



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2022 April NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL



Springfield Update

Competing Plans to Address Rising Gas Prices

As you know, last month [ACEC Illinois laid out its strong opposition](#) to Governor Pritzker's proposed plan to suspend the inflationary adjustment on the Motor Fuel Tax—a key component of the Rebuild Illinois funding structure.

Following intense lobbying by ACEC Illinois and other groups, new proposals are emerging that would protect the funding for Rebuild Illinois, but allow for levels of relief for consumers. Here are outlines of each proposal.

Senate Republican Proposal: Spearheaded by Senator Don DeWitte and Senator Dave Syverson, [the Senate Republican proposal](#), would keep the current inflationary adjustment but would cap the state gas sales tax at 18 cents per gallon. Senate Republicans outline that Rebuild Illinois funding projections assumed sales tax around the 18 cents per gallon, indicating that their proposal would not impact road funding for at least this year.

Senate Democrat Proposal: Part of a larger \$1.8 billion tax relief program, the [Senate Democrat proposal](#) would put a 6 month suspension of the inflationary adjustment but would backfill revenue loss for those 6 months from funds from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank fund. The inflationary adjustment would be implemented January 1. Senate Democrats believe this would not impact road funding.

Overall, we are glad to see lawmakers listen and act on our concerns of suspending the

inflationary adjustment and its impact on Rebuild Illinois funding. We will keep you posted on how these proposals advance, the legislature is scheduled to adjourn this Friday.

Design Build Advances to Governor's Desk

Advancing with near unanimous support in both the House and Senate, [SB 2981](#)—legislation authorizing IDOT and Tollway to utilize alternative delivery systems, including design build, progressive design build and CMGC is now on the Governor's desk for final approval.

Below are some of the topline on the legislation:

- Caps IDOT Design Build spend at \$400m per MYP
- Creates separate DBE goals for Design and Construction
- Protections against "bid shopping"
- Requirement for IDOT to separately procure Phase 3 services for larger projects

Procurement Reform

ACEC Illinois has been working with leadership in both the House and Senate to secure procurement law changes to allow for greater communication and knowledge transfer between consultants and agency staff. We are hopeful that some of our recommendations will be considered for a pending procurement omnibus bill. Many of the ideas developed for this package were a culmination of work done by the ACEC Illinois Business Development Committee.



Federal Update

Congress Approves IIJA Funding

In March, President Biden signed into law the \$1.5 trillion omnibus bill to fund the federal government for the rest of fiscal year 2022. The law unlocks the full 2022 increases that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorized for highway and transit programs.

With the FY22 Appropriations law in place, state DOTs, transit agencies, water utilities and other client sectors now have the confidence to move forward on both short-term and long-term infrastructure projects.

ACEC Illinois met with the Illinois Congressional delegation in early-March to advocate for quick approval of this critical funding.

U.S. Dot Announces \$2.9b in IIJA Funding For Major Infrastructure Projects

The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced \$2.9 billion of funding for major infrastructure projects now available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The funding represents three major discretionary grant programs that will be combined into one Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant opportunity.

The funding includes the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program, which was created in the new infrastructure law to fund major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs. According to a news release from U.S. DOT, the MEGA program will provide grants on a competitive basis to support multi-jurisdictional or regional projects of significance that may also include multiple modes of transportation.

Eligible projects for the MEGA project could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national and regional significance. U.S. DOT says these projects, for example, could be bridges or tunnels connecting two states or new rail and transit lines that improve equity and reduce emissions. U.S. DOT will award 50% of funding to projects greater than \$500 million in cost, and 50% to projects between \$100 million and \$500 million in cost. The program will receive up to \$1 billion this year alone and be able to provide multi-year funding to projects.

Chicago Region Eyes Mega Project Funding

From [Crain's Chicago](#): Local officials haven't disclosed which projects here they'll enter into the bidding. But reliable sources say local contenders could include reconstruction of North DuSable Lake Shore Drive, extension of the Chicago Transit Authority's Blue Line to Mannheim Road as part of reconstruction of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-90), completion of the partially funded 75th Street rail grade-separation project, and renovation of Union Station as well as the addition of a new Metra stop in the booming Fulton Market district.



