



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

IDOT Announces FY24-FY29 MYP \$27 billion programmed for roads and bridges



The Illinois Department of Transportation released its FY24-FY29 Multi Year Program for Highway and Multimodal.

The complete program and accompanying project specific data can be found [here](#).

Overall, the FY24-FY29 Multi Year Program is the largest in state history, representing a 10% increase over the FY23-FY28 MYP. With \$27 billion programmed for roads and bridges, the FY24 program alone is \$4.65 billion, a 25% increase over the FY23 program.

IDOT District Programming

- District 1: \$6.6 billion
- District 2: \$1.7 billion
- District 3: \$1.2 billion
- District 4: \$1.96 billion
- District 5: \$756 million
- District 6: \$1.76 billion
- District 7: \$996 million
- District 8: \$3 billion
- District 9: \$1.4 billion

District fact sheets can be found [here](#).

Alternative Project Delivery

In addition, IDOT has outlined 11 possible projects for the utilization of Alternative Project Delivery Methods with a budget of \$475 million. The list of possible projects can be found [here](#).

Multimodal programming:

Transit: \$9.8 billion

Rail: \$2.67 billion

Aviation: \$1.25 billion

Marine: \$190 million

The multimodal fact sheet can be found [here](#).

As more information comes available, we will distribute.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson Releases Transition Report



Chicago's Newly Elected Mayor Brandon Johnson [released](#) his *2023 Mayoral Transition Report* this week. The initial goals focused on improving access and service for public transportation in the Chicago. The report also referenced the need to prioritize collaboration for the [I-290/Blue Line Modernization Project](#), and additional efforts to strengthen and modernize O'Hare and Midway.

For more information:

[2023 Mayoral Transition Report](#)

[2023 Mayoral Transition Report-Transportation](#)

Biden-Harris Administration Opens Streamlined Application Process for More than \$5.5 Billion in Funding to Help Carry Out Major Infrastructure Projects Across the Country



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced that the Department of Transportation is now taking applications for up to \$5.575 billion in funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects of regional or national significance. This funding supports three major discretionary grant programs that involve surface transportation projects designed to strengthen supply chains, spur economic development, and improve safety and daily life.

Applications for funding are being solicited together under a single opportunity titled the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant program.

Available funding includes:

\$1.8 billion for the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) Program: The Mega program supports large, complex projects that are difficult to fund by other means and are likely to generate national or regional economic, mobility, or safety benefits. Eligible projects could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national or regional significance. Per the law, 50 percent of funds are available for projects above

\$500 million in total cost, and 50 percent are available for projects between \$100 million and \$500 million in total cost.

\$3.1 billion for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program: The INFRA program awards competitive grants to multimodal freight and highway projects of national or regional significance to improve the safety, accessibility, efficiency, and reliability of the movement of freight and people in and across rural and urban areas. Eligible projects will improve safety, generate economic benefits, reduce congestion, enhance resiliency, and hold the greatest promise to eliminate supply chain bottlenecks and improve critical freight movements.

\$675 million for the Rural Surface Transportation Grant (Rural) Program: The Rural program supports projects that improve and expand our nation's surface transportation infrastructure in rural areas in order to increase connectivity, improve the safety and reliability of the movement of people and freight, and generate regional economic growth and improve quality of life. Eligible projects for Rural grants include highway, bridge, and tunnel projects that help improve freight, safety, and provide or increase access to agricultural, commercial, energy, or transportation facilities that support the economy of a rural area. 90% of rural funding must be awarded in \$25 million or greater amounts.

Last year, the Department awarded nearly \$1.2 billion from the Mega Program for nine projects across the country. The Department also awarded \$274 million for 12 projects through the Rural grant program and \$1.5 billion for 26 projects through the INFRA program.

A full list of awarded projects for each grant program is available here: [2022 Mega](#), [2022 Rural](#), [2022 INFRA](#).

The deadline for applications is 11:59 pm EDT on August 21, 2023, Applicants may find the NOFO, Frequently Asked Questions, and other helpful resources [here](#).

