



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2021 September NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl



Springfield Update

The Never Ending Session

The House and Senate were back in Springfield this week to address unfinished business from the Spring Session. Lawmakers, on a party line vote, approved revised legislative maps as required following the release of census data every 10 years. To view the revised State House maps, [click here](#). To view the revised State Senate maps, [click](#)

[here](#). The maps now head to the Governor's office for final approval. However, there is litigation pending on the process as well in cases filed by the Republican Leaders in the House and Senate as well as by the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). In anticipation of potential delays in final approval of the new maps, the General Assembly moved the state's primary election date back from March, 2022 to June 28, 2022. Stay tuned.

The General Assembly debated, but did not approve, efforts to overhaul the state's energy sector, including potential relief for the state's fleet of nuclear reactors along with a phase-out of coal-fired plants among other items. [Further negotiations on this](#) are on-going and it is expected the General Assembly would return this month in another attempt to reach consensus and approve legislation.

Governor Signs Legislation Approving Electronic Signatures and Performance Based Project Selection

Governor JB Pritzker signed [Senate Bill 2459](#) into law, allowing the use of electronic signatures at the Department of



Transportation, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, and the Capital Development Board.

"I'm proud to sign this legislation into law, which will streamline transactions across our state agencies," said **Governor JB Pritzker**. "Illinois is committed to doing all it can to make state government more efficient and responsive to the people we serve."

SB 2459 allows the Department of Transportation, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, and the Capital Development Board to each accept the use of electronic signatures in transactions between those State agencies and other persons or entities, unless all parties to the transaction waive the right to use electronic signatures.

"While governments grappled with the new realities of remote work and socially distanced processes, Illinois set the example for effectiveness and efficiency in its pandemic operations. Because of Governor J.B. Pritzker's efforts to utilize electronic signatures on government documents, engineering firms, particularly smaller firms have seen increased efficiency, important projects beginning sooner, and companies and workers getting paid quicker than ever before," said **Kevin Artl, president and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois**. "Given the effectiveness of electronic signatures throughout the pandemic, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois and our hundreds of members across the state supported legislation that would permanently establish the approved usage of electronic signatures on state documents. The legislation, sponsored by Senator Ram Villivalam and Representative Kam Buckner will help ensure that the delivery of critical engineering projects is not delayed by needless red-tape."

Performance-Based Project Selection

Building on the historic *Rebuild Illinois* program, [House Bill 253](#) directs Illinois Department of Transportation to develop a performance-based project selection process to ensure existing transportation infrastructure like roads and bridges remain in good repair. IDOT will also develop a statewide highway system asset management plan with the goal of preserving and improving the conditions of highway and bridge assets and enhance the existing system while reducing costs. ACEC Illinois joined with other transportation and infrastructure associations to support this measure.



National Infrastructure Bill Moves Closer to Final Passage

The compromise calls for Sept. 27 date to consider the bipartisan infrastructure package

The House of Representatives have set a deadline of September 27th to vote on the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure bill, following negotiations with Democrat

Leadership and a coalition of moderate members.

The moderates, led by Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-N.J.), threatened to vote against a high-priority budget resolution because they wanted the House to vote first on a bipartisan infrastructure bill that passed the Senate earlier this month.

The negotiations cleared the way for a 220-212 vote to pass legislation that (1) included a budget resolution that initiates a process in the House to develop policies to include in a filibuster-proof reconciliation package, (2) sets the parameters of debate for both the infrastructure package and the John Lewis voting rights bill, and (3) in a concession to Democratic moderates, sets a deadline for a floor vote on infrastructure by September 27th. This last provision is critical since the FAST Act expires on September 30th.



ACEC Illinois leadership met with advocates throughout the month of August to brief them on Rebuild Illinois implementation, potential uses of new federal funds and to thank them for past support in efforts to defend QBS.

This month, we met with:

- Deputy Illinois House Majority Leader Jay Hoffman
- State Senator Don DeWitte
- State Senator Ram Villivalam
- State Representative Janet Yang Rohr
- Chicago Mayor Lightfoot's Office
- Governor Pritzker's Office
- Tollway Leadership
- IDOT Leadership

Final Note: Don't Miss These Events

Make sure you check out our upcoming events, including our [IDOT Webinar with Secretary Osman and the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation Deputy Directors](#), our [webinar with IDOT Region 1 Engineer Jose' Rios](#) and our [Tollway Regional Lunch with Acting Chief Engineering Officer Manar Nashif and Chief Planning Officer Rocco Zucchero](#).

Also, our [Fall Conference](#) has launched and we have in-person sessions with top Agency Leadership from across the state, so get your registration in early.

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



Thank you, ACEC-IL!