Agency News **IDOT Update**

Mr. Kirk H. Brown has been appointed as the Region Five Engineer, for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Mr. Brown is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he has over 30 years of experience in transportation engineering, specifically in Region 5 at IDOT



Tollway Update

New Leadership at Illinois Tollway : Abreu appointed Chairwoman, Griffin named interim Executive Director

Governor Pritzker appoints [Dorothy Abreu as new Illinois Tollway Board Chairwoman](#). Abreu is a senior vice president at PNC Bank with over 20 years of experience in financial

services, significant public sector experience and an active track record of service to the community.

[Lanyea Griffin, P.E.](#) has been named as Illinois Tollway's Executive Director on an interim basis. Since 2018, Ms. Griffin has served as the Deputy Chief of Program Implementation. She joined the Illinois Tollway in 2013. Her background includes serving as Senior Civil Engineer at Jacobs, Project Engineer at Infrastructure Engineering, Inc. and as Civil Engineer at Bechtel Corporation. Ms. Griffin earned a B.S. in Civil/Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University.

QBS



The ACEC Research Institute released a new report "An Analysis of QBS in the Procurement Process," which definitively found that federal and state projects using QBS had lower project costs and better on-time delivery versus those selecting firms based on the cheapest bid.

Key findings in the report include:

- QBS saves money—Projects where QBS was used to procure engineering services experienced less cost growth (3 percent) versus the national average (6 percent).
- QBS saves time—QBS projects perform better in terms of project delivery time, experiencing less schedule growth versus the national average (7 percent with QBS versus 10 percent without).
- QBS produces higher levels of client satisfaction—89% of QBS projects received "high" or "very high" satisfaction ratings from project owners.
- QBS promotes innovation—Projects incorporating QBS have a greater likelihood of producing innovative solutions.

[Click here](#) to access the Institute's QBS Resource Portal and download the free report.

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



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

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



John Nelson, P.E.
Vice President
Hanson Professional Services,
Inc.

- **How long have you been in the Engineering industry?**
 - I have been in the Engineering industry for 38 years since graduating from the University of Illinois in 1984.
- **What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?**
 - Prior to joining Hanson, I had not been active in ACEC. Jim Messmore encouraged me to get involved in ACEC-IL and suggested I engage in the Government Affairs Workshop Committee, which I served a three-year term. Since then, I have served on the Illinois Department of Transportation, District One liaison committee, the Illinois Tollway liaison committee including a three-year term as chair, and the D/M/WBE committee. I was elected to the Board in 2012 and since have served as Director, Vice Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, Chair Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair. As a member of the Board, I have served on the executive, finance, membership, long range planning, nominating and ACEC/PAC committees. I currently serve as National Director.
- **What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?**
 - Advocacy for the industry. ACEC has a seat at the table to discuss important issues that impact each of our firms. Membership in ACEC allows member firms to actively engage with lawmakers and public agencies on policy issues and processes that directly affect the way we do business.
- **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**
 - Doing things and going places with my family. Jane and I have four grown children and 3 grandchildren, and they all keep us busy. I also like to get outdoors, run and hike, and play a little golf once in a while.
- **Tell us one fun fact about yourself.**
 - I have been very active with my son's Boy Scout Troop where I am an Assistant Scoutmaster. I teach a variety of merit badges and have been an advisor on canoeing treks to Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota and backpacking adventures at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



Baxter & Woodman Consulting Engineers

- **How long have you been in the engineering industry?**
 - Baxter & Woodman, Inc. celebrated our 75 year anniversary last year! In the beginning, the firm focused on providing water and wastewater treatment for municipalities out of a small 2-man office located in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Today, Baxter & Woodman has a staff of over 330 team members, with clients being served out of thirteen offices throughout IL, WI, TX and FL. Over the years, the company's service offerings have expanded. Baxter & Woodman now provides planning, design, construction and technology services for water, wastewater, stormwater and transportation facilities for municipalities, counties and state agencies and more. Environmental, geographic information systems (GIS), water and wastewater operations, and advanced technology needs complement the firm's civil engineering expertise. The company has several subsidiaries including ones focused on Natural Resources, Municipal Technology, and Design-Build project delivery.
- **What projects are you currently working on?**
 - **Reconstruction of Central Tri-State Project** – Baxter and Woodman is currently completing a Various Bridge Rehabilitation project along the Central Tri-State (I-294) for the Illinois Tollway. We were selected in 2017 as part of the \$4B reconstruction and widening of I-294 from Balmoral Avenue to 95th Street. This project will provide congestion relief to meet current and future transportation demand and address regional transportation needs.
 - **IDOT District 1 – Program Design Project Support**- Since 2015, Baxter and Woodman

