



2021 May NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl

State & Federal Update

ACEC Illinois Defeats Effort to Weaken State QBS Law

Our grassroots lobbying campaign defeated a bill that would have weakened the state's QBS law.

Over the course of two weeks, our grassroots website helped generate over 2,000 messages to lawmakers asking them to oppose the legislation. Our public relations campaign garnered statewide media hits from engineers outlining the danger of weakening QBS.

As part of the effort, ACEC Illinois Board Chair Orhan Ilgaz, principal of 2IM Group had a letter published in Chicago's Daily Herald newspaper, in which he laid out the argument against the bill:

"Cutting Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) standards could result in less qualified teams designing and engineering our state's most vital public infrastructure. More than just roads, bridges and railways, public infrastructure includes the facilities that clean and treat our drinking water, the nuclear sites that produce the energy that powers our homes and businesses and the schools, senior care facilities and hospitals that care for our loved ones."

"Settling for anything less than the most qualified professionals for this important work risks the safety and dependability of our public infrastructure. HB 680 is a risk that Illinois cannot afford to take."

Due to the high-level of engagement by ACEC Illinois members in our statewide lobbying efforts, the sponsor of the bill declined to call it for a vote, and the legislation was re-referred to the House Rules Committee, all but ensuring it will not be called for a vote this year.

ACEC awarded a Minuteman Grant to the Member Organization to assist in the lobbying effort.

Electronic Signature Legislation Receives Unanimous Support

ACEC Illinois drafted legislation to ensure IDOT, Tollway and CDB continue to have the authority to accept electronic signatures was approved unanimously by the Senate. The legislation, sponsored by State Senator Ram Villivalam, now heads to the House for approval. A similar measure in the House, sponsored by State Representative Marty Moylan, also secured unanimous approval.

ACEC Illinois and TFIC Beginning to Focus on State Budget

ACEC Illinois joins with TFIC in proposing that a small portion of the \$7.5 billion COVID relief funding from the federal government be used to replace the \$224 million in transportation spending cuts proposed by the Governor in his February budget address. Specifically, we ask the General Assembly to honor its commitments to transportation investment made as part of the 2019 Rebuild Illinois program negotiation and:

- Honor the Rebuild Illinois plan to move sales taxes on motor fuel into the Transportation Renewal Fund (\$72 million)
- Continue to support transit operations through General Revenue Funds, rather than the Road Fund (\$100 million)
- Eliminate the 90% proration of the State's commitment to the Regional Transportation Authority (\$52 million)

ACEC Illinois will join the TFIC lobbying effort to ensure the final budget reflects the legislative commitment to the Rebuild Illinois Capital Program.



ACEC Illinois Board Meets with Congresswoman Marie Newman

ACEC Illinois' Board met with Freshman Cong. Marie Newman and discussed the track of a national infrastructure bill along with PPP fixes. Cong. Newman serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the House Small Business Committee. In terms of a national infrastructure bill, Cong. Newman believed the legislation would go to mark-up this month (May) and could ultimately head to the Senate by the July 4 holiday.

As for a PPP fix, Cong. Newman is working with colleagues to develop options for a full-waiver, she was sympathetic to the position the engineering industry is placed in regards to PPP and will continue to work with us for a solution.



U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg Calls for Passage of Infrastructure Bill by Memorial Day

Addressing the ACEC Annual Convention this morning, U.S. Transportation Secretary said passing a comprehensive infrastructure package this year is "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity." He called on Congress to put together and pass legislation by Memorial Day.

Calling himself an "infrastructure enthusiast," Buttigieg said we are "in a perfect storm...of demonstrated need, bipartisan support among the people, leadership in Washington, and a climate

that is calling on us to act.”

He said the \$2.25 trillion American Jobs Plan isn't “just proposing to build back to where we were in 2019. This is about looking ahead to the next 50 years. Climate change and equity and built into every part of this plan.”

Buttigieg stressed that there is enormous bipartisan support among the American people for robust infrastructure investment, and said he was enthused by the Senate Republicans' \$568 billion infrastructure proposal.

“If there is any area for bipartisan cooperation on Capitol Hill, this has to be it,” he said. “We have a counterproposal on the table and now we're off to the races with negotiations.”

Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Talks Heat Up in Senate

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin continues to push for a bipartisan approach to infrastructure investment, making it difficult for the Democrats to push through their version of infrastructure investment. Manchin and a group of other senators are quietly developing a proposal that is more limited than that put forth by President Biden. The more limited proposal would focus on roads, bridges, railways and broadband. [More on that here.](#)

Data Dump

[TRIP](#), a private nonprofit organization that researches, evaluates and distributes economic and technical data on surface transportation issues, recently published its national and [state-by-state analysis](#) of key facts about our transportation system and federal funding. Visit the [Illinois page](#), or download [Key Facts About Illinois' Surface Transportation System And Federal Funding](#)

ACEC National Releases Fact Papers on PPP and National Infrastructure.

