



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2022 October
NEWSLETTER:
THE CONNECTOR



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL



ACEC Illinois Participates in Governor's Infrastructure Meeting

Governor Pritzker's policy team asked ACEC IL to participate in an infrastructure stakeholder meeting last week. During the policy meeting, ACEC IL outlined key issues including workforce challenges, program delivery and the continuity and stability of funding streams for infrastructure.

In addition, ACEC IL has been appointed to serve on the legislature's procurement task force to develop ways to enhance knowledge transfer between the consultant community and state agencies while also streamlining the procurement process.

FHWA Approves IDOT EV Plan



The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that the Federal Highway Administration has approved its plan to build a reliable electric vehicle charging network throughout the state. The State of Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan addresses potential challenges and proposes locations for charging stations to ensure motorists can confidently traverse the state in electric vehicles.

Illinois' plan provides a framework for implementing the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, a provision of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Illinois will receive more than \$148 million in federal funding from

NEVI over the next five years to build out a network of public EV charging stations across the state.

In accordance with NEVI requirements, funding will be used to build EV charging stations at least every 50 miles along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. The stations will be located no more than one mile off the designated corridor and will allow four average-range vehicles to fully charge at once in less than 30 minutes. Preliminary estimates indicate a need for a minimum of 20 stations. A map of proposed sites is included in the [Illinois Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan](#).

As a next step in implementing the EV Infrastructure plan, IDOT is developing a Request for Information to gather information from potential vendors of equipment and host sites for EV chargers.

Finally, IDOT will be hosting stakeholder meetings throughout the remainder of 2022. These meetings will be open to the public where people can learn more about the program and provide feedback. More detail on these meetings will become available as they are scheduled. Recording of previously held public meetings can be found on [IDOT's website](#).



Secretary Osman Profiled in Peoria Magazine: "Epitome of the American Dream"

"So what do you get when you cross Sudanese pride with a Midwestern humility and work ethic?"

Why, you get Illinois' 13th transportation secretary, that's what, as well as the first Peorian to occupy that position, the first person of color, and just the third IDOT lifer to rise to the top."

Read the entire article [here](#).

CTA Ridership Rebounds to Pre-Pandemic Levels

CTA announced this week that ridership has hit its highest levels since the pandemic. Weekday ridership has been above 900,000 trips (compared with about 1.6M pre-pandemic, but up 10% over last year). Downtown ridership has doubled over last year. [More](#)

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

ACEC Illinois Honors Governor Pritzker with Champion of Infrastructure Award



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jeffery Ball
President and Chief Operating Officer



How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

I have been in the engineering industry for 31 years. I began working at Hanson Engineers Inc., now Hanson Professional Services Inc., in 1991 following my graduation from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Prior to graduating, I worked two summer internships with the Illinois Division of Water Resources' Bureau of Planning.

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

At one point I was the longest serving member of the Illinois Department of Transportation Central Office Liaison Committee and served one term as its Chair. Following my time on the IDOT Committee, I served on the Consultant Compensation Working Group which collaborated with IDOT to resolve contracting issues faced by our industry.

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

To share a common voice. We are much more powerful when we speak in unison.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I have a LOT of interests. I grew up in an autobody repair shop where my dad built custom cars, so I enjoy working with my hands. My newest interest is in hobby machining, and I recently became the custodian of a vintage 1929 South Bend Junior 9 metal lathe. Other interests include reading sci-fi, fantasy and reformed theology books, backcountry backpacking, and miniature terrain modeling. I'm also a gamer. Both Xbox and old-school tabletop gaming/RPGs like D&D. Unfortunately, I spend most weekends doing yardwork. I live in the country surrounded by timber where there is always grass to mow, wood to cut, and wildlife to deal with.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

With a few exceptions, I have a copy of almost every book I have ever read. I could easily go online and buy the few that I am missing but that would take the fun out of scouring used bookstores for them. The most elusive to date –

Conrad: The Factory-Made Boy by Christine Nostlinger. I read it in the 5th grade.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Parsons was established as the Ralph M. Parsons Company in Pasadena, California in 1944. However, the firm purchased Deleuw Cather & Company in 1979 – a firm that had been in Illinois since 1919, so you really can say we have been serving the Illinois market for more than 100 years!

