



2021 April
NEWSLETTER:
THE CONNECTOR



**LEADERSHIP &
POLICY BRIEFING**

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

State Update

Legislative Update

The Illinois General Assembly is on a two-week Spring break, however before adjourning the Illinois the House Transportation Committee unanimously approved [ACEC Illinois backed legislation](#) sponsored by House Transportation Committee Chair Rep. Marty Moylan that would require IDOT, Tollway, CDB and the Comptroller's Office to accept electronic signatures for contracts, invoices, and other transactions.

Many of the measures that had potential impact on the state's road fund or REBUILD Illinois revenue streams were held in committee. Trailer fee reductions and vehicle registration tax breaks for the most part failed to move to the full chambers for consideration.

ACEC Illinois continues to monitor HB680, legislation that would allow local governments to seek cost proposals from professional engineers before the bidders' qualifications are even evaluated. The bill is currently being held on 2nd reading and would have to go back to Committee before heading to the full House for consideration.

New study shows lost funding for transportation due to COVID

The Illinois Economic Policy Institute has issued a report showing that Illinois lost \$1 billion in transportation funding as a result of COVID. [The report is here.](#)

Federal Update

Biden Administration Releases Infrastructure Plan

President Biden's \$2.25 trillion infrastructure plan was released this week, the package includes \$621 billion for transportation. Democrat House Leadership have indicated their goal is to approve the measure by July 4th. In the Senate, Democrat Leadership have indicated they will try to move the package using the "reconciliation" budget procedure, which allows the Senate to move the bill without the normal 60 vote majority needed to move a bill to the floor for a vote. A move to utilize reconciliation signals that there are slim chances the measure will be bi-partisan.

The plan is paid for through increases in both the corporate and individual tax rates, among other changes to the tax code, which has generated pushback from the US Chamber of Commerce - their statement is [here](#) - as well as congressional [Republicans](#). Chairman DeFazio's statement on the plan can be found [here](#).

A summary from the White House is included [here](#), and below are the high points:

- \$621 billion for transportation, including \$115 billion for bridges, highways and roads, \$85 billion for transit and \$80 billion for Amtrak and rail programs
- \$25 billion for airport improvements and \$17 billion for ports and inland waterways
- Over \$100 billion for water and wastewater grants and loans
- \$100 billion for broadband deployment, including infrastructure in underserved communities as well as short-term subsidies for service costs for low income households
- \$100 billion to build a more resilient electric grid, along with a 10-year extension and phase-down of an expanded, refundable investment tax credit and production tax credit for renewable energy generation and storage
- \$100 billion to improve public school buildings and \$213 billion for affordable housing construction and renovation

Pay-Fors:

- The plan proposes \$2 trillion in tax increases on corporations.
- These include raising the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, and additional tax increases on multinational corporations.
- We expect similar tax increases on passthrough businesses in the 'social infrastructure' bill that will follow, through provisions such as raising the top individual tax rate from 37% to 39.6% and eliminating the Section 199A passthrough tax deduction for any taxpayers who earn more than \$400,000.

PPP Update

ACEC Illinois continues to negotiate with IDOT over final guidance on how PPP loan forgiveness will be considered within the FAR credit clause. While there has been recent guidance issued by the FHWA, the ultimate consideration will be how each state DOT considers forgiveness and the credit clause. Efforts to secure a full waiver for PPP loan forgiveness have so far stalled at the Congressional level, but ACEC National continues to advocate for that policy resolution.

To provide the best guidance we can absent any final guidance or order, ACEC Illinois in conjunction with Somerset CPAs will be hosting a webinar next week providing updates and potential strategies. Please keep an eye out for that meeting invitation.

Governor Pritzker Issues Proclamation Honoring ACEC Illinois

In advance of our April 8th Engineering Excellence Awards, Governor Pritzker issued a Proclamation declaring April 8th as American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois Centennial Day-recognizing our 100-year anniversary this year-and thanking ACEC Illinois members for keeping the public safe. [View the proclamation here.](#)



AASHTO issues report on commuting in America

AASHTO has issued its first 'Commuting in America' report, providing a baseline for tracking the changes in workforce use of infrastructure over time. [More on that here.](#)

Thanks,
Kevin Artl
President and CEO
American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bruce Schopp, PE, SE
Oates & Associates

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

39 years and counting

What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?