Thank you ACEC Illinois members for your presence and support at the August 12 reception honoring Senator Ram Villivalam.

Photos of event: [Photo Gallery](#) | [ACEC-IL \(acecil.org\)](http://ACEC-IL (acecil.org))



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Amar Rajpurkar
VP-Midcentral Area Manager
Parsons

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- Been in the transportation consulting industry for Chicago, Illinois and the Midwest for over 30 years.

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

- Board of Directors
- Information Technology Chair
- District 1 Liaison Committee chair
- District 1 Liaison Committee member
- Member for over 15 years

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

- Opportunity to improve our working relations with our clients through streamlining process and communications.
- Lobby of legislators for our AE community for long term funding and capital programs
- Networking and connections between its members
- Technical and business learning

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- Coaching and watching our children's high school and travel sports
- Spending time at our lake house in Tomahawk, WI
- Landscaping and gardening at home.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- DJ during my college and post college days. (Spin that wheel) My college son has now picked that hobby up.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Bowman was established in 1995 with the core purpose of creating opportunities for people to strive and achieve ambitious goals, and the core mission to deliver success to our clients with a sense of urgency. We are national firm with local experience and expertise that allows us to deliver the necessary resources and high-quality engineering services for our local clients.

What projects are you currently working on?

We are a trusted, multi-faceted, full-service engineering and consulting firm with 32 offices and 800+ employees. We retain extensive in-house capabilities which have continuously expanded and currently include:

- Multi-Discipline Engineering
 - Civil
 - Transportation
 - Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing
 - Structural
- Program/Project Management

- Surveying/Geospatial
- Land Procurement/Right of Way
- Water/Wastewater
- Landscape Architecture & Planning
- Construction Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Energy Transition
- Peer Review/Third Party Code Review
- Commissioning

Our Illinois clients include the Illinois Department of Transportation; Illinois Tollway; Chicago Departments of Transportation, Water Management, and Aviation; Cook, DuPage and Kane Counties; private utility companies; and various municipalities.

Our model of balancing deep national resources with the locally provided flexibility of quick response and knowledge has allowed us to successfully deliver a wide range of projects such as:

- Large industrial/commercial developments,
- Master planned communities,
- Multi-family/mixed-use developments,
- Power and energy utilities facilities,
- Residential/affordable housing developments,
- Retail developments,
- Mission critical facilities, and
- Senior living facilities.

Locally we are known for our expertise in construction engineering, program/project management, and design services, which have now expanded to serve out-of-state clients in P3 and design/build relationships.

What project are you most proud of?

Bowman takes pride in all our projects and values every client. We view each one as an opportunity and an investment in building a long-lasting relationship. One project that has received a lot of attention locally is the Illinois Tollway's Tri-State Mile Long Bridge. This project represents the largest single contract in the Tollway's \$14B, Move Illinois program, and Bowman is responsible for providing construction engineering services. In 2020, Bowman played a critical role in the delivery of one of the dual bridge structures, which was opened to traffic on time and within budget, and is currently working on the second structure. This project is a showcase for our construction engineering approach and expertise, as well as our ability to effectively coordinate with a large and diverse group of stakeholders.

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

ACEC-IL has a proven track record of supporting and advocating those initiatives that benefit engineering professionals and the companies that employ them. What stands out is the opportunity to network with other firms, collaborate on issues and initiatives impacting the industry, participate in educational programs, and volunteer and interact with some of the major clients we serve. Bowman specifically took advantage of this last benefit by volunteering to serve as the Tollway committee liaison, a position held by Mike Hannemann, PE, our Senior Vice President.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC-IL is a critical organization that should be supported by all engineering companies. Engineers are not always the strongest advocates for themselves but the combined voice of many who all share the same level of commitment to the profession can be a powerful means to gain the necessary attention to resolve issues and promote positive change.

save the date

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Virtual: Secretary Osman and the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation Deputy Directors

September 8, 2021 10am - 11am

Secretary Osman introduces the Deputy Directors from the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation and discusses what programs the offices have to offer.

Speakers:

IDOT Secretary Omer Osman Deputy Directors

Deputy Director of Rail - John Oimoen

Deputy Director of Transit - Shou n Reese

Deputy Director of Aeronautics - Clayton Stambaugh.

Webinar is complimentary for ACEC Illinois members.

*Sponsorship is available!

Register [Here](#)



2021 Leadership Series - Registration closes this Friday!

ACEC-Illinois Leadership Series was created to provide career development for future leaders of Illinois consulting engineering firms. It is designed to launch the industry's most promising up-and-coming professionals on a development track leading to successful general management, project management, and principal positions within Illinois firms.