What projects are you currently working on?

We have a diverse portfolio in Illinois that includes CDOT, Tollway, County and IDOT work as well as projects for several Class I railroads. In Illinois, Parsons is currently delivering CREATE projects such as 95th St Grade Separation (GS21a), P3/GS19 Grade Separation, and will soon start EW2. We are also designing several IDOT major river crossings such as the Florence Bridge, Illinois 18 Illinois River Crossing, and the I-80 Mississippi River Crossing.

What project are you most proud of?

Projects are much like your children, you love and are proud of all of them! However, one recent project that comes immediately to mind is the US 52/IL 64 Bridge over the Mississippi River -- connecting Savanna, Illinois and Sabula, Iowa. The project replaced an 85 year-old truss bridge with a beautiful tied-arch structure, not only enhancing connectivity and safety but also serving as a real source of pride for the communities.

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

We always say that this is a relationship business, and that is what ACEC-IL is about: relationships. The connections we have formed with other firms – large and small – as well as the access ACEC-IL provides member firms to coordinate and collaborate with clients on our industry’s most important issues are invaluable.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

Relationships, connections, and the chance to make a meaningful impact on the industry we all love are the reasons that firms should not only join, but actively engage with ACEC-IL!

AFFILIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT





Kim Morreale, Founder and CEO of Morreale Communications, with elected officials at the Cook County Lake Cook Road Reconstruction Project Ribbon Cutting.

What does your business do?

Morreale Communications has grown to be one of the largest woman-owned public relations firm in Illinois with specialty business lines in Transportation, Infrastructure & Mobility, Energy & Utilities, Health & Wellness and Public Affairs. Kim Morreale founded Morreale Communications in 2006 after identifying the need for a strategic and targeted approach to shaping policy outcomes and business initiatives. We have built an award-winning workforce that includes a 100% female and minority executive leadership team and an 86% female and minority workforce which has helped to attract top talent, retain our current workforce, and provide value to clients by offering diverse perspectives and backgrounds to every project we touch.

As a certified WBE/BEP, Morreale brings unrivaled experience at all levels of media, government, business, and politics. We deliver fully integrated communications solutions that empower clients, activate their voices, and engage audiences to transform outcomes.

Our core capabilities include strategic message development and storytelling; branding and creative strategy; stakeholder engagement; digital and social communications; diversity, equity, and inclusion; policy strategy; and media relations.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

As a firm, Morreale brings 16 years of industry experience, so we have grown to become trusted partners and advisors for a variety of clients in the public and private sector. With a powerhouse team of 32, we are a full-service public relations firm that is big enough to lead strategy on complex projects, yet small enough to provide individualized attention. Working with us, you have access to top talent from diverse backgrounds including state and local government, transportation agencies, planning organizations, Illinois General Assembly, and media. Our out-of-the-box approach considers each project uniquely and we build a customized approach to meet the project's individual needs. We don't just execute award winning campaigns for our clients, we will work with you from the beginning to establish goals and objectives that deliver measurable results with impact.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

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What is your business's motto?

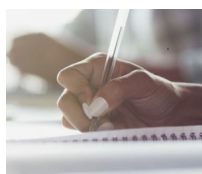
Morreale Communications motto is – "Our power is in our people." Our team is composed of a diverse team of experts that create customized solutions to shape perception, build momentum and ignite change. Having served on the frontlines in media, government, business and politics, our team shares a commitment to going above and beyond for superior project outcomes. These outcomes are made possible, in large part, by a transparent and exemplary team. Our strength comes from within, as we champion our internal expertise to amplify our clients' value to the people who matter most, through our unrivaled experience at all levels of strategic development, crisis communications, policy, and executive positioning.