Chair of the IDOT Bridge Committee, Chair of the IDOT Liaison Committee, served on numerous committees over the years, Board member serving as Director, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Board Chair.

What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?

Value - to the industry, to our business, to our clients and to our individual education and professional growth. Both State and National. No organization covers the spectrum for our business like ACEC.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Anything outside - nature, hiking, hunting, biking, landscaping, and the beautiful cliché of spending time with Family. We all still like each other and love to hang around together. It's amazing and the growth and evolution of our family is wonderful.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

I'm a novice beekeeper and allergic to bees. Only one trip to the ER so far. Might need to change hobbies.



MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT TERRA Engineering, Ltd.

How long have you been in the engineering industry?
29 Years, Since 1992

What projects are you currently working on?

Our diversified staff serve clients locally, nationally and globally. The majority of our projects for public and private clients cover public infrastructure, parks and greenways, educational institutions, hospitals/healthcare facilities, and local land developments.

What project are you most proud of?

We're proud of them all! Always have been. Perhaps one that's noteworthy is the MPEA McCormick Square Campus Expansion project that earned an Engineering Excellence Honor Award from ACEC in 2020.

What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?

The advantages of a collaborative and well-organized professional society that seeks to enhance its member firms by advocating for issues that most impact our business.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

Our industry is becoming increasingly dynamic and it's extremely challenging to keep current with all that influences the way we work. ACEC-IL is essential in helping us face those challenges through participation in the many activities ACEC sponsors.

save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



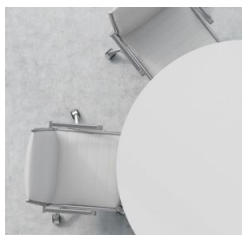
ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Webinar: Risk Management Essentials of the New Normal *1PDH

- Standard of Care - fulfilling professional obligations under changing circumstances
- Schedule of performance of services - contract clauses, obligations, rights and responsibilities
- Post-COVID design considerations, potential changes

- Performing services outside of the office - remote teams, WFH, technology, employee issues
- Quality management - coordination, start/stop risks
- Construction phase services - access, safety of employees on site, field observation, contractor payment certification

Presenters:

- Andrew D. Mendelson, FAIA - Senior Vice President, Chief Risk Management Officer
- Diane Mika, VP of Risk Management Education at Berkley DP

April 5, 2021 from 12:00pm-1:00pm

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



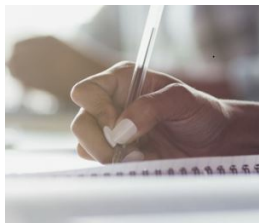
WEBINAR: PPP/FAR Updates: Strategies for implementing recent IDOT and FHWA guidance

IDOT and FHWA have both recently issued guidance and their interpretation on the proper treatment of forgiven PPP loans. While there are still unanswered questions with both sets of guidance, we believe that enough information is included within them to start planning for your forgiveness application and to determine the financial impacts. Please join us for this 1 hour webinar to review this guidance and discuss strategies to implement it for your firm.

April 7, 2021 at 10:00am

Details & Registration [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



Virtual: IL Tollway Design and Construction Practices Workshops

*PDH for 13.5 hours

Attendees will review 2021 updates to the standards and manuals as well as review best practices and should come prepared to bring ideas on how the Illinois Tollway can improve and innovate.

Attendees should include design and construction engineers that interact with Illinois Tollway projects.

**After registering your webinar links will be emailed to the same email you registered with.*

Week of: April 12, 2021-April 16, 2021

Agenda & Registration [Here](#)



Webinar: Next Generations Solutions, with Pat Brady

Join ACEC Illinois Membership for a Q&A webinar with Pat Brady from Next Generation Solutions.

April 21, 2021 at Noon

Details & Registration [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



Virtual: Coffee with Colleagues

Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking.