IDOT Staffing Updates

Mike Prater was appointed as Acting Chief Counsel for the Illinois Department of Transportation. Prater has served in IDOT's Office of the Chief Counsel since 2006 and as a Deputy Chief Counsel since 2019. Prater holds a B.A. from the University of Missouri, St. Louis and he earned his Juris Doctorate from the Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale.

Matt McAnarney was appointed to the role of Policy Advisor to the Secretary. McAnarney has served at IDOT as Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs in the Office of Legislative Affairs and most recently, Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs. McAnarney attended Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and University of Illinois at Springfield.

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

James L. Easterly Building dedicated by IDOT in Springfield



The Illinois Department of Transportation today announced its new District 6 headquarters at 3215 Executive Drive in Springfield has been named in honor of longtime employee and former Director of Highways James L. Easterly. The dedication ceremony was held June 30, with remembrances from family and colleagues while showcasing the new space. Matt Jereb from HR Green represented ACEC Illinois at the event.



"It would be difficult to find an employee more widely beloved by his colleagues than James Easterly," said **Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman**. "A mentor to many and a friend to all, Jim used the knowledge gained from years of experience to serve the residents of Illinois with excellence. The dedication of the District 6 headquarters is a reminder of the quality of service to which we all should aspire."

[Full Article HERE](#)

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of Illinois



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- Preferred Seating
 - 2 complimentary registrations to every regional luncheon
 - 2 Sponsorship seats at every regional luncheon

American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois
5221 South Sixth Street Road, Suite 120
Website: www.acecil.org



UPCOMING EVENTS...



WEBINAR: NEPA SCOPING AND EJ WITH Q&A

July 18, 2023
at 1:00pm

Hosted by:



Join us virtually for a webinar on Phase I/Environmental: NEPA Scoping and Environmental Justice with IDOT staff.

1 PDH emailed to all attendees.

Presenters:

Felecia Hurley, Natural Resources Review Specialist
John Sherrill, Location and Environment Section Chief

Webinar: NEPA Scoping and EJ with Q&A

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Join us virtually for a webinar on Phase I/Environmental: NEPA Scoping and Environmental Justice with IDOT staff.

Details & Registration



School Supplies Drive

Donate through the month of July


Join ACEC Illinois' Emerging Professionals Committee by helping schools across the state.

You have the opportunity to help students in need receive

school supplies for the next year.

Donate

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE **EPI** SCHOOL SUPPLIES
 June 21- July 21
 School Kits supplied by: Educational Products, Inc.




HOW TO DONATE:
 Sponsor a student: \$25
 Sponsor a classroom: \$500
 -Company logo on social media
 -Invitation to attend donation at schools

SCHOOLS TO BENEFIT:
 Chicago: Beidler Elementary School
 Joliet: Woodland Elementary
 East St. Louis: Annette Officer Elementary School
 Springfield: TBD
 Peoria: Franklin Primary School
 Waukegan: LEARN 9 Charter School

Join ACEC Illinois' Emerging Professionals Committee by helping schools across the state.

YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR THE NEXT YEAR.



SESSION 1:
TEN TIPS TO EMPOWERMENT LEADERSHIP
& TEN TIPS TO EMPLOYEE RETENTION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
8:30AM-4PM

SPEAKER: JEFF GROSS, CEO, GRO-NOVA
Location: Northern Illinois University Naperville Conference Center
1120 E Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563

SESSION 2:
CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND DIVERSITY,
EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
OCTOBER 5, 2023
8:30AM-4PM

SPEAKER: KEISHA STOUTE, FOUNDER & CEO - STOUTE COMMUNICATIONS, LLC
Location: Northern Illinois University Naperville Conference Center
1120 E Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563

SESSION 3:
TOP LEVEL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
DECEMBER 6, 2023
8:30AM-4PM

SPEAKER: DAVID S. COHEN, ESQ., ASA - MANAGING DIRECTOR, MATHESON FINANCIAL ADVISORS, INC.
Location: Northern Illinois University Naperville Conference Center
1120 E Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563

SESSION 4:
INDUSTRY/LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
JANUARY 2024
9AM-4PM

SPEAKER: KEVIN ARTL, ACEC IL PRESIDENT & CEO
Location: Springfield, IL



Webinar: NEPA Scoping and EJ with Q&A
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
1:00pm - 2:00pm

Join us virtually for a webinar on Phase I/Environmental: NEPA Scoping and Environmental Justice with IDOT staff.

