



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2020 December NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

Executive Update

Election Fall Out

The impact from November's election continues to be felt at both the state and federal levels. Let's take a closer look at both.

Illinois

Speaker Madigan? Following a deferred prosecution agreement initiated by ComEd and recent indictments of ComEd officials along with those presumed to be inside Speaker Madigan's inner-circle, the question of whether or not Speaker Madigan will continue in that role for the 102nd General Assembly set to convene next January is unclear. There are currently 18 House Democrats that have said they would not vote to elect Madigan to the position of Speaker of the House again—that number would put him 5 votes short of the 60 required. However, no alternate candidates have emerged yet that come close to the 60 votes. The entire House will vote for a Speaker for the 102nd General Assembly on January 13th, if the House does not approve a Speaker, the Secretary of State serves in that role until the House elects one. But suffice to say, that would be very uncharted waters and would substantially impact the operations of that chamber and ultimately the entire legislative branch.

Veto Session Cancelled: Amidst rising COVID cases and the backdrop of federal investigations, both the House and Senate cancelled veto session days in November and December. It is anticipated, yet not scheduled, that both the House and Senate will convene in January prior to the new General Assembly being sworn in on 13th. The state's current budget was predicated on either the Fair Tax passing or borrowing \$6 billion from the Federal Government, last week the Governor indicated they would move forward with borrowing \$2 billion but significant budget shortfalls exist that will likely need to be resolved during lame duck session or the beginning of the new General Assembly.

Leadership Changes: Illinois State Senator Dan McConchie was elected by his caucus to serve as the Republican Leader in the Illinois Senate. ACEC IL Chair Orhan Ulger, Treasurer PJ Fitzpatrick and myself met with both Leader McConchie and Senator Don DeWitte (Minority Spokesperson for Transportation) to discuss state related issues including implementation of the REBUILD Illinois capital program, the impact of PPP loan forgiveness on the industry and efficiencies and lessons-learned during COVID.

Federal

House: Speaker Pelosi will govern with a smaller majority in the House next year as Republican made gains. Cong. Rodney Davis was in a pitched battle to retain his seat, but ultimately won by a wide-margin. Every incumbent Illinois Member of Congress was re-elected. Cong. Davis, who currently serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, is poised to see his role and influence on that committee increased.

Senate: Control of the Senate will come down to the two run-off elections in Georgia on January 5th. Senate Republicans currently hold a 50-48 edge, if Democrats win both Georgia seats they would hold the tie-breaker with VP Elect Harris, thus giving them control of the Chamber.

Rumors and Schedules: Politico and other inside the beltway publications are reporting that former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is under consideration by President-Elect Biden to serve as Secretary of Transportation. Cong. Peter DeFazio (Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee) has said he has been in contact with Biden's team about a federal infrastructure bill. An additional COVID Relief bill and National Defense Authorization Act are on the schedule for Congress' lame duck session which begins today.

Chicago Approves \$3.7 billion Capital Program

The Chicago City Council approved Mayor Lightfoot's plan to reinvest and modernize Chicago's infrastructure. The 5-year, \$3.7 billion program will include among its budget 23 bridge replacement projects and 37 bridge repair projects. For full details of the plan, **click here**. A special thanks to all the City Council members who supported this forward-thinking plan, especially Ald. Gilbert Villegas who sought ACEC IL input on the proposal and invited us to testify in support.

DuPage County Approves Capital Program

The DuPage County Board approved an increase to their gas tax to fund additional infrastructure projects. The increase is expected to raise an additional \$16 million per year, and with an inflation index, over \$350 million covering the next 20 years. **ACEC IL testified in support** of this measure and we were excited to see its swift approval.

PPP Loans

In meetings with IDOT Leadership, ACEC IL and IDOT have agreed to create a working group to share information, issues and concerns about the impact PPP loan forgiveness may have on the industry. We will keep membership updated on these meetings.

IDOT Update

IDOT named George Tapas as Engineer of Local Roads and Streets.

