

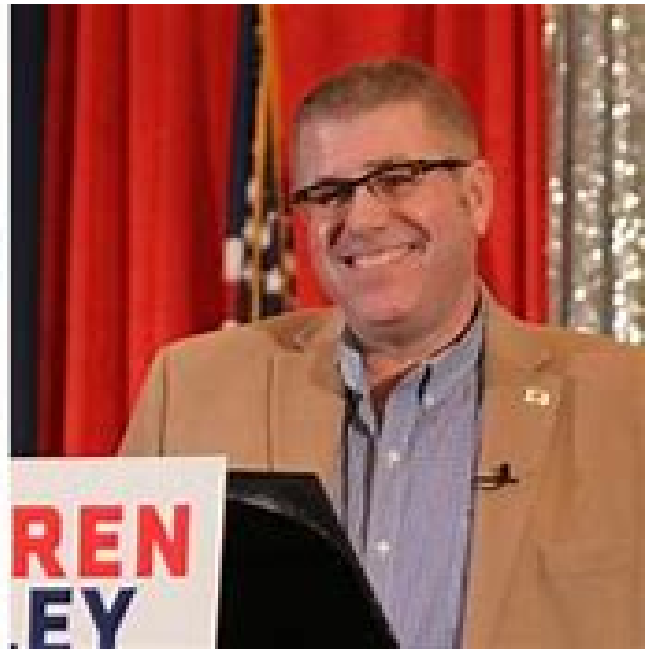
**ACEC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Illinois*

2022 July  
NEWSLETTER:  
**THE CONNECTOR**



## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL



**Primaries Set General Election Stage: Bailey vs. Pritzker**  
*Moderate candidates for both parties had tough primary election day*

In Illinois' first-ever June primary, candidates who campaigned and/or governed in the

center found it challenging to win over their party's voters.

Voters in the Republican primary nominated **Darren Bailey** for Governor, while Republican incumbent **Congressman Rodney Davis** lost his primary election to fellow member of Congress **Mary Miller**. In addition, Republican State House members and Rebuild Illinois supporters **David Welter** and **Mark Luff** also lost primary elections.

Voters in the Democrat primary supported Congressman **Sean Casten** over fellow member of Congress **Marie Newman**. In a new congressional seat, Democrat voters selected State Rep. **Delia Ramirez** over long-time industry supporter and current City of Chicago Alderman **Gil Villegas**. In the State House, Democrat State Representatives who supported Rebuild Illinois were defeated in their primaries, including Rep. **Mike Zalewski**, Rep. **Kathleen Willis** and Rep. **Denyse Stoneback**.

Also defeated in this wave against centrists, was ACEC-IL member **Sam Kukadia** in his efforts to secure the Democrat nomination for Cook County Commissioner.

**What does this mean for November?** Republican Darren Bailey campaigned hard against the Rebuild Illinois funding mechanisms. we can expect a lot of rhetoric challenging investment in infrastructure and predictably calls to roll it back in his campaign to unseat incumbent JB Pritzker.



## Strike Begins to Slow Work

The **Operating Engineers Local 150** strike against three material companies has now entered its fifth week. The estimated 300 employees who have gone on strike has created a ripple effect across the industry as other unions have joined with OE 150 in the strike and work stoppage, creating a statewide lack of supply of aggregates, slowing and or stopping work especially in the Chicago-metro region.

According to an **Illinois Roadbuilder** survey, if the strike continues beyond July 4, one-third of respondents will not be able to complete ongoing jobs by the end of the construction season, while another 53 percent are unsure if they will be able to complete those jobs.

Last week, **IDOT** sent letters to the three firms stating that “the Illinois Department of Transportation has no choice but to act in the best interests of the state and our taxpayers. This includes the possibilities of suspending awards from the June letting and revisiting whether to go forward with the upcoming July letting.” IDOT also added “the department reserves the right to explore using alternative mix designs to ensure the continuity of our projects. The department will not bear any responsibility or cost for increased expenses experienced because of the strike.”