Details & Registration

DETAILS:
-28 Professional Development Hours awarded for attending all four sessions.
-PowerPoints and handouts will be shared with registered attendees.
-4 sessions, food and materials
Suggested Attendees:
Prospective principals with substantial experience in the engineering field suggested
Experience:
More than 15 years in the industry

save the date

COUNTY ENGINEERS LUNCHEON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
11:30AM - 1:30PM

HARRY CARAY'S, LOMBARD

HOSTED BY:

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES of Illinois



OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2023

CHAMPAIGN, IL

ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2024



save the date

Black Tie Gala

**MISSING PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT HOURS FROM
CLASSES YOU ALREADY TOOK?**

- EMAIL [BETHANY@ACECIL.ORG](mailto:bethany@acecil.org)
- INCLUDE: CLASS NAME, DATE OF CLASS, ATTENDEE EMAIL ADDRESS

bethany@acecil.org

Pathways to Cook County Expo



Save the Date!

Tuesday August 8, 2023 • UIC Dorin Forum

9am - 3pm

Learn about:

- **Grants • Jobs**
- **Procurement**
- **M/WBE Compliance & Certification**
- **Economic Development • Equity/Inclusion**

REMINDER

ACEC IL dues invoices have been sent out. If you need a new copy or would like to pay via credit card, please contact Emily Martinez at emily@acecil.org

emily@acecil.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](https://www.acecil.org/committee-meeting-schedule)

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Natalia Homedi, PE
President & CEO
Atlas Engineering Group,
LTD.



How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- I have enjoyed being a part of the engineering industry for over 30 years, since graduating from college, starting my journey with construction inspection of the Dan Ryan Expressway. My career continued developing as the IDOT District one Hydraulics Section Consultant Drainage Engineer for over 7 years and a Project Manager at the Illinois Tollway for 3 years. I co-founded Atlas Engineering Group in 2007 and continue to serve as the President and CEO of a growing WBE/DBE firm.

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

- I have served on numerous ACEC committees since graduating from college, spanning from City Agencies, IDOT, Tollway, Cook County, MWRD, IDOT D1 Liaison Committee, and the Statewide Construction Committee. I have also Chaired the DBE/WBE/MBE Committee and the IDOT District One Liaison Committee, Construction Sub-Committee, leading Construction Management Seminars in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2022, and 2023.

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

- As an ACEC-IL member, firms have first-hand access to developing, promoting, and contributing to the advocacy for development of emerging engineering leaders and legislature which will ensure that our professional community has the support, advocacy, collective voice, and resources to successfully accomplish innovative execution of crucial infrastructure projects in a resilient and sustainable environment.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- I enjoy participating in various research projects in nature together with my three children, from tagging bats and studying their migration between Caribbean islands to volunteering in a turtle rescue center and releasing rehabilitated turtles back to their natural habitat.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I am a first generation Ukrainian born in the U.S. My father served in the U.S. army before setting foot in the US (naturalized abroad), joining the rest of his family in New York after several years of service. Both of my grandfathers immigrated from Ukraine and opened a gas station and a shop called "Atlas

Tires” in the 1960’s in Chicago. My Father, a Hydraulic Engineer, worked at the USGS for over 45 years and inspired me to become an Engineer. He created USGS Hydraulic Atlas maps in Illinois (you can find his name on many of the maps!). Both of these served as the inspiration of the name Atlas Engineering Group.

COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT

Rafael Herrera, PE
Vice President
SE3, LLC



How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

- I joined ACEC-IL in 2016 when Dave Bender was at the helm of the organization.