Participants: A professional who is, or will be, transitioning from technical manager to business manager who shows commitment to the industry and to their firm.

- 5 Sessions across the state of Illinois
- Program Costs
- Printed material and binders
- Meals, Beverages, and Snacks
- PDH Certificates will be awarded

Register [Here](#)

Regional Virtual Luncheon with Jose Rios, Region 1 Engineer

September 13, 2021 10am - 11am



Please join ACEC Illinois as we host IDOT Region 1 Engineering, Jose Rios. Join us for an updated followed by Q& A.

Webinar Registration: \$45
*Sponsorship Available

Register [Here](#)



Hybrid- Regional Luncheon: Illinois Tollway Lookahead September 22, 2021 11:30am - 1:30pm

Please join Illinois Tollway for a Lookahead Regional Luncheon.

Agenda:

11:30-Noon NETWORKING

Noon-12:45pm LUNCH

12:45-1:30pm UPDATE FROM ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

REGISTRATION FEES:

Virtual: \$45

Member \$85

Non-Member \$160

*Sponsorship is available!

Register [Here](#)



Congressional Update with Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi

September 23, 2021 at 12:15pm

*Complimentary to ACEC Illinois Members

Register [Here](#)



ACEC Illinois Fall Conference

October 13, 2021 at 2:30pm - October 14, 2021 at 4:30pm

Location:

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

Registration includes events Wednesday & Thursday, for all attendees.

7 Professional Development Hours for attending the Fall Conference.

Register [Here](#)

Save the Date: Public Engagement and Communication
Committee Virtual Roundtable



October 19, 2021 10am-12pm

Join us virtually as we develop the best practices manual for public engagement and communications. The roundtable will be attended by industry leaders to better understand their needs and perspectives as it relates to public engagement and communications on your projects. More details to follow.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

MEMBER UPDATES:

KASKASKIA ENGINEERING GROUP, LLC CELEBRATES 15 YEARS IN BUSINESS



Belleville, IL - The team of Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC (KEG) is proud to announce the celebration of its 15th year in business. Founded in 2006, the engineering and construction firm has grown from a 3-person operation in a small, shared office space in Belleville, Illinois to its impressive portfolio today of 9 offices in 4 states, 50 employees, and countless successful infrastructure projects throughout the Midwest.

“It’s hard to believe it’s been 15 years, but time flies when you’re having fun,” said Geri E. Boyer, PE, President and Founder of KEG. “I am so proud of our team at KEG and all we accomplish together. It truly takes a village.”

KEG was founded by Geri E. Boyer, PE and Marsia Murphey, PE. Both women had years of engineering experience and led successful careers in the industry, but still yearned for a more inclusive and flexible workplace culture. As a working mom, Boyer saw an immediate need for more flexibility, understanding, and acceptance of the needs of working parents.

Full article [here](#)



Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of a new employee

Benton & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of Drew S. Ruholl, PE, to our Jacksonville, Illinois office. Mr. Ruholl is a graduate from SIU-Edwardsville with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer in Illinois. Mr. Ruholl was previously employed with the Illinois Department of Transportation for seven (7) years as a Civil Engineer III. Mr. Ruholl is working in our transportation department. His experience includes: Phase I planning and designs including project reports, drainage studies, pavement designs, traffic impact analysis and staging, and bridge conditions reports; Phase II planning and design including contract plans, specifications, and estimates; Phase III construction observation; surveying for the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Mr. Ruholl is a member of the American Consulting Engineers Council of Illinois, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and American Society of Civil Engineers.

Drew currently resides in Mount Sterling, Illinois with his wife.

Benton & Associates, Inc. of Jacksonville, Illinois, is a Consulting Engineering Firm providing civil and electrical engineering and land surveying services for both public and private clients in Illinois and Missouri. Major service areas include: Environmental, Transportation, Land Development, and Structural Engineering.

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. Announces New Team Members



Adam Giazzon



Colton Isham



Amanda Eness



Will Benson

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce their growing staff by welcoming four new engineers to the firm.



Curt Dettmann Poised to Lead Land Development Efforts at EEI

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce Curt Dettmann, P.E. will be leading the firm's Land Development / Private sector work. Curt started with EEI in March 2020 and has proven to be an asset on all of our land development projects. With his 16+ years of experience he can bring tremendous value-added services to the residential, commercial, industrial or mixed-use development projects for our Clients.

According to Chief Operating Officer / President, Brad Sanderson, "Curt has excelled as a Project Manager since joining EEI and we look forward to his continued success and leadership in this new role."

