



2022 June  
NEWSLETTER:  
**THE CONNECTOR**



# LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL



## Industry and IDOT Meet

ACEC Illinois joined with other transportation-infrastructure related associations to receive updates and discuss current issues with IDOT Leadership, including Secretary Osman. ACEC Illinois discussed agenda items that included:

**SEFC Process:** ACEC Illinois asked for IDOT to consider fast-tracking pre-audited SEFC to allow for quicker approval of not only OH rates but also pre-qualifications.

**Consultant Contract Process:** ACEC Illinois asked IDOT to review consultant selections have taken in excess of 6 months to receive NTP in order to evaluate process options for corrective action.

**Electronic Signatures:** ACEC Illinois asked IDOT to allow for universal acceptance of electronic signatures, especially for LPAs. Local roads is in the process of developing new forms to allow for electronic signatures, ACEC Illinois' ask was that they accept a form of electronic signatures during this development phase to expedite local agreements.

**Various-Variou Contracts:** ACEC Illinois recommended a few options to IDOT for the Various-Variou contracts, including longer, larger contracts, offering greater remote work options and reducing the requirement to list key personnel for support roles.

**IDOT MYP:** Anticipate the release of the multi-year program very soon.

**Design Build:** IDOT agreed to work with ACEC Illinois to discuss best practices as they begin looking at process and rulemaking for design build. Their goal is inclusion of design build projects for the FY24 MYP.

We will keep you updated on the progress of these conversations.

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## ACEC Weighs In on Proposed Changes to Davis Bacon

ACEC Illinois asked ACEC National to submit comments in opposition to Department of Labor's proposed changes to Davis Bacon that could ultimately impact surveyors.

The proposed DOL rule could ultimately take surveying work out of professional services classification and under the scope of Davis Bacon, which would be an inaccurate assessment and classification of the work surveyors do. [Read the entire letter here.](#)

Below is an excerpt:

*Survey work must be done by or under the direction of a professional surveyor licensed by a state licensing board. Surveyors interpret engineering designs and perform calculations that are essential to the implementation of the designs in a construction project. Routinely, the same licensed surveyor will complete both the office work and the field work that is required for a site to be ready for construction. While there are necessary components of survey work that take place on the site of construction, the substantial majority of survey work is not completed on the site of construction.*

*The work is clearly professional in nature and not that of a laborer or mechanic.*

*We urge the Department of Labor to remove this unwarranted expansion of Davis-Bacon from the proposed regulations. Thank you for your consideration and please let us know how we can assist in this matter.*

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## ACEC Illinois - Making a Difference for the Industry

On April 12th representatives of the ACEC IDOT/Tollway SOI Process Subcommittee (Libby Braband, Laura McGovern, Paul Loete, Dan Tiltges and Kevin Artl) met with Jenni LeSeure and Jack Elston of IDOT to discuss opportunities to clarify and streamline the IDOT PTB process. The initial impact of the meeting was seen on the current bulletin, PTB 204: the Consultant's Disclosure, Form A & Form B (BDE DISC2 Template) & Disclosure of Business Operations in Iran (BDE2900) are no longer required to be submitted at the time of SOI. Both forms will only be required to be submitted annually as part of the SEFC application. Additional changes to simplify both the forms and body of the SOI submittal were identified and may be implemented.

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### Secretary Buttigieg Visits Chicago as IDOT Files for Mega Project Grant to Begin I-290 Work

From Crain's:

*Officials from the Illinois Department of Transportation and Chicago Transit Authority are confirming they plan to seek \$400 million for reconstruction of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290) and related work on the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line, which runs along the expressway's median strip.*

*Another \$260 million would come from state and local sources, setting the total cost of the work at \$660 million.*

*Applications for the first tranche of competitive federal grants under the program are due on Monday, May 23. A total of \$2.9 billion will be available nationally in this round, with federal*

officials emphasizing that they're looking for proposals that involve more than just building roads and that address equity concerns by providing options to traditionally underserved residents.