UPCOMING EVENTS

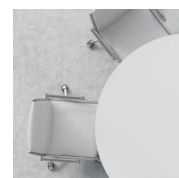
SAVE THE DATE



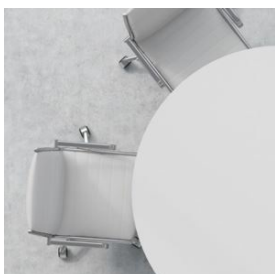
ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



ACEC Illinois Fall Conference

October 5-6, 2022

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

Register: Walkup Registration
[2022 ACEC IL Fall Conference AGENDA](#)

VIRTUAL: BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

HOSTED BY:

ACEC
Illinois

PRESENTED BY:



Illinois Department
of Transportation

PRESENTER:



Carlos A. Feliciano, P.E.

In-House Studies Unit Head / ADA & Bicycle Coordinator

This presentation includes a summary of IDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations policy. The training will go into detail on policies, warrants, design considerations and proper documentation practices for inclusion of active transportation facilities in State led roadway improvements in compliance with IDOT's Complete Streets policy.

To request a recording of:

1. Email bethany@acecil.org
2. Be emailed an invoice for \$45.
3. Then, you will be emailed a video recording and PDH.

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 Aquisition, 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 and PDH's



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Understanding the Illinois Site Remediation Program



SRP is the industry abbreviation in Illinois for "Site Remediation Program" which refers to a body of law and regulation pertaining to contaminated properties. It describes a regulatory program where a landowner can voluntarily investigate and/or remediate their property to receive a NFR (**No Further Remediation**) letter. The Illinois EPA is authorized to issue No Further Remediation (NFR) letters to the Remedial Applicants who have successfully demonstrated, through proper investigation and, when warranted, remedial action, that environmental conditions at their remediation site do not present a significant risk to human health or the environment. The NFR letter signifies a release from further responsibilities under the Illinois Environmental Protection Act.

[Full Article Here](#)



Specifying Materials: Dealing with A Changing World

Design professionals can provide added value to their clients by recommending and specifying materials and systems that enhance a project's utility and performance. It's up to design firms to remain current with their knowledge of the latest project materials and components so that they can make informed decisions regarding their specifications and achieve client objectives.

Today, it seems that building materials and mechanical systems are front and center when it comes to critical paths for getting projects completed on time and within budget.

First, there is the issue of supply chain delays and failures. Accurate scheduling has become nearly impossible for receiving some materials, equipment and supplies. Delays in the delivery of critical components are commonplace. It now routinely takes months, and sometimes a year or more, to get materials, equipment and systems delivered to the jobsite, especially those coming from China and other Far East nations.

[Full Article Here](#)



Oates Associates CEO Joseph Hagerty to Retire

COLLINSVILLE (September 12, 2022) – After three decades of leadership, Joseph Hagerty, current chief executive officer of Oates Associates, Inc., is retiring at the end of 2022.

Hagerty began with Oates Associates in 1991 as controller where he soon transitioned to vice president and then CEO. With his leadership and guidance, the firm has earned many accolades and has seen unprecedented growth. Oates Associates is now a 60-person firm with four offices that work collaboratively with transportation and facility clients. With Hagerty's focus on the advancement of engineering through employee development and client satisfaction, the firm has been bestowed such honors as Best Engineering Firm from St. Louis Small Business Monthly, Employer of the Year from Women's Transportation Seminar, received the Private Practice Professional Development Award from the National Society of Professional Engineers and has been consecutively ranked as one of St. Louis' largest engineering firms by the St. Louis Business Journal.

"Joe has been an extreme asset to our firm, not only providing expertise in business operations but also being able to provide a full understanding of the engineering profession. This unique combination of skills minimized risk and protected our firm, made us profitable and allowed us to expand into other markets and grow with confidence," said President Bruce Schopp.