To view the IDOT letter sent to all three firms, [click here](#). CDOT also sent letters to the three material firms, [click here](#).

There had been discussions of a possible General Assembly Special Session where legislative action could be considered to require prevailing wage for this classification of worker, but the Governor indicated yesterday that a Special Session is not imminent.

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# Gov. Pritzker Signs Legislation to Modernize Infrastructure Improvement Process

## Governor's Announcement



Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law legislation allowing for the implementation of design-build project delivery, an efficient, alternative method for completing the state's infrastructure improvements.

[Senate Bill 2981](#) creates the Innovations for

Transportation Infrastructure Act, authorizing the

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Tollway Authority to adopt the use of the design-build delivery method on highway construction projects. IDOT currently utilizes the design-bid-build project delivery method in which the department designs a construction plan, then reviews bids from contractors. Design-build would create a more efficient process, allowing a single contractor to handle both design and construction of the project. Any projects that adopt this method would be capped at a combined total of \$400 million.

"Illinoisans deserve modernized infrastructure on a timely basis," said **Governor JB Pritzker**. "A design-build delivery method won't just save taxpayers money—it will streamline our construction process and deliver the infrastructure improvements that our state requires. With this legislation, our Rebuild Illinois investment plan will be expedited in a time-efficient, cost-effective, and equity-based manner. I am proud to sign this bipartisan bill into law thanks to our legislative partners' foresight and advocacy."

"Streamlining the implementation of infrastructure projects will save taxpayer dollars and rebuild our roads, bridges and mass transit systems in a transparent and equitable manner," said **State Senator Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago)**. "Finding alternative ways to deliver on the Rebuild Illinois capital plan remains a top priority for me as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee."

"Providing IDOT and the Tollway the authority to utilize alternative delivery methods like design-build will responsibly expedite construction projects, with the goal of producing more jobs for Illinois workers and shorter construction times for Illinois commuters and businesses," said **Kevin Arlt, President and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois**. "ACEC-IL and its members are proud to have championed SB2891 and applaud the General Assembly and Governor Pritzker for their great work on this legislation."

The Innovations for Transportation Infrastructure Act also authorizes IDOT and the Tollway to use the construction manager-general contractor delivery method on at most two projects per year. In adopting this method, the department would contract with a single contractor to serve as the construction manager for the design phase, then agree on a price to serve as general contractor for construction.

Additionally, the act requires IDOT and the Tollway to ensure full participation for minority and women-owned businesses by implementing separate goals for design and construction, bid-shopping protections, and requiring independent construction managers for projects costing over \$30 million



## ACEC Pushes Back Against Federal Gas Tax Holiday Discussion

ACEC joined with the US Chamber of Commerce and many other stakeholder organizations in opposition to President Biden's expected announcement today calling on Congress to pass legislation to suspend the federal motor fuels tax for three months.

ACEC also issued the following statement:

*"There are several initiatives the Administration could take to provide very meaningful and long-term relief for consumers facing rising gas prices but suspending the federal gas tax is*

*not one of them. The minimal relief from a gas tax holiday will be temporary and such action will undercut the new infrastructure program that will play such a critical role in restoring economic growth. What's needed is increased refining capacity and new sources of oil from North America, which will provide long-term relief and maintain the bridge we need as the energy economy continues its transition to renewable sources of energy. We are also concerned where the 'other revenues' could be found to offset any proposed 'holiday.' There is already a user fee that provides a dedicated stream of revenue, and we oppose any attempts to further erode confidence in the Highway Trust Fund."*

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### **IDOT Appointments**

IDOT Secretary Omer M. Osman announced the appointment of **Elizabeth Irvin** as Deputy Director of Planning and Programming for the Illinois Department of transportation. Irvin recently served as a Senior Transportation Analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists. She received a Bachelor of Arts at Williams College and a Master of City Planning at Massachusetts Institute of

Technology. In her new role, she will be focused on implementing the sustainable aspects of recent state and federal legislation.



