



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Illinois*

## 2020 April NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



### LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

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#### Motor Fuel Tax Receipts

As we reported early, March receipts were on track with projections. April receipts appear to be just 20% below projections—roughly a \$30 million shortfall. Overall, I believe most people would have predicted a more significant shortfall for a month with strict social distancing and stay at home guidance.

#### Federal Update

For the latest on Federal programs and resources, make sure to check out our COVID-19 resource center at [www.acecil.org](http://www.acecil.org)

Upcoming Congressional action seems to be focused around expanded assistance to states. In the first CARES Act, \$150 billion was allocated to states but it could be only used for COVID-related costs. Conversations are occurring now that would provide another round of funding for states while also allowing those funds to be utilized to fill budget gaps created by lack of revenue.

The National Governor's Association has requested \$500 billion for states and AASHTO has requested \$50 billion for State DOTs. ACEC IL has supported the funding request for DOTs and communicated that to our Congressional Delegation.

In addition, conversations are ongoing in both the House and Senate regarding a larger infrastructure bill when Congress begins to move from relief to recovery.

## State Update

On our briefing call this week with House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, it appears the legislature will not reconvene until June, where they will have to approve a budget among other business. Both the House and Senate have convened working groups to develop potential responses to COVID-19. ACEC IL has submitted to House and Senate Leadership our requests for tax relief for companies who incurred unanticipated costs from teleworking along with a recovery package for the state by providing a tax credit to companies who hire recent engineering graduates from Illinois Universities and Colleges.

## Agency Update

Challenging circumstances can sometimes be the catalyst for innovation. As tele-working became the rule, agencies had to adapt. For instance, IDOT, Tollway and IEPA began allowing electronic invoice submittals and suspending wet signature requirement. This change is yielding greater efficiencies for both consultant and client. ACEC IL is committed to working with the agencies to keep moving in this direction and hopefully expanding to additional areas like plan review.

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## MEMBER UPDATES

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### Klingner hires Water / Wastewater Engineer

QUINCY, IL, APRIL 6, 2020 — Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) has welcomed Geoffrey Thompson, PE, as an Engineer in its Water / Wastewater Department. Thompson is based in Klingner's Quincy office and will provide design, permitting, bidding, and construction observation services for water and

wastewater systems throughout Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. He brings eight years of experience to the firm, which has included design for sewer extensions, drainage plans, and waterline replacements, as well as inspections to verify compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.

Thompson is a graduate of the University of Missouri Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

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## Help Rebuild:

ACEC National has launched a sustained virtual advocacy campaign focused on an infrastructure-first recovery agenda. Under the banner of "Rescue, Recover, Rebuild," we are calling on Congress to:

- Pass a multi-year reauthorization of the FAST Act with increased funding to support highway and transit projects and regulatory reforms for efficient project delivery;

- Increase investment in critical water and wastewater infrastructure;
- Bolster energy self-sufficiency and make our system more resilient and sustainable; and
- Promote building design and construction, rural broadband, and other essential components of a growing and vibrant economy.

The campaign's success depends on the grassroots advocacy of our membership.

That means you. [Click here to get started.](#)

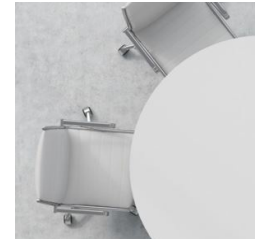
## save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



### **MAY 5 – Congressional Update with Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi** 9AM

**REGISTER:** email [Bethany@acecil.org](mailto:Bethany@acecil.org) for call in information

**ABOUT:** Please join ACEC IL members for an update on Congressional action from Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi. Rep. Krishnamoorthi was elected in 2016 to Illinois 8th District, which covers the western suburbs of Schaumburg, Elgin, Elk Grove Village and Hoffman Estates.

This Congress, Rep Krishnamoorthi sits on the House Intelligence and Oversight and Government Reform Committees. He serves as a member of the General Aviation Caucus and has played an active role in supporting the Illinois Tollway's Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Corridor project. As an engineer, he has worked to enhance STEM efforts and has a unique understanding of the challenges facing the profession. .



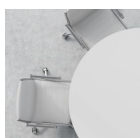
### **MAY 5 – Webinar: Roadway & Structure Geotechnical Report** 10:30AM

**REGISTER:**

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7517657174193945601>

**ABOUT:** Please join us for a webinar with Riyadh Wahab, Ph.D., P.E. – Senior Geotechnical Engineer from Chicago Testing Laboratory, Inc.

This webinar will offer an overview of what is an RGR and SGR. Also, it will cover the various types of SGRs and what critical elements to include in them.



### **MAY 6 – ACEC Update & Townhall** 1:00PM

**REGISTER:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/1251965918564627713>  
**SPEAKERS:**

President and CEO Linda Bauer Darr  
SVP for Advocacy and External Affairs Steve Hall  
Chairman of the ACEC Research Institute John Carrato



**MAY 21 – Webinar – Marketing Your Firm: Building the Business**

1:00PM

**REGISTER:** <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8473640752287860225>

**ABOUT:** When it comes to professional services like engineering, everyone in the firm is a marketer, regardless of the role. That's because each of us are responsible for creating value for clients, living our firm's brand, and helping secure future work.

This webinar will address how to understand your audiences and their priorities alongside your firm's goals and areas of focus, establish strategies and key measures, and create compelling written content that positions you and your firm for success.



**JUNE 11 – ACEC Illinois Spring Board Meeting**

10AM – 12:30PM

**REGISTRATION:**

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4865471300878079745>

**ABOUT:** Please join us for the ACEC Illinois Spring Board Meeting for an update from the Board of Directors.



**JUNE 25 – Webinar – Marketing Yourself: Building Your Brand**

1:00PM

**REGISTRATION:**

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7050578036829112321>

**ABOUT:** The practice of engineering involves people doing business with people, which makes your personal interactions, brand, and goals important to both your career path and the value you offer to clients.

In this introductory webinar, we'll discuss the components of marketing and how they relate to understanding yourself and others, deciding on your path, and creating your future

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# LAUNCHING SOON...

**Illinois Tollway Design & Construction Practices Workshop**  
**10 sessions - PDH's - Q&A**

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## COVID-19 Guidance:

The [ACEC IL resource page on our website](#) is updated constantly, so check it frequently for documents, tools, resources and the latest news.

## Paycheck Protection Program:

The application process is now open. Firms with fewer than 500 employees would qualify. If you qualify, we urge you to start the application process as

soon as possible.

[Click here for more information and application information.](#)

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## ACEC Illinois Launches #ACECILWORKING:

ACEC IL members are working harder than ever now, just in some very different environments. Design work is being done at the kitchen table, plans are being reviewed on the deck and zooms are regularly interrupted by requests for juice and goldfish crackers by younger “co-workers”.

We want to highlight how ACEC Illinois members are adapting to and overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 and still getting this essential work done. So, send us your pictures and your stories at [info@acecil.org](mailto:info@acecil.org) so we can highlight your work on our social networks.

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### SUBMIT AN ARTICLE:

Please submit 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)

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