has been supporting IDOT District One Bureau of Design staff as Program Manager for Phase II projects and services. This work has included cost estimating, railroad coordination, joint agreement preparation and negotiation, technical support, utility coordination, structural design, project management, and hazardous waste screening and Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment (PESA) and Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) reports.

- **City of Joliet - Water System Improvements**– Since 2016, Baxter & Woodman has been assisting the City with water system capital planning, GIS assistance, and design and construction engineering to address failing water infrastructure. The firm used the City's GIS to develop a hydraulic model of the distribution system and prioritize water system needs. Approximately 25 miles of water main were replaced in the first five years. Beginning this year, the City will replace more than 20 miles annually to significantly reduce non-revenue water losses by 2030. This program will dramatically reduce water main breaks and leaks and replace lead service lines throughout the system.
 - **What project are you most proud of?**
 - **McHenry County Division of Transportation - Randall Road Improvements**
 - Spanning one-and-a-half miles, this project encompassed the critical intersection of Randall and Algonquin Roads, a central crossroad for east-west travel. From the start, the project focused on improving traffic flow along the corridor, which bears one of the highest traffic volumes in the region, and increasing the intersection's level of service. The improvements upgraded the roadway to the latest access standards, utilized efficient lighting and signals, increased pedestrian safety and access, helped reduce accidents by providing protected turn lanes, and improved traffic flow by adding capacity.
 - First-of-its-kind triple left turn lanes were added on both legs of the intersection to manage turning movements onto Randall Road. An underpass was constructed beneath Randall Road to provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between neighborhoods, commercial areas, and Jacobs High School. Baxter & Woodman was part of the Phase I Design Team and served as the Phase III Construction Engineer. This project was awarded the ACEC-IL 2022 Engineering Excellence Honor Award and the APWA 2022 Chicago Metro Chapter Project of the Year – Transportation 25M – 75M and the APWA 2022 Chicago Metro Chapter Public Works Project Excellence Award.
 - **What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?**
 - One of the benefits of joining ACEC-IL has been strategic partnering. By connecting with other firms with like-minded interests we have increased our teaming opportunities. These strategic partnerships result in a stronger project team, allowing us to win more work and provide more comprehensive services for our clients.
 - **Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?**
 - Firms should join ACEC-IL to support the common goal of helping to promote the business interests of the state and national engineering community. The ACEC-IL member network facilitates the exchange of ideas between peers and colleagues in the engineering field. ACEC-IL also offers learning opportunities, allowing members to grow individually, as well as professionally.
-

UPCOMING EVENTS

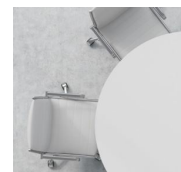
SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS

Professional Development Virtual Session:



Leading a High Performing Team

April 5, 2022 11am - 12pm

High Performing teams have purpose, meaning and foster an environment of belonging and trust. Trusting relationships are key in building a corporate culture and helping each team member achieve their career goals. This webinar will discuss how to develop high performing teams and manage teams in a hybrid environment.

Register [Here](#)



Professional Development Virtual Session: Translating Strategy Into Action

April 12, 2022 11am - 12pm

Many leaders have visions. What sets the best leaders apart is their ability to develop and advance that vision into action and results. A strategic, visionary leader is able to strike a balance between being a dreamer and an implementer and know when and how much to focus on the short term vs. the long term.

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Choose Your Own Adventure - Internal and External Entrepreneurship

April 13, 2022 12pm - 1pm

Host: Meghan Milewski, Farnsworth Group LLC
Choose Your Own Adventure - Internal and External
Entrepreneurship

Register [Here](#)



Virtual: Illinois Tollway Design & Construction Practices Workshop

April 18-22, 2022

Attendees will review 2022 updates to the standards and manuals as well as review best practices and should come prepared to bring ideas on how the Tollway can improve and innovate.