IDOT Secretary Omer M. Osman announced the appointment of **Alice Rivera-Alfaro** as Bureau Chief of Small Business Enterprises for the Illinois Department of transportation. Rivera-Alfaro recently served as Chief Financial Officer and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Counsel and was formerly Assistant Procurement Counsel for the State of Illinois Executive Ethics Commission (EEC). She received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Argosy University, and a Juris Doctor from

the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, School of Law.

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## **Other News of Note**

Will County's Five-Year Transportation Improvement Program, providing a multi-year plan for countywide infrastructure investments, has been officially approved by the Will County Board. The Will County Division of Transportation presented the plan, which will provide over 20 miles of improved highways, 30 reconstructed intersections, and 10 rehabilitated or replaced structure. [More](#)

Transit agencies in downstate Illinois can now apply for a final round of grants as part of the Rebuild Illinois Transit Capital Grant Program. The third and final round of proposals will be accepted through July 29 from downstate transit providers. The state will then determine how it distributes up to \$132 million for projects expanding and improving transit service. [More](#)

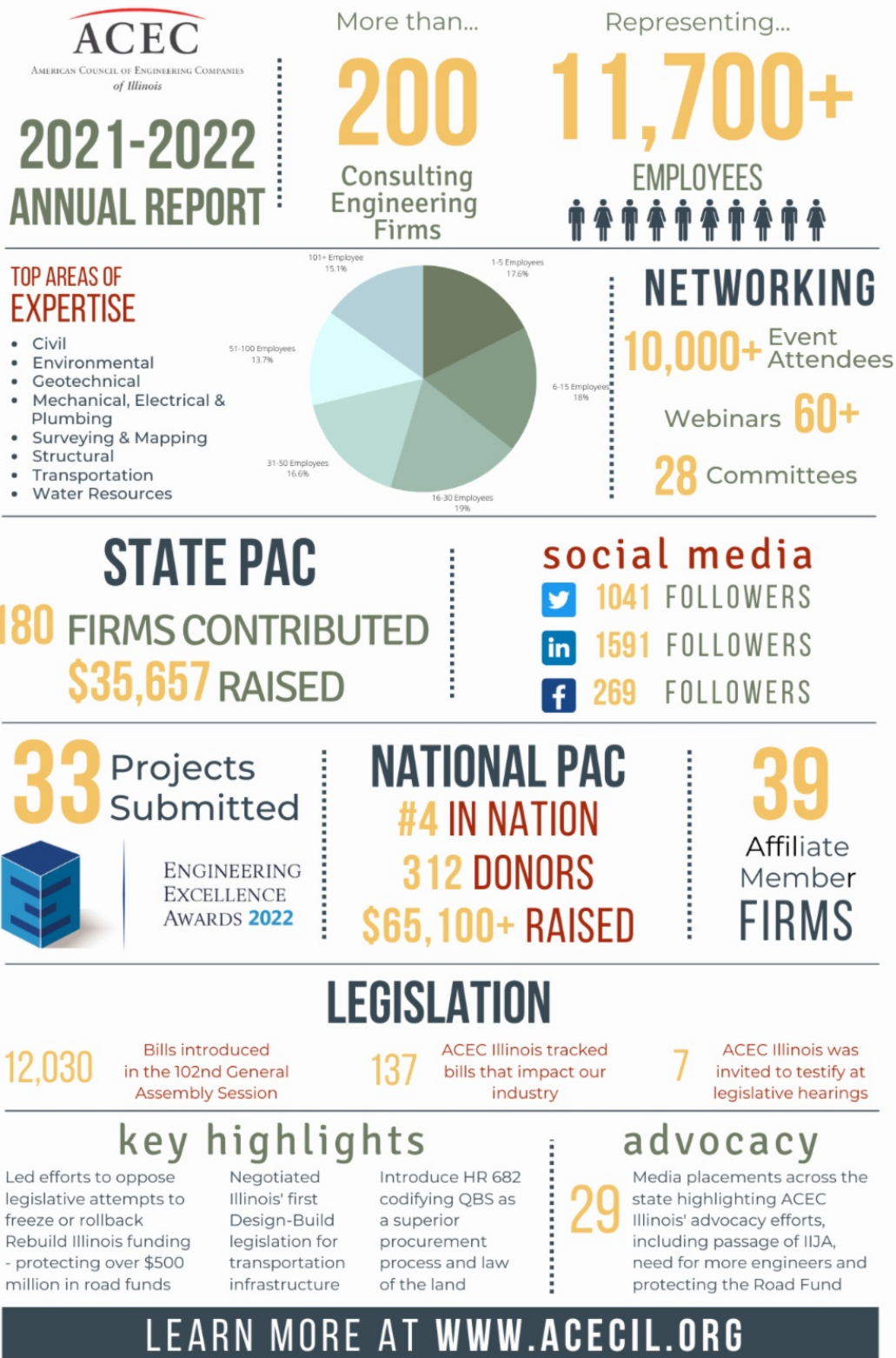
The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that major projects to modernize and improve Interstates 24 and 57 in southern Illinois are planned or underway. Ten major projects on both Interstates combined represent a total investment of more than \$350 million. Once everything is completed, 29 miles of I-57 will have been widened to three lanes in each direction while 35 miles of I-24 will be resurfaced. [More](#)