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

- In 2018 I was appointed Cook County DOT Chair, which I served for two years until I assumed the role of Engineering Excellence Awards Chair for the following 3 years.

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

- The EEA committee’s function is to conduct the annual Engineering Excellence Awards Gala. We do everything needed from reviewing award submissions for eligibility, identifying and securing a diverse panel of judges, finding a venue for the event, and assist during the awards presentations.

What’s the number one reason people should join your committee?

- Being a part of this committee allows members the opportunity to promote and help plan everyone’s favorite event of the year! It’s fun to see everything come together over the span of 7-8 months and witness the lights, cameras, and action as we celebrate our industry’s big accomplishments over the past year.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- My wife and I have two extremely active boys who participate in travel sport teams year round, so there is not much spare time for us these days.. The little time we do have, we love to travel and explore new areas, as well as eating out and trying new restaurants.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I loved playing competitive basketball when I was younger, and once shattered a backboard during a high school game (although I can’t jump more than a couple of inches these days, I once had hops, LOL) . Our HS team was in the same division with Farragut and I was fortunate to play against a Chicago legend, Ronnie Fields, who coincidentally now coaches our boys on his travel team.
-

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

- Horner & Shifrin has been in the engineering industry since 1933. This year we are celebrating 90 years in business.

What projects are you currently working on?

- City of Marion, IL Downtown Streetscape
- Marion, IL / Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Sewer Expansion
- Lake Cook Road over I-94 Phase I
- I-57 6 lane widening
- IL 13 Phase I
- IL 4 / IL 15 bridge replacement over the Kaskaskia River

What project are you most proud of?

- We recently completed Phase I and II for the replacement of the I-270 bridge over the Mississippi River, which is now under construction.

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

- ACEC-Illinois is always on top of issues which affect our business and provides us with the information needed to make the right decisions. As a member firm, H&S benefits from the advocacy efforts ACEC-Illinois provides to make positive changes in our industry and the overall business climate.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

- If you are in the engineering business in Illinois and not a member of ACEC-Illinois, you are at a disadvantage. ACEC-Illinois member firms are well-informed and benefit from a strong organization which looks out for the business interests of our firms and the industry. Additionally, member firm employees are able to take advantage of training and networking opportunities which further strengthen our companies.

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



What does your business do?

- USI has been solving the insurance needs of our engineering clients for more than 30 years. We serve more than 4300 design firms through our more than 200 offices and 6 specialty hubs. Our Specialty team is exclusively focused on design and engineering firms - with insurance and risk management solutions tailored to address each firm's unique needs, and experienced staff trained in loss prevention consultation, claims advocacy and contract insurability review.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

- USI is driven to providing insurance products, services and expertise that support our clients. This goes beyond insurance placements and everyday services - we provide a thoughtful and proactive approach to delivering resources and information that positions our clients to be prepared and protected. Our unique USI One Advantage® represents OMNI, Network, Enterprise - 3 key elements that create a value proposition that delivers our clients a robust set of risk management and insurance solutions and exclusive resources with financial impact.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

- We are proud to be members of ACEC to identify emerging and priority concerns, contribute to the profession, and support an organization that advocates for our clients.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. WELCOMES BACK THREE SUMMER INTERNS AS FULL- TIME EMPLOYEES



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEL), a leading civil engineering firm, is proud to announce the full-time employment of three previous summer interns - **Christian Correa, John Schaefer, and Emma Ball**. Last summer, they interned with the firm and showed us their outstanding abilities and commitment to the profession.

The hiring of these previous summer interns is a true testament to EEL's internship program which provides students with the opportunity to apply their coursework to challenging and meaningful projects. During their internships, they are provided with a mentor who partners with them to establish realistic yet challenging goals, engage in daily work activities, and collaborate on training and hands-on learning.

"We are thrilled to welcome back Christian, John, and Emma as full-time employees," said Brad Sanderson, Chief Operating Officer / President, "their hard work and dedication during their internships certainly impressed us, and we are confident that

they will continue to grow in their careers."