*The Chicago area's big ask will have two parts.*

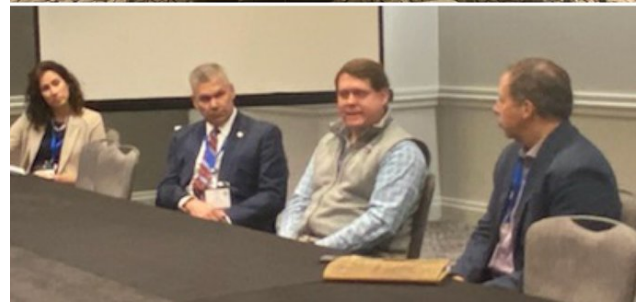
*IDOT would spend \$400 million of the \$660 million to install new storm sewers in portions of the western suburbs that are prone to flooding, something that both ties up traffic on the highway and impacts neighboring communities. Finishing that will allow work to proceed on a much larger project whose total scope is still under debate: reconstruction of the entire highway.*

*The remaining \$260 million would go to the CTA. According to a spokesman, that will allow reconstruction of the Cicero and Austin el stops, with addition of elevators and modern security, lighting and other features.*

*The money also would go to rebuild tracks in that area. The tracks date back to original construction of the line in 1968 and are in such poor shape that the CTA at times has to impose slow zones, the spokesman said.*

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## ACEC Illinois Attends ACEC National Conference



ACEC Illinois members attended this year's national convention in Washington, DC. Among the topics of conversation with peers from across the nation were workforce challenges, IJJA implementation and DOT best practices. Illinois members also received an Illinois specific IJJA briefing from Congressman Rodney Davis's office and an Illinois political briefing from Chicago Sun-Times Washington Bureau Chief Lynn Sweet.

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### Emerging Professional Shuffleboard Tournament Huge Success

Kudos to ACEC Illinois' Emerging Professional group from an amazing Shuffleboard Tournament held at the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Center in Chicago.

Winning first place in the inaugural tournament was the team of Mitchell Murray from CMT and Robert Rose from Gannet Fleming .

However, most Shuffleboard experts and pundits were



talking about the Cinderella story of the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team of Kevin Artl (ACEC IL) and Trudy Buehler (Mackie Consultants).

But seriously, congrats to all who entered and thanks to Kevin Spitz and Matt Turk for organizing a fun evening.

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

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**P.J. Fitzpatrick, P.E.**  
**Business Development Lead -  
Transportation  
HR Green**

**How long have you been in the Engineering industry?**

I have been in the industry 34 years.

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

I am currently the Chair Elect for the ACEC-IL Board of Directors and will assume the Board Chair position in July. I'm also a member of the Engineering Excellence and Risk management committees. Previously, I had served on the Board as Treasurer for 2 years, and a Director for 3 years. Previous committee involvement includes the IDOT Liaison committee, IDOT - District 1 Liaison committee, the Federal/State Legislative Committee, The Illinois Tollway Liaison committee, and in 2001/2002 served as an ACEC representative on the Statewide Homeland Security panel.

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

Though there are many reasons for firms to be members in ACEC, one of the primary benefits would be the networking / benchmarking opportunities that are available with many firms within the organization. Regardless of the size or diversity of your firm, there is always another that experiences similar challenges, and being able to bounce ideas, ranging from business

practices to technical processes, off a peer member can be extremely effective in removing the blinders, and creating a paradigm shift in your own organization.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

In my spare time I like to read, watch Cardinal baseball, follow Alabama football (Roll Tide!), fire up the smoker and smoke some meat. Since our children live out of state (MO, SC and GA), we spend some time travelling to see them and our grand-pups and will be expecting our first grandchild this Fall (pretty exciting!).

### **Tell us one fun fact about yourself.**

I really enjoy coaching youth sports teams(soccer, basketball, football, but mainly baseball). Though my kid's playing days are completed, I stay involved with our local Travel baseball organization as a "roving instructor".

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



### **How long have you been in the engineering industry?**

We are celebrating 35 years this month, June 29th.

### **What projects are you currently working on?**

With a staff of more than 250, we are busy with a long list of projects for a diverse list of clients across our four areas of expertise: Buildings, Transportation, Utilities, and Business Consulting. The top three projects we're particularly excited about right now are:

- **Discovery Partners Institute for Education and Research** with the Capital Development Board. This 500,000 sq. ft. innovation hub will be home to tech training, applying in-house research and design, for in-demand jobs. A major installation of Chicago's new The 78 neighborhood.
- For the Chicago Department of Aviation, working under the lead civil engineer HNTB to help design the heavy infrastructure components of the Terminal Area Plan (TAP) program to support a new **O'Hare Global Terminal and Concourse** as well as two new satellite concourses.
- **Central Avenue Bridge** for Cook County Department of Transportation & Highways, a rehabilitation of an approximately 3,500-foot-long bridge segment between I-55 and Pershing Road in the Village of Stickney, crossing the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

### **What project are you most proud of?**

ComEd's Chicago North Facility, a headquarters that serves over one million customers. This project, a flagship for us, was interesting and challenging, to say the least.

Primera provided architecture, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, structural, civil, landscape, acoustics, and low voltage services for Phase II of the multi-phase, 30-acre redevelopment of the existing facility. This phase included a new 94,800-square-foot office building with an additional 10,000-square-foot education/community center, a new 64,600-square-foot standalone modern warehouse/distribution center, and future phase Make Ready utility extensions.