[Click here for PPP.](#) [Click here for National Infrastructure.](#)

Industry Updates

IDOT PPP Update

There is no doubt that we have all been frustrated by the lack of progress at the Federal level to provide a complete, national fix to this problem. However, our conversations at the State level have been constructive and collaborative. ACEC IL has had continuous, productive meetings with IDOT on the issue of PPP and the application of the FAR Credit Clause.

Given that PPP loans were a Federal program, ACEC IL held the position that if the FAR Credit Clause were to apply to any contracts, it should be limited to those that utilized Federal dollars. In addition, subsequent guidance issued by the FHWA only referenced Federally-funded contracts as subject to FAR Credit Clause.

As a result of these continued, collaborative discussions with IDOT, they have agreed to limit the scope of the FAR Credit Clause to only Federally-Funded Engineering Contracts.

IDOT's decision closely mirrors FHWA guidance and significantly limits the scope of IDOT contracts subject to the FAR Credit Clause. For instance, in looking at the 268 IDOT engineering projects advertised from 2018-2019, only 38% were likely funded with Federal dollars.

We will continue to work for a complete waiver at the Congressional level, but we do believe IDOT, given their current constraints and FHWA guidance, has developed a fair, reasonable and equitable approach to the PPP/FAR Credit Clause issue for Illinois firms.

Moving forward, IDOT will be in consult with ACEC IL about implementation guidance and once that is finalized, we will share that with you. Also, while it is not the official list, if you want to determine which engineering contracts may have had Federal funding, visit the specific job advertisement on [IDOT's PTB page](#). If the job description lists that “*This project may contain Federal Funds*” there is a great likelihood it did have Federal funds.

To read the entire PPP/IDOT Memo to ACEC IL Members, [click here](#).

Karen Rogulja Appointed

IDOT Acting Secretary Omer Osman today announced that Karen Rogulja, AICP was appointed as the Bureau Chief of Transit Capital in the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, effective April 16. Ms. Rogulja received her master's degree in Urban Planning and Policy from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She brings more than 10 years of experience in grants management and program management, and most recently served at the City of Chicago Department of Transportation.



Tollway I-490 Update

ACEC Illinois joined Tollway leadership and Cong. Raja Krishnamoorthi for an I-490 briefing and tour.

ABC Ch-7 covered the event, here's a highlight of their coverage

"That's a big deal because we are finally allowing people to connect from I-90 all the way down to the southern suburbs without having to go through the airport corridor, and that's going to help in a lot of ways. It's going to save congestion, it's going to save fuel, it's going to save money," said Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi of the 8th District.

Local leaders got a tour of the I-490 progress Thursday, including the large amount of work that got done in the past year during the stay-at-home mandates and social distancing.

There will be 15 ramps that make up the I-490 and Route 390 Interchange.

Along with the progress being made at the I-490/Route 390 Interchange, there is also construction in place at the I-490 Interchange with I-90, the Jane Addams Tollway and at the former site of the old Des Plaines Oasis.

There are several years to go until the new corridor is complete. The ramps will open first. While the project will make it easier to access O'Hare, there are also benefits to the surrounding suburbs.

"This project is going to provide significant congestion relief. I mean there's 86% of the roads in this area are considered congestion, that they experience severe congestion. This project is going to relieve a lot of that," Illinois Tollway Acting Chief Engineering Officer Manar Nashif said.

The project also includes local road improvements and wide-reaching economic development that is expected when it is completed. It is scheduled for completion in 2026.

Finally, Recognitions Well-Deserved



Congratulations to ACEC Illinois Members Ama Addai (Ardmore Roderick), Stacie Dovalovsky (Primera Engineers), Kerry Nutter (Program Management & Controls Services Consulting) and Mae Whiteside (CKL) for being recognized by [Crain's Chicago in their list of 2021 Notable Women in Construction and Design.](#)



Ama Addai
Director, Site Development & Utilities
Ardmore Roderick



Stacie Dovalovsky
Vice president, Transportation Division Manager
Primera Engineers



Kerry Nutter
Founder and President
Program Management & Controls Services Consulting



Mae C. Whiteside
CEO
CKL Engineers



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Laura McGovern, PE
Alfred, Benesch & Company

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

I graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign with my undergrad in Civil Engineering in 1986. I started right out of school with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly. I finished my Masters in Business Administration at NIU in 1995. (while working full time). I have worked continually in the industry since 1986, with the past 15 years at Alfred Benesch & Company. I now serve as Executive Vice President and Chief Process and Innovation Officer, a role I truly enjoy.