- Grab your cup of coffee

- Join the meeting

- Start as a group, 30minute breakout, and then rejoin to share ideas

April 20, 2021 from 9:00am-9:45am

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



Webinar: Research and Testing Capabilities of the New High-Bay Structures Laboratory at UIC

This webinar will showcase the new High-Bay Structures Laboratory at UIC and will highlight its capabilities for conducting cutting-edge, large-scale testing of civil infrastructure that will enable research advances in structural systems, structural monitoring and evaluation, and new structural materials. Past and ongoing research activities of the affiliated faculty will also be presented.

Presenters:

Lesley Sneed, Ph.D., P.E., S.E., F.ACI

Didem Ozevin, Ph.D., P.E.

- Department of Civil, Materials and Environmental Engineering

- University of Illinois at Chicago

April 30, 2021 from 11:00am-Noon

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



Webinar: R&D for Dummies

You are paying too much in taxes. Many Engineering firms and their owners are not claiming a powerful tax incentive - the Research & Development Tax Credit. Are you missing out on dollars for design that could give you a competitive advantage? This course will cover eligibility requirements, the impact of recent legislation (Consolidated Appropriations Act and COVID Relief Act), and how to leverage available information and technology within time tracking software to easily access this lucrative incentive.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the four-part test and basic exclusions to R&D, including the main components of funded versus non-funded research
2. Debunk the myths of the R&D tax credit
3. Learn how to optimize time and project tracking to maximize tax credits
4. Identify target-rich environments for R&D activities

May 3, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



Webinar: Getting Back to Normal: In depth IVP Presentation

IVP is a revolutionary new product that will allow everyone to get back to normal. It is a FDA-approved proprietary Biodefense Indoor Air Protection System™. IVP is the ONLY product scientifically proven to destroy 99.999% of live SARS-CoV-2 (Covid), 99.98% of anthrax spores, and other airborne pathogens instantaneously. IVPs products were tested and verified by industry leaders like Argonne National Laboratory, MIT and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

May 5, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Please contact Amanda Johnson, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: amanda@acecil.org

MEMBER UPDATES:



EMILY CONTI JOINS ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.

Emily M. Conti has joined the firm as a Project Engineer in the Environmental Group. She is a recent graduate from Purdue University and holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Ecological Engineering. Her eagerness to learn and desire to help others will be an asset to the firm and clients as she works on water and wastewater projects. For full article, click [Here](#)

EFK Moen Announces New Members of Ownership Team

EFK Moen is pleased to start 2021 with two new members on our ownership team. Both Chris and Shelley bring a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the EFK Moen ownership team.



Shelley Dintelman, PE, is our Southern Illinois Manager, leading our Fairview Heights, IL office for over 16 years.



Chris Linneman, PE, SE, is our Structural Manager and has been with EFK Moen for over 21 years in our St.



Holmes Murphy's A&E Risk Management Newsletter: The Ever-Evolving Standard of Care

Most architects and engineers, particularly those familiar with risk management and contract review, understand the concept of "standard of care." Put simply, the standard of care sets the minimum acceptable bar for a design consultant's level of performance.

This standard states that design consultants are expected to perform in a manner consistent with the same degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised by reasonably competent members of the same profession or discipline currently practicing under similar circumstances, during the same time and in the same or a similar locale. Anything less in terms of performance could possibly be considered negligence and subject a design consultant to a professional liability claim or other legal action. This could lead to judgments, fines or other penalties should another party suffer a loss due to the design consultant's so-called underperformance. For full article, click [Here](#)



KASKASKIA ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC NAMED A TOP PLACE FOR WOMEN TO WORK IN NEW "WOMEN IN WORKPLACE" REPORT

Belleville - Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC (KEG) was recognized by the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis (WFSTL) as a top place for women to work in the fourth annual "Women in the Workplace: Employment Scorecard." KEG was recognized as one of 21 St. Louis employers demonstrating excellence in four areas of workplace gender equity – leadership, compensation, flexible work policies, and recruitment and retention.

