



METAL FORMS CORPORATION
SINCE 1909

Form To Finish™

A PUBLICATION FOR MFC DEALERS

FALL 2022



MEL'S METTLE

TOLLING = NO FREE LUNCH/NO FREE ROADS

In the previous "Form To Finish" (Spring/2022), my Mel's Mettle ranted & raved about the lack of funding for the collapsing US transportation system. Reflecting on these words, it occurred to me that I committed an editorial cardinal sin; that is, complaining about a problem (inadequate infrastructure funding) without offering a reasonable solution.

In retrospect, it seems that "tolling" is a practical way to fund, finance and sustain our roads, bridges and tunnels. It's a classic "user fee" because drivers only pay when they use it. It's hardly a new concept since paying money for road use has existed for over 2,700 years. Tolls were used by travelers using the Susa-Babylon highway in Persia in the 7th century. In the US, prior to the federally financed Interstate Highway System, many states created toll roads, bridges and tunnels. Three well-known examples are the Holland Tunnel which opened in 1927, the Golden Gate Bridge built during the Great Depression and the Pennsylvania Turnpike completed in 1940.



GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE
&
HOLLAND TUNNEL

This bridge & tunnel connects New Jersey and New York providing a vital commercial link. Yet, if it weren't for toll funding and finance, it wouldn't be there.



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

This famous bridge was built during the height of the Great Depression. It stands today as a testament to the importance of tolling in creating enormous and lasting economic development without the help of federal dollars.

For better or for worse, the Interstate revolutionized the American way of life, both economically and socially. It elevated car travel to a "front & center" position with most Americans. For the most part, convenient auto travel was financed by a federal tax of 18.4 – cents per gallon on gasoline (24.4 – cents on diesel). Well, the honeymoon is over because these travel taxes have not been raised for almost 30 years which means we are trying to pay for our 2022 infrastructure with 1993 dollars.

Obviously, the gas tax is running on fumes. Compounding the problem is that we are now on a fast track conversion away from gas-powered cars to electric vehicles. Sometime soon (25 years?) there will be a completely electrified transportation system and government is not going to get any money from the fuel tax.

Just like there are "No Free Lunches", there are "No Free Roads". Another reality is that our infrastructure needs constant maintenance and so the US must wake up to the need for sustaining our vital transportation system. Tolling is a smart way to fund and finance the highways, bridges and tunnels that get drivers where they want to go.

"Goodbye" gas tax, "Hello" (again) tolling.



METAL FORMS CORPORATION
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Steel Forms



Plastic Forms



Concrete Finishers



Wheelbarrows

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FROM THE FIELD: Radius Paving



Matching forms to concrete pavements is nothing new for MFC. A recent example of this expertise are the special paving forms being used by Kiewit Infrastructure South Co. at Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport.



*Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.
at Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport*

Normally heavy-duty paving forms are used to place straight highway lanes or straight airport runways and taxiways. Some curved (radius) pavement requirements at the Atlanta airport, however, necessitated the use of non-standard paving forms. MFC responded by supplying custom heavy-duty forms with the ability to be flexible for radius work while at the same time having the rigidity to support the weight of heavy concrete finishing machines.

Other contractors have also used this type of custom form for radius concrete paving projects. Millstone Weber (MO) has used them for airport paving, while both Concrete Placing Co. (ID) and AJAX Paving Industries (MI) have put them to use on roadwork projects.



DEALER SPOTLIGHT

SUPERIOR PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS, INC.

Connecticut's One-Stop Shop for Contractors



This year marks the 55th Anniversary of Superior Products Distributors, Inc. The company began operation in 1967, originally to serve the road and bridge industry but now has grown to be Connecticut's largest and most reliable supplier for construction materials, jobsite equipment and supplies. The Superior Network of Companies is New England's largest independently family-owned group of closely integrated companies, dedicated to providing the construction market with a vast selection of diversified site and concrete products, contractor's equipment, GPS/surveying equipment, specialized services, and people with the expertise that you need to get the job done quickly and efficiently.

At Superior, they coordinate policies, services, and pricing, offering the ultimate benefit to their customers. Customers have the convenience of using one account, accessible at all of Superior's divisions and branch locations. Superior combines a total of all purchases made within the Superior Network by any one person or company, often entitling their customers to receive a purchasing status otherwise offered to only large volume companies. At Superior, they reward customer loyalty and are committed to helping large and small companies alike.

Superior is a very appropriate name for the company since its operations are "Superior" on many fronts. Let us count a few of the ways:

SUPERIOR Product Lines

Industry leading lines include ADS Pipe, Stihl, Husqvarna, Multiquip Equipment, McWane Ductile, and Dupont Insulations, just to name a few. MFC is proud to be part of this impressive lineup as the recommended source for concrete forming solutions.



East Hartford Showroom

SUPERIOR Locations

Five strategic store locations covering Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York like a glove with the original store in Southington and the newest store in Danbury. The other three locations are East Hartford, Norwich and Bridgeport.

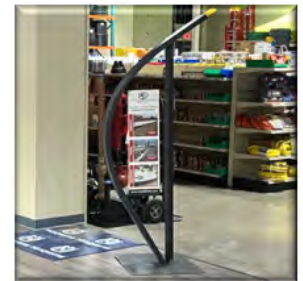
SUPERIOR Stores

Each Superior store is fully stocked and each features a bright, attractive showroom. In addition, all locations have a fully equipped rental department with in-house repair service facilities.

SUPERIOR Personnel

As a family-owned business, its success starts at the top with experienced leadership from the Crispino Family. With an in-house full estimating department to calling on job-site, Superior's sales staff is unsurpassed in knowledge and is a vast reliable source for on-the-job solutions. Many of the service personnel are factory trained service technicians.

Although MFC was not one of Superior's original vendors in 1967, the two companies have been conducting business together for almost 30 years. Original orders consisted of small amounts of steel sidewalk and curbing forms. Sales continued escalating through the years and have grown to the point where Superior has achieved top-tier Platinum Dealer status.



PolyMeta Forms- POP Display

Like any lasting business partnership, the increase in business between Superior and MFC is a testament to effort on both sides. On the Superior side of the equation, sales personnel excelled at learning and retaining the advantages and features of both steel and poly concrete forming systems. Financially, they also committed to stocking both products in substantial quantities. On the supplier side, MFC developed incentives to encourage stocking, *(continued on back page)*



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Form To Finish™

(dealer spotlight continued)

...conducted on-site product training, and helped with sales promotions.

MFC salutes Superior Products Distributors, Inc. on its 55 years of operation and its position as New England's leading one-stop shop for contractors. Looking forward, the positive relationship between the two companies will continue to grow as MFC products align with Superior's vision of consistently delivering "superior" service to its customer base.

"MFC has really stepped it up the last couple of years while other suppliers struggle with the fundamentals of maintaining a strong relationship. Their responsiveness, dedication and excitement has been a direct correlation to our success." - Grant Crispino, V.P.

TRADESHOWS



October 24-30, 2022
Munich, Germany
USA Pavilion



March 14-18, 2023
Las Vegas, Nevada
Booth: C22417 / Central Hall