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

I started out as a committee member on the MWRD committee and the Public Transit committee in the early 1990's. I then served on several other committees including Awards, IDOT and Tollway. Then I moved over to the Chicago Agencies committee, eventually becoming Chair of that committee. I have served on the ACEC IL Board since 2017, spending the first two years as Director and currently serve two roles - as

Vice Chair for the organization and chair of the new Innovations Committee.

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

To create a combined strength for our industry. ACEC is a great organization that helps bring together the consulting community to achieve our common goals. It provides our members with a unified voice to reach out to our clients to continually improve our working relationships, as well as a collective voice with legislative leaders to help drive our need for increased funding and business friendly legislative actions. With today's challenging funding climate, ACEC - IL has done an outstanding job of developing momentum in working with legislators to achieve a sustained level of funding.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In my spare time (during the warmer months) you can find me boating on Lake Michigan. I bought my first boat in 1989. It was a small speed boat that went 50 miles per hour, and I fell in love. I also love to travel and have been to many countries, making sure to spend some time on the water wherever we go. I love plays and concerts, as well as reading great books.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

My original career goal was to be a prima ballerina. I attended U of I, splitting time between Engineering classes and dance rehearsals. Engineering was somewhat of a back up plan for me. Somewhere in there, I realized engineering was a far better career choice, and here I am today!

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Synnov Group, Inc.



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

9 years. Collectively our partners have over 40 years of experience in the industry.

What projects are you currently working on?

Our group of professionals provide cost and schedule controls for program and construction management and general engineering consulting in Illinois and Indiana for aviation, transportation, healthcare, education, and commercial building projects.

What project are you most proud of?

All our projects are noteworthy, but if we had to pick one it would be the Obama Presidential Center. Located at Jackson Park on the Southside of the City of Chicago, this project will provide an open gathering space that will serve as an economic catalyst for residents of the Southside. We are proud to provide our services since 2012 in the public and private sector while promoting a culture of synergy between our clients and employees as we collaborate in shaping the communities we serve.

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

ACEC Illinois successfully advocates for Illinois firms while staying at the forefront of issues the industry is facing. We've worked closely with leadership on identifying challenges and issues that not only our firm is affected by but also future firms. ACEC is not afraid to roll up their sleeves to get the job done.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

Joining ACEC is critical for firms in keeping up to date with the latest knowledge and practices locally and nationally. ACEC Illinois is an innovative forward-thinking organization, which we all can benefit from.

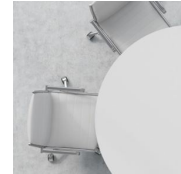
save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Webinar: Getting Back to Normal: In depth IVP Presentation

IVP is a revolutionary new product that will allow everyone to get back to normal. It is a FDA-approved proprietary Biodefense Indoor Air Protection System™. IVP is the ONLY product scientifically proven to destroy 99.999% of live SARS-CoV-2 (Covid), 99.98% of anthrax spores, and other airborne pathogens instantaneously. IVPs products were tested and verified by industry leaders like Argonne National Laboratory, MIT and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station.

May 5, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am

Details & Registration: [Here](#)

*Complimentary to all ACEC Illinois members.



IDOT Phase 1 Training

Course objectives: To develop a better understanding and practical application of Phase 1, including, but not limited to: - Basics of NEPA - Determining “Purpose” and “Need” - Engineering and environmental studies - The Environmental Survey Request (ESR) - Public Involvement - Reference the use of BDE & BLR Manuals

May 17, 2021-May 20, 2021 from 10:00am-11:00am

Details & Registration: [Here](#)



Coffee with Colleagues

Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. - Grab your cup of coffee - Join the meeting - Start as a group, 30minute breakout, and then rejoin to share ideas

May 18, 2021 from 9:00am-9:45am

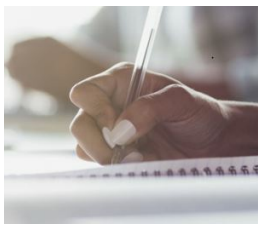
Details & Registration: [Here](#)



Board Meeting

Registration coming soon!

June 23, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm



SAVE THE DATE: ACEC Illinois Golf Outing

Registration coming soon!

June 23, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

Please contact Amanda Johnson, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details: amanda@acecil.org

MEMBER UPDATES:

Paul Kovacs, PE Joins Bowman Team as Key Leader in Chicago

Bowman is pleased to announce that Paul Kovacs, PE is joining Bowman as a principal, civil engineer, and key leader for the Lisle and Chicago, IL offices. He will play an integral role in providing insights into prospective clients' needs and expectations, building partnerships with other project stakeholders, and developing successful strategies for Bowman's pursuit of infrastructure projects, not only in the Chicago area, but nationwide.