Two things were of utmost importance to ComEd throughout the project: sustainability and having a positive impact on the surrounding community. Sustainable designs and improvements we incorporated were: electrochromic glass, an air-cooled Variable Refrigerant System (VRF) with a dedicated outside air system, triple-paned glazing façade system, large stormwater management system, electric vehicle charging stations, and provisions for future solar panels and Net Zero Ready Nanogrids. All of which contribute to achieving LEED Platinum certification for the facility.

Our team's diligence, innovation, commitment, and nimble problem-solving won the project 2021 ACEC-IL Honor and Judges Choice Awards as well as a selection for the National Recognition Award by ACEC National.

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

At Primera, we're all about people. In that vein, naturally the benefit for us has been the relationships that we've built with fellow engineers and firms. Primera co-Founder, Dr. Pedro Cevallos-Candau served as ACEC president from 2010-2011. His dedication and service to ACEC laid a strong relational foundation that we continue to build on and benefit from.

## Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC fosters a thriving engineering community. By providing the space and resources to bump elbows with great minds in the industry, being a part of ACEC gives you the opportunity to build networks, learn from others and nurture the professional progress of your firm.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

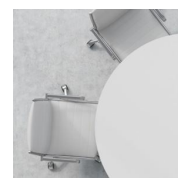
SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



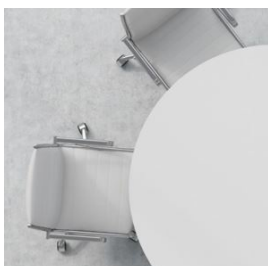
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### LAST CALL: ACEC Illinois Spring Golf Outing

June 8, 2022 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ACEC Illinois Spring Golf Outing Ruffles Feathers Golf Club,  
Lemont, IL

Register [Here](#)



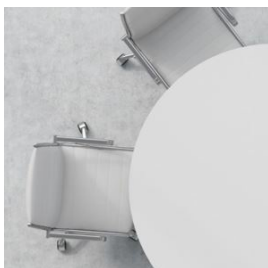
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### LAST CALL: Spring Meeting and Membership Luncheon

June 9, 2022 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Board Meeting
- Board Awards
- Board Induction
- Membership Luncheon
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Register [Here](#)



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### ACEC Media Club

June 13, 2022 - June 17, 2022 | Noon - 1 p.m. each day

- Monday: Productivity - The Pathway to Flexibility and Freedom
- Tuesday: Tangible and Intangible Buying
- Wednesday: Innovation and Strategic Leadership
- Thursday: Management & Leadership
- Friday: Building, Cultivating and Expanding Your Network Early

Register [Here](#)

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**Virtual: Bicycle/Pedestrian Training**

June 14, 2022 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This presentation includes a summary of IDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations policy.

PDH: 1

Cost: \$45

Register [Here](#)

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**ACEC Regional Luncheon: County Engineers**

July 19, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

This luncheon will host a panel discussion with County Engineers:

Chris Snyder, Dupage County  
Carl Schoedel, Kane County  
Jeff Ronaldson, Will County  
Shane Schneider, Lake County  
Jennifer (Sis) Killen, Cook County  
Joe Korpalski, McHenry County

Register [Here](#)

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**SAVE THE DATE: Fall Conference**

October 5-6, 2022

Location: Peoria Marriott Pere Marquette  
501 Main Street, Peoria, IL 61602

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## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Click Here: [Committee Meeting Schedule \(acecil.org\)](#)

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: [emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

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## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.  
CONGRATULATES CHRIS WALTON, PE**

# ON RECEIVING ILLINOIS SECTION AWWA'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARD



**Chris Walton, PE**, Senior Project Engineer, has received the 2021 Illinois Section American Water Works Association Outstanding Young Professional (YP) Award.

Chris graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Illinois and holds his Professional Engineer (PE) license.

The YP Award is presented to one member of ISAWWA that has demonstrated an active commitment to the organization and the profession as a whole and recognizes the contributions of young / new members whose service and achievements are exceptional for their years of experience.

Chris has shown his dedication by actively engaging and mentoring others both at Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) and within the water industry. He is a member of the ISAWWA YP Committee and Co-Chair of the Source Water Protection Committee. He also participates in the University of Illinois Engineering Open House by reviewing / judging student projects and presentations. There is no better way to promote the water industry and carry on their critical mission than to reach out to those that are interested in the engineering profession.

According to Stephen Dennison, PE, Senior Project Manager / Principal, "Chris is very deserving of this award, and we couldn't be prouder of him. His passion for the water industry is exemplified through his desire to both learn and to teach others, as well as his dedication to supporting local communities."