"I am proud of the firm we have built," said Hagerty. He went on to say, "We have fostered good and meaningful careers for staff, provided solid advice and impactful solutions to clients, and we have designed projects that have improved the communities where we live and work. Engineering is truly a higher calling and I have been privileged to work with some brilliant engineers throughout the years. Several individuals have been with the firm for most of their career and have developed strong leadership skills,

which has helped guide this transition.”

Schopp was appointed President in 2010 and will continue within that role alongside Jeffrey Rensing, who has been named Chief Executive Officer, effective January 2, 2023. Working closely with Rensing and Schopp will be firm principals Michael Busch, Thomas Cissell and Steven Keil.

Oates Associates is a multi-disciplined design firm with offices in Collinsville and Belleville, Illinois and St. Louis and St. Charles, Missouri. Oates provides engineering and surveying services for transportation and building projects. Specifically, this includes transportation and traffic engineering, ADA transition planning, stormwater management, site design, building and bridge structural design and inspections, surveying and drone operations. For more information, visit www.oatesassociates.com or call 618.345.2200.



Inflation’s Impact on 2023 Open Enrollment

Many employees are currently feeling financially strained because of inflation. With open enrollment fast approaching, inflation could impact the choices employees make when it comes to their benefits. Employees are likely considering which benefits matter the most and how to optimize the money they spend on those offerings. As a result, this year’s open enrollment may be more challenging than usual for employers and benefits providers.

In addition, 40% of employees reported that they will cut back on the benefits they select during 2023’s open enrollment because of inflation, with younger workers being more likely to scale back their benefits than older workers. Axion is helping clients find ways to reduce costs while offering more choices to employees.

Over the upcoming weeks, the Axion team is meeting with IL-based employers to share strategies to shift the direction of the healthcare marketplace and improve business operations. Please reach out to your fellow ACEC IL member for a complimentary benefits plan review, including cost reduction recommendations and cost-neutral additions to improve perks.

ENGINEERING

ENTERPRISES, INC. ANNOUNCES ONE NEWLY LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce that **Jake Seger** from Sugar Grove, Illinois has passed the Professional Engineer (PE) exam and has earned the title of Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois.

Seger is a graduate from Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois with a BS in Civil Engineering. He has extensive IDOT training and certifications and is also a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) from the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association of State Floodplain Managers.

With his PE licensure, **Seger** joins 22 other licensed professional engineers at EEI. In addition, he has also been promoted to a *Senior Project Engineer I* within the organization.

The PE license is the engineering profession's highest standard of competence, regulated by the State in the interest of supporting integrity within the profession and public safety. It is a symbol of achievement and assurance of quality.

About Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), founded in 1974, is an award-winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Over 55 experienced firm members including licensed professional civil engineers, land surveyors, and support team members provide a full range of services for planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects, funding assistance and municipal consulting. Our core values guide our staff on every project from initiation through completion keeping us committed to quality, service, and value for our clients. By offering outstanding service to every client every day we are able to assist with bettering the communities in which we serve. For additional information visit our website at www.eeiweb.com.

The Economic Update for September 2022



[LISTEN HERE](#)

Podcasting from the 2022 Fall HR Forum: The Workforce Crunch



[LISTEN HERE](#)



[Full Magazine Here](#)

Check out more events, like the **Regional Luncheon with Illinois Tollway and Executive Director Cassandra Rouse:**



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Photo Gallery



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



FURRY FRIENDS

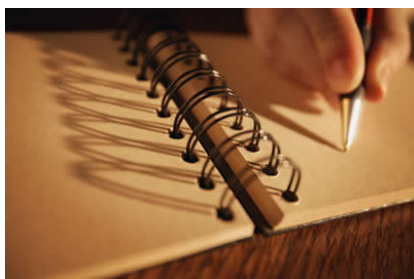
#ACECILPETS



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

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

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