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

Register [Here](#)

Professional Development Virtual Session:



Deferred Compensation Bonus Plan

April 19, 2022 11am - 12pm

How to Keep the Good People That You Have and Attract New Talent If you are having trouble keeping your best employees and finding new employees in today's challenging job market, establishing a deferred compensation bonus plan may be an answer to your prayers. These plans can be used to incentivize your best and brightest and even set your firm apart when looking for additional talent.

Register [Here](#)



ACEC Illinois Luncheon with Senator Ram Villivalam

April 26, 2022 11:30am - 1:30pm

Location: Morretti's Rosemont
9519 West Higgins Road
Rosemont, IL 60018

Join us for a Luncheon with Senator Villivalam.

Register [Here](#)



Regional Luncheon with Capital Development Board

April 28, 2022 11:30am - 1:30pm

Location: Maggiano's Little Italy
240 Oakbrook Center
Oak Brook, IL 60523

REGISTRATION FEES:

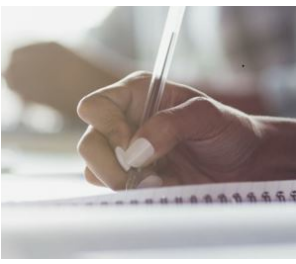
- In Person Member \$85
- In Person Non-Member \$160
- Virtual Member \$45
- Virtual Non-Member \$90

SPONSORSHIP:

- Silver: \$250 1 Ticket VIP Seating Recognition at event and on social media
- Gold: \$500 2 Tickets 2 VIP Seating Recognition at event and on social media

Join ACEC Illinois and CDB for a Regional Luncheon. We will be hearing from Executive Director Jim Underwood and Brent Lance, Administrator of Capital Planning/QBS.

Register [Here](#)



Professional Development Virtual Session: Risk Management

May 13, 2022 11am - 12pm

Loss Prevention through Better Communication Communication is the number one risk driver of non-technical claims within the Engineering Industry. Learn about ways you can mitigate this risk through effective and proactive client communication. A communication guideline, including 5 steps to better outcomes, will be shared, along with procedures to identify and address conflicts, omissions, and errors.

Register [Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE: ACEC Illinois Spring Golf Outing

June 8, 2022 10am - 5pm

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



SAVE THE DATE: Spring Meeting

June 9, 2022 9am - 1pm

- Board Meeting
 - Board Awards
 - Board Induction
 - Membership Luncheon
-



SAVE THE DATE: Fall Conference

October 5-6, 2022

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

RECORDING OF: ENGINEERING WITH LAND ACQUISITION IN MIND

About:

This virtual seminar not a webinar to teach someone how to do land acquisition, but rather a tool for engineers that might have land acquisition on their projects.

PRESENTERS:

Jeni Lyon, President/CEO, HLR Inc.
Carlos Feliciano, IDOT Programming, In-House Studies Unit Head
Kari Smith, IDOT Design, Economic Analysis Coordinator
Brian Bottomley, Owner/Senior Engineering, Way Maker
Transportation, Planning and Engineering
Chris Maloney, IDOT Land Acquisition, Area Relocation and
Property Management Supervisor
Reid Magner, Vice President, Bravo Company Engineer

Agenda:

Guidelines
Overview of Process
Acquisition Timeline
Phase 1 - ROW Determination & Consideration
Phase II - Land Acquisition Process
Examples

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$150.
3. Be emailed a 3 hour video, Q&A and PDH's



Email Bethany Rademaker at bethany@acecil.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: emily@acecil.org

NEW MEMBER



CEP Engineering, LLC
1785-G, Cortland Court
Addison, IL 60101
630-308-960-7646
www.cepcompany.com



Reach Grow Exceed Engineering
3700 South Iron Street, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60609
312-291-9106
www.rgengineering.net

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



What's a Soil Management Plan? Guide to Environmental Earthwork

Architects are interested in designing beautiful buildings. Engineers are interested in making sure the architect's beautiful buildings will remain standing. Contractors execute the plants created by the architects and engineers.

So far, I haven't told you anything new. Bear with me, we're just getting started.