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

save the date

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



No or Go? How Management Decides which clients and projects to pursue

December 9, 2020

Noon-1:00pm

-1 PDH

-Complimentary to ACEC Illinois members

-Hosted by the ACEC IL, Emerging Professionals Committee
Details & Registration [Here](#)



Show me the money! How projects get funded and company financials

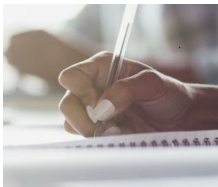
January 13, 2021

Noon-1:00pm

-1 PDH

-Complimentary to ACEC Illinois members

-Hosted by the ACEC IL, Emerging Professionals Committee
Details & Registration [Here](#)



Secrets Management Don't Want you to know

February 10, 2020

Noon-1:00pm

-1 PDH

-Complimentary to ACEC Illinois members

-Hosted by the ACEC IL, Emerging Professionals Committee
Details & Registration [Here](#)



Life on the other Side, A public Agency Perspective

March 10, 2020

Noon-1:00pm

-1 PDH

-Complimentary to ACEC Illinois members

-Hosted by the ACEC IL, Emerging Professionals Committee
Details & Registration [Here](#)

MEMBER UPDATES:

Klingner Engineers Earn IDOT Certification

QUINCY, IL, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 — Eric Barnes, PE, and Curt Schenk, PE, of Klingner & Associates, P.C. (Klingner) have earned Documentation of Contract Quantities certification through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Professionals holding this IDOT certification are prequalified to provide construction inspection services for transportation projects throughout the state, exhibiting knowledge of state and federal standards, work reports, and more.

Barnes is a transportation engineer with 27 years of experience, becoming Klingner's Transportation Department Manager in 2016. He has managed multiple large-scale, multimillion-dollar projects for Departments of Transportation, counties, and municipalities. Barnes holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is licensed in Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

Schenk, who was previously a transportation engineer for MoDOT, has 23 years of experience in roadway design and plan preparation. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale and is licensed in Illinois and Missouri.



Eric Barnes, PE



Curt Schenk, PE



Pat Cermak Named Senior Fellow at Design Futures Council Leadership Summit

The Design Futures Council (DFC), a built environment industry leadership consortium, has announced the 2020 inductees to its exclusive Senior Fellows program. Pat Cermak, Wight & Company's President and Chief Operating Officer is among this year's cohort of 17 honorees.

The new fellows were formally introduced at the DFC's Leadership Summit on

the Business of Design. The Senior Fellows program, which includes over 200 distinguished leaders – including Wight's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mark Wight – honors its members' significant contributions to the built environment industry disciplines. By so meaningfully raising the bar, these leaders secure others in their work, inspire them in their craft, and empower them to collectively make the world a better place.

Pat shares: "I am so honored and humbled to have been included in this most prestigious honor alongside such an outstanding group of people. And to follow in Mark Wight's footsteps in receiving this Senior Fellows Award, only validates Wight & Company's culture, business model, and being a most special place to work." We heartily congratulate Pat on this outstanding achievement.

Full Article: [Wight & Company | Pat Cermak Named Senior Fellow at Design Futures...](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Aqua Vitae Group
Arlington Heights, IL
Phone: 847-968-2282
<https://aqua-vitaegroup.com/>



Shannon & Wilson, Inc.
1720 W. Division Street, #74, Chicago, IL
Email: jzb@shanwil.com
<https://www.shannonwilson.com/>

 SHANNON & WILSON

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:



Seiler Instrument / Seiler Design Solutions
3433 Tree Court Industrial Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63122
Phone: 314-968-2282
<https://www.seiler-ds.com/>

Last Month's Media Content

November 11, 2020
Post Election Panel: What Just Happened and What



Does it Mean?
Watch [Here](#)



The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) invites you to learn more about and comment on the alternatives considered to improve the interchanges of Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois Route 129 (IL 129) in Will County. Instead of hosting a regular public meeting, IDOT will share details on the project and encourage public participation until December 14 through a new interactive website.