For full article, click [here](#)



Paul Loete Joins Lochner

Paul Loete, PE, joined Lochner as Vice President and Illinois Area Manager responsible for leading market growth initiatives and overseeing the operation of the firm's statewide design and CEI practices. As a prior Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Chief Engineer and Director of Highway Project Implementation, Paul brings extensive project programming, funding, delivery, and assessment experience. He played a key role in the development of the \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan, the largest transportation program in the state's history, and is excited to deliver on the program's objectives in partnership with IDOT, the Illinois Tollway Authority, the Chicago Department of Transportation, local municipalities, and transit agencies.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



Czaplicki Lopez, PLLC
 210 Kenmare Dr.
 Burr Ridge, IL 60527
 630-915-8861
 www.czaplickilopez.com



AW Engineering, PLLC.
 1755 Park St. #200
 Naperville, IL 60563
 331-231-2053
 www.awengineering.com

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:

Bentley Systems Incorporated
 685 Stockton Dr.
 Exton, PA 19341
 1-800-236-8539
 www.bentley.com



**ACEC ILLINOIS
 SPRING PAC RAFFLE**

\$50.00/TICKET

ALL CONTRIBUTORS WILL
 RECIEVE AN ACEC ILLINOIS
 100TH ANNIVERSARY COASTER

WINNER RECEIVES:
 \$100 AMAZON GIFT CARD

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

\$100

100
 ACEC
 AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
 of Illinois

ACEC Spring PAC Raffle

\$50.00/Ticket

ALL CONTRIBUTORS WILL RECIEVE AN
 ACEC IL 100TH ANNIVERSARY COASTER

Donate by: Monday, May 31, 2021

Overall Raffle Winner Receives: \$100
 Amazon Gift Card

Contribute here:
[Illinois Spring PAC Raffle \(aristotle.com\)](http://aristotle.com)

ACEC Illinois 100th Anniversary Poster

This year ACEC Illinois celebrates its **100th Year Anniversary.**

When looking back at the engineering accomplishments of the
 last 100 years in Illinois, there is quite a bit to be proud of.

To commemorate our Centennial Anniversary, we commissioned

an Illinois artist to design a print exclusively for ACEC Illinois, to highlight and celebrate the diversity of innovation and excellence that our association and industry is known for.

Please click the link below to purchase a 100th anniversary poster for your office!

<https://www.cvent.com/d/vjqt69>



ACEC national members are eligible to join the specialty groups known as ACEC Coalitions — dedicated communities of ACEC members organized by practice area or firm size. The coalitions provide a range of practical, day-to-day resources to enhance the operation of your business and make it more profitable by sharing knowledge and best practices with peers in your area of specialization.

- Coalition of American Mechanical and Electrical Engineers (CAMEE)
- Coalition of American Structural Engineers (CASE)
- Coalition of Professional Surveyors (COPS)
- Design Professionals Coalition (DPC)
- Geoprofessional Coalition (GEO)
- Land Development Coalition (LDC)
- Small Firm Council (SFC)

Visit <https://www.acec.org/coalitions/> for more information.



Performance-Based Incentive Compensation Plans: Rewarding, Retaining and Recruiting Top Talent

by Scott Sutton, CPA, CDA, MSA

One of the most effective financial power tools and certainly best practice concepts is the use of a performance-based incentive plan. Many owners are looking for that key ingredient to maximize their company's success. We always hear owners say that their employees are the company's most important asset, and nowhere is this truer than in the modern engineering and design firm. For full article, click [HERE](#)

Blues OR Bliss??

Did your health insurance renewal give you the blues?
Were you presented:

- alternate carriers or alternate networks within the same carrier for savings opportunities?
- a reduction in medical spend by bundling other lines of coverage?
- alternate funding solutions

Far too often, brokers wait until the renewal to analyze these items and the result is that it doesn't leave a whole lot of time to actually make changes. If you are looking for a partner the entire year and not just at renewal, please give us a call.

Dan Daley:
630.737.9358 | ddaley@GoCGO.com



Does your retirement plan suffer from faulty construction?

FIND OUT



A RETIREMENT PLAN FOR ENGINEERS. BY ENGINEERS

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



Join ACEC Illinois members the third Tuesday of every month for networking. Grab your cup of coffee, join the meeting, and then be ready for a 30-45min breakout group.



COFFEE WITH COLLEAGUES

Third Tuesday of the Month
at 9:00am



Join us for a
Virtual Coffee Break!



[REGISTER HERE](#)

FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100th Anniversary

Be on the lookout for some
exciting announcements and
reflections throughout the year.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

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