Full Article [Here](#)

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Welcomes Four New Staff Members



Zayed Kiswani



John Marvig



Mick Michels



Evan Wegehaupt

Evan Wegehaupt has joined the firm as a Project Engineer in the Municipal and Construction Group. He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Northern Illinois University. His previous five years of work experience will be a benefit to the firm.

Zayed Kiswani has joined our Transportation Group as a Project Engineer. He is a recent graduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with a BS in Civil Engineering. He previously interned with both the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and the Illinois Department of Transportation, District 1.

John Marvig has joined our Transportation Group as a Project Engineer. He is a recent graduate from Iowa State with a BS in Civil Engineering. His previous intern experience with the City of Ames Department of Public Works will provide a building block for the various projects he will be working on for the firm.

Nicholas Michels has joined our Accounting Group as an Accounting Assistant. Nick holds a MS in Accounting from Aurora University and a BS in Finance from Illinois State University. He brings five years of previous accounting experience to the firm.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Announces Promotion of Matt Taylor



Matt Taylor has recently been promoted to GIS Analyst at the firm. Matt has been a valued employee for seven years. He has brought the firm's GIS capabilities to the forefront and is continuing to push us forward with this amazing technology.



State of Illinois
Capital Development Board

CONSTRUCTION OUTREACH EVENT



Join the Capital Development Board to learn more about the upcoming design-build project at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville Health Sciences Building.

April 8, 2022

from

8:30AM – 11:30AM

Morris University Center - Meridian Ballroom
60 Hairpin Drive
Edwardsville, IL 62026
Parking at Metered Lot "B"

RVSP: <https://bit.ly/3iQu288>



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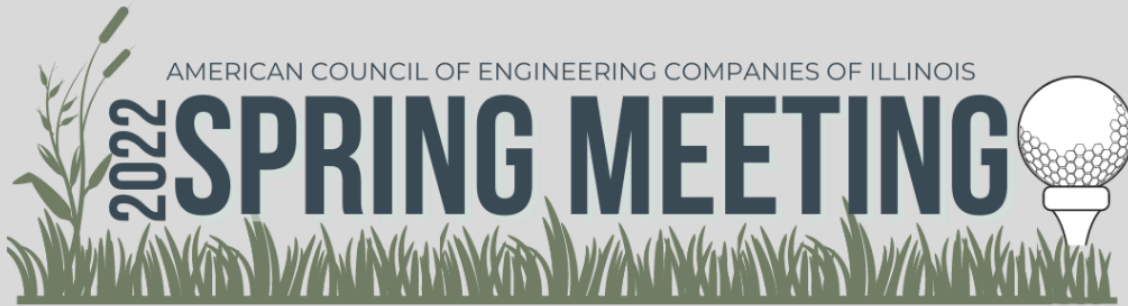
ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL
OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

2022 ANNUAL
CONVENTION
& LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

May 22-25, 2022 | Grand Hyatt Washington | Washington, D.C.



save the date



JUNE 8-9 | LEMONT, IL

JUNE 8TH • GOLF OUTING

Ruffled Feathers Golf Club,
Lemont, IL



JUNE 9TH • SPRING MEETING

Board Meeting
Board Awards
Board Induction
Membership Luncheon

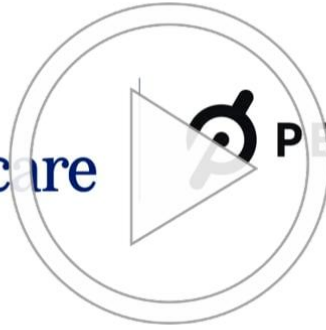
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



**2022 FALL
CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 5-6 | PEORIA, IL

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Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?



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ACEC RT.

A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

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

We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

FURRY FRIENDS

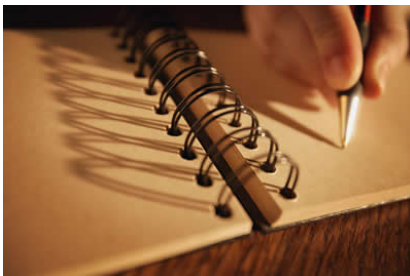
#ACECILPETS

#ACECILPETS



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

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