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration today opened a call for applications through a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for the competitive Bridge Investment Program. The program will provide \$12.5 billion over five years, with nearly \$2.4 billion available in Fiscal Year 2022. [More](#)

The Federal Highway Administration issued a [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) on June 9 to outline minimum standards and requirements for projects funded via the five-year \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure. That rulemaking seeks to support the build out of a national EV charging network of 500,000 EV chargers by 2030. [More](#)

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



**WELCOME TO OUR 2022-2023**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



WELCOME TO  
P.J. FITZPATRICK, OUR  
2022-2023 BOARD CHAIR

A special thank you to John Nelson of Hanson Professional Services for his service and dedication ACEC Illinois throughout his years serving on the Board of Directors.





Thank you to Steve Donahue of Horner Shifrin for his service and leadership through the 2021-2022 year.

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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Stacie Dovalovsky, P.E.**  
**VP & Transportation Division  
Manager**  
**Primera Engineers**

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

24 years, I graduated from the University of Illinois with a BSCE. I have had the opportunity to work on a great variety of design, planning and construction projects all related to transportation. I found my niche working on preliminary engineering and environmental studies with lots of public involvement!

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

Board of Directors, 2021-Present  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee 2021-Present  
District 1 Liaison Committee 2017-2021  
Committee Chair through 2021  
Engineering Excellence Awards Committee, 2017-Present  
Public Transportation Committee, 2016-2017  
City of Chicago Agencies Committee, 2015-2016  
District 1 Liaison Committee, 2009-2013  
CSS, Subcommittee Chair, Phase I Subcommittee, IT Subcommittee

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

ACEC is second to none in providing advocacy, business education, and political action to support the business of engineering. I joined ACEC because I am committed to continuing the mission of strengthening the business climate for engineering companies in Illinois. I have witnessed firsthand the leadership, communication, and guidance that ACEC has provided to its constituents throughout

the pandemic and as we navigate through these exciting yet uncertain times for our industry. Whether a firm is large or small, just starting out or well established, there are resources and opportunities through ACEC to support your business journey.

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

I love to travel and to be outdoors. We camp, hike, bike, kayak, and ski. This year I got another stamp in my National Parks passport by visiting Crater Lake National Park on a trip to Oregon and stamps in my US Passport by visiting England and Spain on a trip to visit my daughter studying abroad.

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

Just like superheroes, every engineer has an origin story. [Yes, I am a Marvel and Star Wars geek. ] My story began when my high school algebra teacher suggested I attend a camp for engineering at the University of Illinois between my junior and senior years of high school. We spent 2 weeks learning about all the different disciplines of engineering. Civil made the most sense to my high school self and I was hooked!