Full Article [Here](#)

WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:

Benchmark Construction
2260 Southwind Blvd.
Bartlett, IL 60103
630-497-1700
www.benchmarkconstruction.net

BENCHMARK
construction

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



Henneman Engineering
1605 S. State St.
Champaign, IL 61820
www.henneman.com



IDOT BRIDGE BUNDLING WEBINAR



JOIN US!

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will be hosting two webinars to introduce the concept of bridge bundling. These webinars will provide an overview of bridge bundling, potential opportunities for Illinois, lessons learned from other states, and a facilitated discussion. These webinars include one for general industry partners and a second specifically for DBEs. DBEs are welcome to participate in both webinars. As the State of Illinois explores the potential for bridge bundling, particular emphasis is being placed on the potential of a bundling program to support robust DBE participation. The DBE-specific webinar includes the same overview information and a facilitated discussion focused on the unique opportunities and perspectives of the DBE community.

Please [click here](#) to register for the Industry Bundling Webinar on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM

Please [click here](#) to register for the DBE Bundling Webinar on Wednesday, September 08, 2021 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM

The [IDOT Bureau of Innovative Project Delivery](#) is leading a Bridge Bundling Feasibility Analysis, which will evaluate bundling of state-owned bridges and culverts throughout Illinois. It is anticipated that a bridge and culvert bundling effort may help the Department complete **more projects in less time at lower costs, leverage increased revenues** to deliver additional projects beyond the bundling efforts, and create new, innovative opportunities for **DBE engagement and growth**.

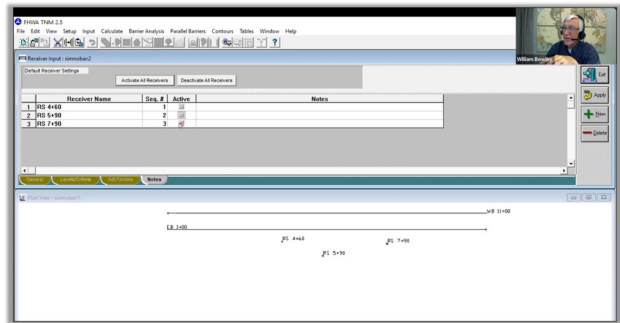
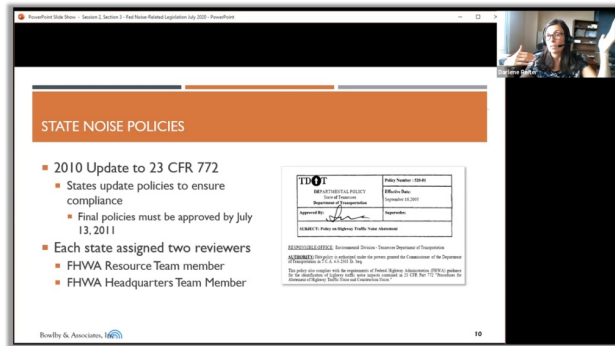


If you have any questions, please contact the program team at DOT.InnovativeProjectDelivery@Illinois.gov

These webinars will help the program team combine information gathered from data collection and research with the perspectives and feedback of industry stakeholders to better understand the benefits and considerations for establishing a potential bundling program.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other Federal and State laws, the Public Meeting will be accessible to those with disabilities. If you need any additional assistance, please contact the project team at DOT.InnovativeProjectDelivery@Illinois.gov at least five (5) days prior to the virtual meeting.

Traffic Noise Fundamentals and Traffic Noise Modeling with TNM 2.5 Training



October 4th-8th, 2021
Click [Here](#) For More Information



The Tale of Two Cyber Crimes... What to Watch For!

If you watch the evening news, you've undoubtedly heard about the dangers of ransomware. Organized hackers, often based overseas, manage to gain control of the computer systems of large and often essential organizations. They lock up the victim's central computer operations, prohibiting company access. In order to get their systems up and running, the victims must pay huge ransoms, in some cases in the millions of dollars. In many instances, the companies feel they have no option but to pay the ransom, which only encourages more hackers to get into the act.

While ransomware gets most of the headlines, there are two other types of cybercrimes that are becoming even more prevalent, targeting large and small firms alike. Let's take a quick look at social engineering fraud (SEF) and invoice manipulation (IM).

Full Article [Here](#)



IAHE Golf Outing
September 15, 2021
St. Andrews Country Club in West Chicago
Register [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

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!

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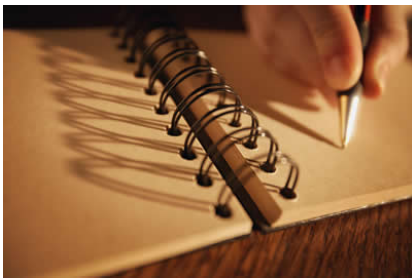
FURRY FRIENDS

#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