## EVERYTHING YOU COULD WANT TO KNOW ABOUT WETLAND DELINEATIONS



If you're interested in **wetland delineations**, there's a good chance you either own or are thinking of purchasing vacant land. You're hoping to build on the land and you want to make sure you have enough room to do so without disturbing the wetland. You might want to know what happens if you do end up disturbing the wetland and how that impacts the project and budget.

Read on. I'll do my best to answer all your questions. If you have more you can always call us.

Full article [here](#)

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## **DELAYS: PLAYING THE WAITING GAME**

Delay claims have always been among the most common type of demand made against parties to a construction project. Design consultants, contractors and clients have all had formal complaints made against them alleging financial damages due to delays in the completion of the project.

At no point in recent memory, however, have architects and engineers experienced so many problems with project delays as they have in the past couple of years. Delays have mounted from a chain reaction of unfortunate and untimely events plaguing projects both at home and abroad.

Full article [here](#)

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## **ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC. WELCOMES FOUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS**



Chris Parks



Mike Agate



Gabe Braboy, EI



Pamela Whitfield, PE, CFM

**Chris Parks** has joined our Construction Group as a Project Technician. He has attended Joliet Junior College and holds his IEPA Drinking Water Operator Certification Classes C and D. He brings 12 years of hands-on experience that will be valuable in the field overseeing water infrastructure projects.

**Mike Agate** has joined the firm as a CAD Technician. He has attended Waubonsee Community College and received his Associate Degree from Aztech College, Mesa, Arizona. His previous 15 years of work experience will be a benefit to the firm.

**Gabe Braboy, EI** has joined our Transportation Group as a Project Engineer. He holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Braboy brings three years of previous experience with him that will assist him within his role here at EEI.

**Pamela Whitfield, PE, CFM** has joined our Municipal Group as a Senior Project Engineer II. She holds a MS in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University and a BS in Civil Engineering from Texas Tech University. Pamela brings 15 years of previous experience with her that will be a great addition to our water resources capabilities.

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Ciorba Group is pleased to welcome Katrina Lopez to our team as a Water Resources Project Manager with nearly 20 years of experience in a wide array of design and construction projects encompassing civil, mechanical and electrical applications. Her expertise includes designing wastewater facilities, sanitary and stormwater lift stations, potable water pump stations, lighting and electrical for streetscapes, roadway/site lighting, and irrigation.

Katrina earned her Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from University of Illinois at Chicago and her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign We are thrilled to have Katrina on our team!

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# LAST CALL



JUNE 8-9 | LEMONT, IL

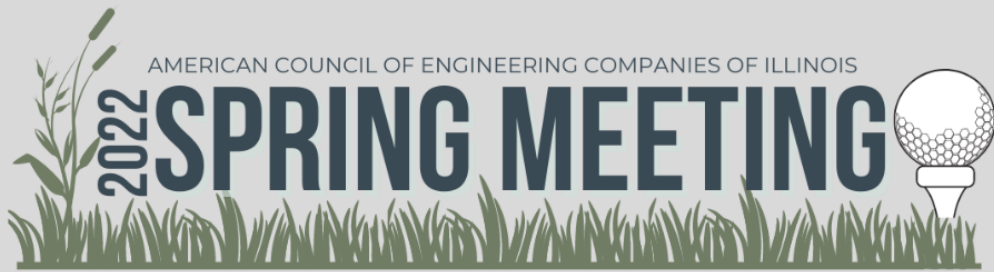
## JUNE 8TH • GOLF OUTING

Ruffled Feathers Golf Club,  
Lemont, IL

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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# LAST CALL



JUNE 8-9 | LEMONT, IL

## JUNE 9TH • SPRING MEETING

Board Meeting

Board Awards

Board Induction

Membership Award Luncheon  
with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman  
& Illinois Tollway Leadership

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



**DAY ONE**

Board Meeting  
Educational Sessions  
Membership Reception



**DAY TWO**

Educational Sessions  
Networking  
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## FURRY FRIENDS

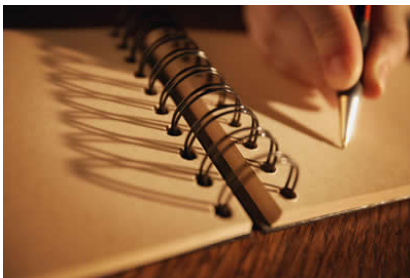
#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

**#ACECILPETS**



## 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)

2022 EEA Magazine: Find all award winners below!



ENGINEERING  
EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS 2022

2022

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
OF ILLINOIS

# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS



## RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

ACEC

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