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## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



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

Gonzalez Companies, LLC was founded in 1999, it was restructured in 2005 as a Professional Services company focused on Civil Engineering Design and Construction Management. During this time, we have grown to team of over 150 people, working on projects in 15 states, from our 9 offices located in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, and Texas.

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

We work across all disciplines focusing on providing comprehensive Planning, Design, and Construction Management Services to large and small Water, Sewer and Utility Districts; Departments of Transportation; Public Transit Agencies, and Municipalities. Some of our most notable projects are the I-294 Reconstruction Project with the Illinois Tollway, the Metrolink Extension Project for the St. Clair County Transit District, and the I-57 Bridge Replacement Project in District 3 and Joliet Movable Bridge Project in District 1 for IDOT.

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

All of them of course, but we are most proud of our record of giving back to the community. A recent example includes where we are currently working on a volunteer basis to install on playground for one of our community partners. This will be used by the children sponsored and cared for by our community partners.

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

The biggest benefit is to have an advocate working closely with government, industry, and key stakeholders on big issues that as an individual firm we could not do.

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



It's a great opportunity to become involved with an organization that will advocate for you and allow you to participate in solving industry issues personally.

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# AFFILIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



## **What does your business do?**

A3 Environmental, LLC (A3E) is a full-service, woman-owned, small business specializing in providing quality environmental services. Our clients include private entities, federal, state, and local government organizations. We perform due diligence, site assessments, ecology and remediation across the United States. We are IDOT Prequalified Hazardous Waste Simple. We are nimble. We offer turnkey solutions to the environmental concerns encountered in today's complex regulatory environment. We work hard and quickly, paying attention to the details so you have the answers you need, when you need them, with results you can trust.

Our philosophy, with every project, is to deeply understand our client's needs. This understanding allows A3E to develop a detailed scope of services within our proposal to meet or exceed your goals and objectives. We treat each relationship as a partnership where the strategic expertise and experience of our managers help clients anticipate and overcome planning, resource management, and regulatory hurdles. As the project progresses, we maintain constant contact with our client and the team to ensure your project is done to your satisfaction and within your timeframe.

We appreciate our clients and the opportunities they present to make a cleaner environment and keep our planet healthy. We believe the work we do is more than a job; it's a calling.

## **What is the benefit of doing business with you?**

Aside from performing outstanding environmental consulting, we are most proud of our culture of communication. You don't have to look very far as a project manager to find subcontractors and vendors that are radio-silent and out of communication when you need them most. A3 Environmental Consultants works hard to be the kind of vendor that is easy to have on your team. We communicate like Chicagoians vote, early and often. Being in the environmental business we are frequently bearers of bad (environmental) news. We'll strive to let you know what we know as soon as we know it. We can collaborate to find a way forward to minimize costs in both time and money.

## **Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?**

ACEC is the right place to meet the best engineering companies in Illinois. We have been continually impressed with ACEC and Kevin Artl's ability to connect with the right people at the state and solve issues we can't solve without him. This is our second year as an ACEC member and I'm sure there will be many more.

## **What is your business's motto?**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

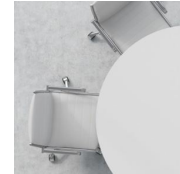
SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS

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## **ACEC Regional Luncheon: IDOT Region 5 Engineer, Kirk Brown**

July 13, 2022 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Join ACEC and IDOT Region 5 engineer, Kirk Brown for a Regional Luncheon at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Register [Here](#)

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## **School Supply Donation Drive for Illinois Schools**

July 14, 2022

Join ACEC Illinois' Emerging Professionals committee by helping schools across the state. You have the opportunity to help students in need receive school supplies for the next school year. How to donate: - Sponsor a student for \$15 - Sponsor a classroom for \$300 "Register" for your donation and then watch our social media for updates on our grand collection total and donation photos!