"We are honored to be recognized for our dedication to gender equity for women professionals. My team and I make every effort to ensure equality across the board, and we value our relationships with industry partners that do the same," said Geri E. Boyer, PE, President and Founder of KEG. "We were thrilled to not only see ourselves on the list, but also a few other companies we work with on a regular basis. It's wonderful to witness other businesses lead by example to level the playing field for talented and qualified women professionals." For full article, click [Here](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



INTERRA, Inc.
600 Territorial Drive, Suite G
Bolingbrook, IL 60440
630-754-8700
www.interraservices.com



Shawnee Professional Services
104 S. 4th Street, P.O. Box 125
Vienna, IL 62995
618-658-6065
www.shawneepsi.com

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:

NORESKO
2800 S. River Road, Suite 400
Des Plaines, IL 60018
224-239-9668
www.noresko.com



ACEC-IL Innovations Committee - Business Improvements Inspiration Survey

We need your business improvements ideas to help advance our industry!

PLEASE TAKE THIS
SURVEY: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/6VA4gs>

Ever had an idea that you think, wow, if we could only do “xxxxx”, our business would run so much smoother? Then read on... The ACEC - IL Innovations Committee is looking for ideas and suggestions to help advance our industry. You may just suggest a problem that you believe needs fixing, propose an idea, or both. These ideas will enter into our idea incubator and we will evaluate, prioritize, develop and advance them for presentation to clients, legislative leaders, our member firms or industry partners. Our goal is to develop white papers with ideas of how to advance engineering in Illinois. We are looking for ideas in the following areas:

- Enhancement of business climate: suggestions can include identification of bureaucracies that inhibit small firms, problems that result in barriers to entry to our businesses, political issues that could be addressed to help enhance our businesses, innovative pursuits of technologies, etc. that could be implemented at the legislative leadership level.
- Streamlining business: these can include examples of processes used by other states that might make sense in Illinois, elimination of duplicative processes, reduction of paperwork, reduction of burdensome processes, addition of new applications
- Advancement of technology: These can include technology partnerships with vendors, enhancement of technology or its application for our industry.



ACEC DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

ACEC's discount programs are designed to enhance your membership investment by helping to control your firm's costs. ACEC creates partnerships with reputable businesses that offer valuable services with quality and competitive prices. These programs can be used not only for business savings but make an attractive employee retention program where individual employees benefit from your ACEC purchasing power.

More information here: [ACEC - Discount Programs](#)



IVP, Keeping America's Engineers Safe

Breathe Easier with IVP



The Venue Mobile Unit

Our most powerful unit built for large commercial spaces & facilities, delivering the cleanest, virus-free indoor anywhere.



Enhanced HVAC Filtration

Easily retrofitted to existing HVAC systems or forward fitted to new construction, providing defense against COVID-19 and other viruses.

The Room Mobile Unit

Designed for healthcare, office and residential spaces, providing clean air so you can breathe with confidence.

The Travel Mobile Unit

Small but powerful personal, portable air purifier that is designed for travel, offices, or in-person meetings.

Wyndalco.com/IVP

For more information contact one of our specialists at 312-256-9090



2020 American Society of Mechanical Engineers Award



NEWSMAKER of the YEAR

Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. Grab your cup of coffee, join the



COFFEE WITH COLLEAGUES

Third Tuesday of the Month
at 9:00am



Join us for a
Virtual Coffee Break!



meeting, and then be ready for a 30-45min breakout group.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Blues OR Bliss??

Did your health insurance renewal give you the blues?
Were you presented:

- alternate carriers or alternate networks within the same carrier for savings opportunities?
- a reduction in medical spend by bundling other lines of coverage?
- alternate funding solutions

Far too often, brokers wait until the renewal to analyze these items and the result is that it doesn't leave a whole lot of time to actually make changes. If you are looking for a partner the entire year and not just at renewal, please give us a call.

Dan Daley:
630.737.9358 | ddaley@GoCGO.com



Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

FIND OUT

ACEC **RT.**

A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

Contact Lydia Zabrycki at (559) 284.0370 lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com www.acecrt.com



FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100th Anniversary

Be on the lookout for some exciting announcements and reflections throughout the year.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

Firm Principals,
Be on the lookout for your firm certification



email!

Questions: Amanda@acecil.org

CHECK OUT OUR NEW MEDIA PAGE
Follow the link: [Videos | ACEC-IL](#)



SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: [**bethany@acecil.org**](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)

Articles and updates will be included in the membership newsletter, posted on our website, and shared through our social media feeds.

Website: [**www.acecil.org**](http://www.acecil.org)