The website is available now through December 14, 2020 and can be accessed at:

I55LorenzoIL129Outreach.org

Purpose of the site is:

- To present and discuss the alternatives carried forward
- To obtain public input on the alternatives carried forward and potential impacts

At the new interactive website, the public can watch a video about the project, view exhibits, and leave comments. In addition to the website, IDOT's outreach efforts will include a newsletter mailed to impacted residents and the opportunity to ask questions to IDOT staff over the phone by calling (847) 705-4569. Comments received by December 14, 2020 will become part of the official public outreach record.

Individuals without internet access may contact Anna Kutryn, P.E., Project Manager, at (847) 705-4569 for more information about the project.

All written correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
Bureau of Programming
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Email: LorenzoIL129Study@gmail.com
Project website: I55LorenzoIL129Outreach.org

The conducted outreach will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact the Project Manager as noted above. Persons who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681. It may take at least five (5) days to provide accommodations.

ACEC PAC RAFFLE

\$50.00/Ticket

Drawing to be held: Friday, December 4, 2020



1st Prize:
\$250 OMAHA Steaks
Gift Card



2nd Prize:
\$100 Cooper's Hawk
Gift Card



3rd Prize:
\$50 Amazon Gift Card



The ACEC Business Insurance Trust Program Offers Cyber Insurance to Protect ACEC Member Firms

Coalition partners with The ACEC BIT and Greyling to deliver a comprehensive cybersecurity solution

The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Business Insurance Trust (BIT) has partnered with Greyling Insurance Brokerage, a division of EPIC, and Coalition, an insurance and cyber risk management firm dedicated to managing and mitigating cyber risk, to provide best-in-class cyber risk solutions. This complete cyber risk offering combines system monitoring, risk management and insurance, in an all-in-one package. Characteristics of this cyber program include:

- Free Cyber Risk Assessment (\$2,500 value)
- Customizable insurance
- 24/7 Security monitoring
- Alerts of cyber incidents
- Security tools to minimize risk
- Access to security team
- ACEC member endorsed enhanced coverages.

Engineering firms often process sensitive data from their work with government agencies, academic institutions, and private organizations — making them a rich target for cybercriminals. According to the 2019 Cost of Data Breach Study by IBM Security and the Ponemon Institute, data breaches can cost businesses upwards of \$4 million to recover.

To get your complimentary cyber risk assessment and quote, click [here](#). There is no commitment required. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the ACEC BIT at

ACEC MEMBER DISCOUNTS ON:

HEALTH INSURANCE DENTAL, VISION, LIFE, & DISABILITY

WE LEVERAGE THE BUYING POWER OF OUR 1,500+ EMPLOYER GROUPS IN THE ACEC LIFE HEALTH TRUST TO OBTAIN DISCOUNTED INSURANCE RATES FOR OUR MEMBERS.

TO OBTAIN A QUOTE CONTACT
CONNOR & GALLAGHER ONESOURCE (CGO), ONE OF OUR PREFERRED INSURANCE BROKER PARTNERS.



CGO is located in Lisle, Illinois



Dan Daley
25+ Years of Employee
Benefits Experience

DDaley@GoCGO.com
630.737.9358

THANK YOU SPONSORS

11.20.2020

Virtual: IDOT District 1 & District 2 Update and Lookahead

THANK YOU SPONSORS

VIRTUAL: IDOT District 1 & District 2
Update and Lookahead

LOCHNER

Client Focused | Performance Driven | Employee Owned

CONSULTING
ENGINEERS



BLA, Inc.



Globetrotters[®]
Engineering Corporation

EFK♦Moen

Civil Engineering Design



CIVIL DESIGN, INC.
WBE/DBE



Zim
GROUP



SUBMIT UPDATES & ARTICLES:

Please submit firm update & news articles by the 15th of each month to: 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