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 \(acecil.org\)](https://www.acecil.org/committees)

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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### **MCORE - Transforming the Core of the Community Wins ITE Great Lakes District Transportation Achievement Award**

**CHAMPAIGN, IL, June 23, 2022** – On behalf of the MCORE Project Partners, Clark Dietz Inc. is pleased to accept the 2022 Institute of Transportation Engineers Great Lakes District Transportation Achievement Award. The Multimodal Corridor Enhancement (MCORE) Project had the overarching goal to improve mobility choices, increase public safety, and provide increased access to jobs, healthcare, and services in the corridors that connect the downtown centers of Champaign and Urbana with the University of Illinois campus.

“The project required a complete street design approach to modernize the urban landscape,” says Clark Dietz Vice President Sean Widener, PE, PTOE. “The MCORE improvements resulted in a transportation network that is safe, efficient, and equitable for all modes of travel.”

MCORE was a unified effort of the City of Champaign, City of Urbana, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District (CUMTD), and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to create transformative infrastructure that will support and enhance access and promote quality of life. The MCORE improvements were funded with help of a Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant with the goal of creating safe and efficient travel opportunities for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and vehicles. The Clark Dietz / Hanson Team is proud to have assisted our clients and the community to realize these goals.

“The Clark Dietz/Hanson Team provided valuable service to deliver a lasting improvement that addresses each agency’s specific design needs of varying modal hierarchies of the micro-urban University District,” said David Clark, City of Champaign Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer.

*Clark Dietz, Inc. is a recognized leader in transportation, civil, environmental, mechanical, electrical, and structural engineering with over 128 professional staff in regional offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.*

**MCORE – Transforming the Core of the Community Wins ITE Great Lakes District**



There are currently over five thousand open incidents recorded in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) database. These open incidents reflect Illinois as being in the three worst states in the union for known leaking tanks. There are many reasons for this as I will explain in a moment, but first, let's talk about some disappointing statistics.

[Full Article Here](#)

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## **Gas Tax Holiday Won't Ring up Relief at the Pump**



[LISTEN HERE](#)



## **Bipartisan Policy Center's DAC Day**

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) allocated \$12.17 billion for direct air capture (DAC) and carbon management over the next five years. \$3.5 billion of that funding will be used for the development of four new DAC hubs. The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) held its annual DAC day on June 22, 2022. Speakers included Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Kelly Cummins, principal deputy director of the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.

DOE has issued a notice of intent (NOI) regarding the selection process of the hubs, which can be downloaded [here](#). The funding mechanism is through grant or cooperative agreements and recipients may include technology developers, utilities, universities, national laboratories, engineering and construction firms, state and local governments, tribal environmental groups, and community-based organizations.

The exact locations for the new developments have not been released but the funding is expected to be issued in Q4 FY2022. We also know that at least two hubs will be developed in high fossil-producing regions. The top five coal-producing states are Wyoming, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and North Dakota, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The top five crude oil producers are Texas, New Mexico, North Dakota, Alaska, and Colorado, according to Statista.

DAC hubs are necessary components to reach net-zero emission goals and can very well be the next breakthrough in technology that drives an industrial revolution. According to BPC these hubs can integrate the power, transportation, manufacture, and infrastructure sectors together.

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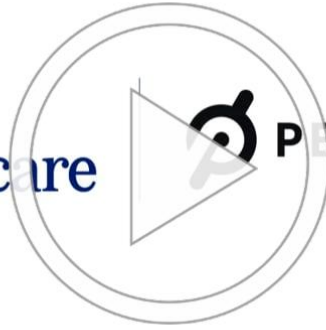
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## FURRY FRIENDS

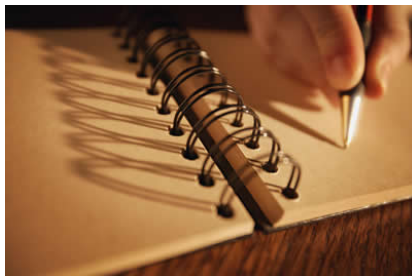
#ACECILPETS



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

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