For additional information about EEI Engineering [Here](#)

**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES,
INC. ANNOUNCES PETER
WALLERS, PE, CFM
RETIREMENT AND PROMOTES
THREE PARTNERS –
MORRISON, PIOTROWSKI, AND
DENNISON TO VICE PRESIDENT**



Peter Wallers, P.E., CFM, who has been EEI's Chairman since 2020 and previously held the title of President and CEO since 2006, announced his retirement effective May 20, 2023, from EEI's Board of Directors and leadership team. He will continue to work part-time and will stay involved with the various organizations and committees that he currently sits on.

Pete's 46-year career has been dedicated to improving the lives of residents within the communities he has had the opportunity to work for. He has knowledge of total water (potable water, wastewater, and stormwater), but also all other community infrastructure components. These are strengths that make Pete a well-rounded engineer that can see the big picture.

Anyone that knows Pete knows that his true passion is water and finding a sustainable source for all. He is heavily involved in regional water supply planning for Northeastern Illinois and has a knack for building regional consensus.

Full Article [Here](#)

**JACOB SEGER EARNS
CERTIFIED PUBLIC
INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTOR
(CPII) CREDENTIAL FROM
AMERICAN PUBLIC WORKS
ASSOCIATION (APWA)**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce that **Jacob Seger, PE, CFM** has become a Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector (CPII). The certification program is governed by the CPII Council of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The purpose of the Public Infrastructure Inspector Certification is to promote quality infrastructure throughout the community by advancing the knowledge and practice of construction inspection to benefit the community and public agencies.

The Certified Public Infrastructure Inspector certification program is intended for individuals that inspect the construction of public infrastructure (e.g., roadways, highways, utilities, bridges, dams) and facilities (e.g., pump stations, treatment plants, water storage facilities) and other types of construction work and materials to ensure compliance with plans and specifications. Duties may include observation,

measurement, testing, and documentation. The Public Infrastructure Inspector Certification system includes an eligibility application process, an exam, and a recertification application process.

For additional information about EEI Engineering [Here](#)

**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES,
INC. PROMOTES LONG-TIME
EMPLOYEE TO PROJECT
MANAGER AND HEAD OF
CONSTRUCTION GROUP**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) a leading civil engineering firm, is proud to announce the promotion of **Todd Wells, PE, CPII** to Project Manager and Head of the firm's Construction Group. Todd has been with the company for 17 years and has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of the construction industry. In this new role, Todd will be responsible for scheduling and leading EEI's team of resident engineers and construction technicians.

Todd's promotion is a testament to EEI's commitment to recognizing and rewarding the hard work and dedication of our employees. According to Brad Sanderson, PE, Chief Operating Officer / President, "We are excited to see Todd take on this new challenge and are confident that he will continue to make significant contributions to EEI's success."

For additional information about EEI Engineering [Here](#)

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CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

Update from ACEC Retirement Trust

[LISTEN HERE](#)





[Full Magazine Here](#)



[Student & Teacher Resources](#)

When students dream big about their careers, engineering may not be the first thing that pops to mind. But maybe it should be. The fact is, there is unlimited opportunity and variety within the engineering field itself, allowing students to follow their passions, land that dream job and make a difference in the world. And engineers are in demand, providing endless options to build their future.

This initiative was launched to help Illinois students see themselves in the engineering field. It is part of a larger effort by the Illinois Department of Transportation to educate and hire engineers in the face of a national shortage. From introducing individual disciplines, to discussing job satisfaction, opportunities and compensation, this web page is intended as a resource for students and educators to explore all that is possible with a career in engineering.

Engineering may not be the first job students think of, but a career in the field might just become a dream come true.



[HERE](#)

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Find out why ACEC Retirement Trust gets a 100% satisfaction rating. It's an exclusive 401(k) program for ACEC members



ACEC RT. [SEE WHY](#)





Build a bright financial
future for your team



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

ACEC-Illinois | 5221 S 6th Street Road, Suite 120, Springfield, IL 62703

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