice president Glenn Slater. “These facilities will serve as up-to-date sites for learning for years to come. By managing this program, Volkert continues to establish itself as the go-to firm for effective K-12 capital program delivery in Alabama, having managed close to $2 billion of school construction in the state.”

Main photo: Rendering of Bryant Park Elementary School
Inset photo: Aerial of Grantswood Elementary School addition (including tornado-safe classrooms, and a new kitchen and cafeteria)

Volkert Program Management Team Members:
Leon Barkan: Principal in Charge
Marketing Team: Philip Russell and Kevin Gunnison
Program Management Team: Glenn Slater, Sandra Bush, Dana Preston, Traci Williams, Laura Penn-Dunn, Gary Wright, Shane Bagwell, Nathan Hancock, Keith Bridgham, and Paul Ensign
Expanding a Road to Recreation

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) selected Volkert to provide CEI services for its SL 337 from I-35 to Hillcrest Drive project, the largest CEI project ever for TxDOT’s New Braunfels area office.

New Braunfels has been known for years as a recreational hotspot at the edge of Texas Hill Country. Tourists and locals alike flock to the area to visit Schlitterbahn Waterpark, tube the Comal and Guadalupe Rivers, and experience WurstFest.

TxDOT’s $45 million Loop 337 project will add 6.6 miles of new southbound lanes, including seven bridges, to make this roadway through New Braunfels a four-lane divided facility.

“The area is growing at a rapid pace,” explains Volkert project manager Randy Bena. “The expansion of Loop 337 to four lanes is vital to keep things moving through the business district, historic district, and the recreation areas.”

Volkert’s CEI services on the project comprise project management, inspection and testing, keeping accurate construction records, and scheduling.

“The project experienced several utility conflicts, requiring working closely with the contractor and resequencing work to keep the project moving,” says Bena.

Despite those issues, the project is still projected to be finished ahead of the original completion date of mid-2021.

Volkert Texas Team Members:
Randy Bena: Project Manager
Fred Lerma: Construction Superintendent
Barton Brauer: Senior Inspector
Aida Chapa: Record Keeping
Tom DeLaPortilla: Quality Control
**Working Close to Home**

Volkert was recently chosen by the City of Collinsville, Illinois, to resurface Eastport Plaza Drive and surrounding areas, just outside of Volkert’s new front door. The Volkert Collinsville office moved to the Eastport Corporate Center in February.

The Eastport Plaza Drive project consists of resurfacing from 360 feet south of the east connection of Executive Drive to Lanter Court. The area to be resurfaced is 6,858 linear feet, or 1.3 miles, in length. A bike trail runs on both sides of Eastport Plaza Drive from Gateway Drive to Lanter Court.

The project includes milling and resurfacing the pavement and shoulders while matching the existing cross slope. The side roads will be resurfaced to the back of the radius returns. The resurfacing will continue through the entrances unless ADA slope grade changes are required.

ADA improvements will be constructed at various intersections and driveways. The guardrail will also be upgraded at Snyder Ditch. Pavement marking will consist of special bike accommodation painting along the bike route. This will include some green painting at all intersections, filling the bike path to emphasize the location of the bike trail. Signs along the roadway will be upgraded to the newer Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards.

Volkert is excited to once again be working with the City of Collinsville on a roadway project. This marks Volkert’s third project within Collinsville city limits in the last six months.

**Volkert West Central Team Members:**

- Jason Watters: Principal in Charge
- David Holloway: Senior Project Manager
- Art Muehlfeld: Project Manager
- Zach Smith: Design Engineer
- Marcus McConachie: Technician
Key Hires

Volkert’s Springfield, Virginia, office welcomes Mark Burris, PE, as deputy director of municipal and highway engineering. Mark’s 35 years of experience includes managing transportation design and construction for civil and structural projects, including numerous alternative delivery projects. In this role, Mark is focusing on the growth of Volkert’s municipal practice.

Kenneth Perkins, PE, PTOE, recently joined the Franklin, Tennessee, office as a transportation engineer. Kenneth brings eight years of experience to Volkert, and his areas of expertise are traffic signal design, roundabout design, traffic control plans, and roadway design.

Volkert has named Austin Conrad, CSP, SCTPP, its director of safety, bringing 14 years of safety experience to Volkert. Austin is a Certified Safety Professional, Graduate Safety Practitioner, OSHA 10 and 30 Instructor, and Safety-Trained Construction Supervisor. He is also trained in CPR and first aid, automated external defibrillator application, and confined space rescue.

Volkert has named Todd Potter, PE, as its senior transportation engineer and project manager in the Tampa office. Todd brings 19 years of roadway design experience. He will support continued expansion of the firm’s Florida transportation group by providing project management, engineering and design, QA/QC, and business development leadership.

Gerald (Jerry) Dougherty, PE, recently joined Volkert’s Mid-Atlantic region as vice president and Maryland practice leader. Jerry’s 40 years of experience includes design and construction management services in transportation and public works for federal, state, and local clients. This strategic hire allows Volkert to expand its service offerings for clients in Maryland.

Malies Warren, recently joined the Panama City Beach, Florida, office as a project scientist. Malies brings 18 years of experience to Volkert, including 13 years of environmental management and permitting for public and private sector work in northwest Florida. She specializes in the development of feasibility assessments, wetlands and listed species permitting, compensatory mitigation planning, and permit compliance associated with transportation, residential, commercial and institutional developments, and marinas.