

# A. George Ostensen

Consultant

4399 Gevalia Drive  
Brooksville, FL 34604

352-428-0079 (cell)  
352-397-3411 (h)

[gostensen@yahoo.com](mailto:gostensen@yahoo.com)

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## **Summary of Qualifications**

Mr Ostensen is a nationally recognized leader in the highway program. He has over 40 years of experience in the field of transportation and highway engineering programs, plans and construction and operations. In 2005 he retired as a senior executive with the Federal Highway Administration, having completed a highly successful and distinguished 35 year transportation career. During his career with the FHWA he held a wide variety of engineering, management and executive positions across the United States including positions of responsibility and leadership in 5 states (California, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, and South Carolina); one Regional Office (Chicago), and 2 of FHWA's headquarters offices. His diversity of experience and outstanding interpersonal skills have contributed to his success at the National level, where he is known to be a dynamic, highly accomplished, and proven transportation professional with an outstanding technical, managerial and leadership track record. His keen ability to forge productive working relationships, even in times of extreme conflict and disagreement, makes him a highly sought after team player. He is an effective communicator and an outstanding public speaker. He is a leading advocate of innovative approaches in transportation and has made countless presentations, including keynote addresses related to transportation, highway safety, technology and innovation to State DOT's, Universities, industry groups and professional organizations throughout the United States, and abroad.

Mr. Ostensen has authored various articles about Safety and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) in various professional journals both nationally, in the *ITE Journal*, and FHWA's *Public Roads*, and internationally, in the *Intelligent Transportation Systems 2000* and he was a co-author of the 1999 OECD International Report on *Safety Strategies for Rural Roads*.

Since 2005, Mr Ostensen has been a part time consultant in the field of leading edge transportation and traffic safety services providing senior level assistance to public and private clients throughout the US.

## **Education & Professional Development Highlights**

- BS in Civil Engineering – University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth, 1969
- MS Engineering - University of Maryland, 1978
- OPM's Executive Institute – 1988
- AASHTO's National Highway & Transportation Management Institute – 1990
- Transportation Executive Institute – 1997
- Brookings Institute (Executive Leadership in a Changing Policy Environment) - 2000
- Dispute Resolution Board Foundation's DRB Administration & Practice Workshop - 2013

## **Professional Experience (chronological summary)**

### ***2005 to present: Independent Consultant - transportation and traffic safety services***

Provides senior technical advice, assistance and training for engineering consultants nationwide; served internationally as an instructor for the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) International Executive Highway Safety Seminar in Madrid, Spain.

### ***2002 to 2005: Associate Administrator for Safety, FHWA HQs, Washington DC***

Mr Ostensen held the highest safety leadership position in FHWA, responsible for safety policy, program, development and execution in the United States. During his last year with the FHWA, he was a principal in the drafting and negotiations of the Administration's aggressive safety provisions in SAFETEA-LU, the reauthorization of national surface transportation legislation. He was also responsible for major changes in the direction and resources for FHWA's Safety Programs. His personal pursuit and passion for results in the safety program led to national move among the states to a results driven safety program – *saving lives!*

### ***1998 to 2002; Director of Field Services – Midwest, FHWA, Olympia Fields, IL***

Mr Ostensen was named in October of 1998 as one of four FHWA Senior Executives to lead in the major restructuring of FHWA's field organization including the creation and development of FHWA's Resource Centers. In this position, he was responsible for FHWA's 10 Division Offices in the Midwest - Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. These 10 States had a combined annual Federal Aid Program funding exceeding \$6.9 Billion (FY2001) and over 450 employees.

Mr Ostensen also served as the Secretary of Transportation's full time Regional Emergency Executive for Regions 4 and 5. This included transportation related natural or man-made disasters for all modes of transportation (air, rail, highway, transit and water) in those 10 states.

### ***1996-1998; Director of Office of Safety and Traffic Operations Research & Development; FHWA, Washington, DC***

As Office Director, Mr Ostensen was responsible for the FHWA's Safety and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Research & Development programs, a \$40+Million annual program. Major R&D projects underway during this time included full scale crash testing and approval of roadside hardware; the initial transportation applications for GPS following its availability for non military uses in March of 1996; the Automated Highway System (AHS), a public/private partnership for the highly successful, international "smart cars/smart highways" project showcased in August of 1997 on Interstate 5 in San Diego, CA. In this position, Mr Ostensen was a member of a 4 person R&D delegation from the US to visit Japan in 1997 for an exchange of ITS Policy, Program and project accomplishments; He was also a US DOT representative to the ITS World Congress in Germany ('97) and Korea ('98) where he made presentations on the scope and direction of ITS program in the US.

### ***1991-1996: Division Administrator – Michigan Division, FHWA, Lansing, MI***

Mr Ostensen served as FHWA's highest ranking official for the state of Michigan responsible for the \$600 million (FY 1995) Federal Aid Program. Partnered with MDOT to develop and implemented innovative approaches to administering the Federal Aid program including the financing and construction of the international bridge crossing to Canada at Port Huron. He also partnered with MDOT to implement the changed stewardship requirements of ISTEA and the initiation and development of the state's highly acclaimed expanded 3R program.

**1987-1991: Assistant Division Administrator – South Carolina Division, FHWA, Columbia SC**

As the ADA, Mr Ostensen was responsible for the day to day technical and program operations of the Federal aid program staff in the SC Division office (engineering, right of way, planning and finance). He partnered with the SCDH&PT at the leadership level to improve the Departments dispute/claims process. This was especially critical given the size and complexity of the Interstate construction program in the Charleston area. In September 1989, Hurricane Hugo struck Charleston, SC and caused catastrophic damage to roads, bridges and other infrastructure throughout the area. Mr Ostensen led FHWA's relief efforts to repair and replace damaged highway facilities. A major road and bridge project under construction at the time was the construction of I-526 and it sustained considerable damage, including the collapse of over 100 AASHTO type V beams into the marshes below the bridge.

**1981-1987: Field Operations Engineer – Delaware Division, FHWA, Dover, DE**

As the FOE, Mr Ostensen was responsible for the day to day operations of the federal-aid engineering functions (Environment, Design, Construction and Operations) in the Delaware Division. He also served as the Division's Safety Engineer and Environmental Programs specialist. During this time DelDOT had major rehabilitation contracts for the interstate system and was in the planning and design phases for Del Route 1 from I95 in the north to the beaches in the Sussex County.

**2/79 – 1/81: Senior Area Engineer – Michigan Division, FHWA, Lansing, MI**

**6/73 -2/79: Area Engineer – Maryland Division, FHWA, Baltimore, MD**

**1/72– 6/73: Assistant Area Engineer – Delaware Division, Dover, DE**

In these positions, Mr Ostensen was responsible for the eligibility, review and approval of Federal aid funds and ensuring that appropriate standards and requirements were met in Design, Construction and Operations phases of Federal aid projects within a geographic area of the state. These areas ranged from rural areas in Delaware, to the major suburban areas of Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC to the City and suburbs of Detroit, MI. Projects in these areas ranged from simple intersection improvements to bridge construction, deck replacement, to resurfacing and upgrading major arterials, to major construction of urban and suburban Interstate facilities. Significant accomplishments included serving as FHWA's principal representative in the total re-write of Maryland's Standard Specifications and being a member of the FHWA team for the construction of the Fort McHenry tunnel in Baltimore harbor.

**1969 – 1972: FHWA Highway Engineer Training Program**

A wide variety of progressively more responsible engineering training assignments in 5 states across the US.

## **Recognition and Awards**

Mr. Ostensen has received numerous awards and honors during his career including

- Appointed to the Senior Executive Service of the United States in 1996
- FHWA Administrator's Award for Superior Achievement in 1998
- Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Executive in 2001
- Secretary of DOT's Silver Medal Award in 2004
- FHWA's Heartland Award in 2004
- The American Road and Transportation Builders Association's (ARTBA) **Jake Landon Memorial Highway Safety Award** in 2005
- **Member Emeritus** of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Highway Traffic Safety by resolution of the Board of Directors in 2005