



KEVIN ARTL
PRESIDENT & CEO

LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING



ACEC Pushes R&D Fix as Congress Nears Year-End

Reports are that House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee leaders are making good progress on a business and family tax package that would delay R&D amortization until 2026. However, ACEC is concerned that Congress is running out of time to pass the package this year as part of another vehicle, but the lack of news and details from congressional negotiators suggests that they may be getting close to a deal.

In an R&D coalition call this week it was discussed that Ways and Means and Finance Committee leaders may be deliberately waiting to finalize the last remaining issues and holding onto their package until they get signals from House and Senate leadership about a viable legislative vehicle. Additionally, it remains unclear as to how long Congress will be in session in December or what other legislative priorities will require floor time.

If you haven't yet, please send an email to your member of Congress encouraging them to support the R&D fix. [Click here to send the email.](#)

Illinois currently has a bipartisan mix of 7 members of Congress supporting the ACEC legislative fix, including Representatives Bost, Budzinski, Davis, Krishnamoorthi, LaHood, Quigley and Sorensen.



ACEC TV Spot Gets Noticed

The latest data from ACEC's R&D amortization public relations campaign demonstrates a wide impact. The ad continues to run through this week, running a total of 158 times since the start of the campaign, including broadcast, cable, and radio. In addition, the ad is running on several digital platforms with over 1.73 million total impressions with a 72% video completion

rate (meaning viewers watched the entire ad), which is a very high result and well above industry standards.

[Check it out the tv spot here](#) and please consider sharing on your firm and personal social



ACEC Research Institute Releases Diversity Roadmap Report

This week the ACEC Research Institute released its first-ever Diversity Roadmap Report utilizing data from a six-month research process designed to help our member firms execute against their diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEI&B) goals. As an "Ambassador Circle" donor to the Research Institute, ACEC Illinois' financial contribution supported this important work.

When the Roadmap initiative was launched this past Spring, its mandate was twofold: first, to see where we are as an industry in terms of DEI&B; and second, to help our firms refine and accelerate their programs. The importance of building a diverse workforce – and building firms that attract a diverse workforce – has been accepted and embraced by our industry. However, the critical question remains-- how do we get there. This Roadmap initiative is one way we are seeking to explore and develop those solutions.

Nearly 200 ACEC member firms nationally participated in the Report by inputting data on their practices regarding workplace, workforce, marketplace, and supplier/community. Responses for each category were scored, then aggregated to create an overall assessment. What the Research Institute found indicates acknowledgement of the importance of DEI&B practices, and willingness to implement those practices but also, importantly, some uncertainty surrounding where and how to begin. That's the second benefit of the Roadmap initiative: it doesn't just tell participants where they need to make progress but provides actionable suggestions that set firms on the path to progress.

You can read the Diversity Roadmap Report [here](#). You can also get directly involved. The Roadmap interface is still open for responses. If your firm would like to participate, please contact institute@acec.org to receive your login information.

You can also get involved by joining ACECIL's DEI Committee, chaired by **Duana Love** of TranSmart. If you are interested in learning more about this committee or getting involved, please contact ACEC Illinois' Director of Membership Emily Martinez at emily@acecil.org



Governor, Secretary Osman Highlight Key Infrastructure Accomplishments

Governor Pritzker joined IDOT Secretary Osman and local officials to celebrate the completion of the I280 bridge in the quad cities earlier this month. The project, which included demolishing the old bridge deck and installing a new one, was made possible by Rebuild Illinois and a partnership with Iowa. The project was a combined investment of \$65.7 million and will provide users with a safer and smoother ride over the Mississippi River. You can watch the press conference [here](#) and read more about the project [here](#).



Illinois Department
of Transportation

IDOT Needs Your Input to 'Move Illinois'

This fall the Illinois Department of Transportation introduced *Move Illinois: the 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan* which will outline goals, objectives, and strategies for Illinois' diverse transportation network for the next 20 to 30 years.

IDOT invites you to [take a survey](#) to help the project team develop the plan's goals and objectives through late 2024. Please act now if you haven't already as the survey will close on December 31, 2023. To learn more visit www.moveillinois2024.com



Fall Private Industry Brief Does Deep Dive on Commercial and Residential Market

The private market update for Commercial and Residential Real Estate includes a client list, top 5 trends impacting the market, a government affairs action section and business development insights.

Among the trends the brief dives into is how housing is nearing 2008 lows and its impact on the banking industry. Read the entire brief [here](#).

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

"Engineering Works" Podcast

ACEC-IL's podcast "Engineering Works" interviews RTA Chairman Kirk Dillard.

Chairman Dillard discusses the state of transit post-pandemic, exciting new plans, and what is needed to keep its 1500 miles of track, 7500 vehicles, 400 stations, and 70 maintenance facilities in a state of good repair.



[LISTEN HERE](#)

COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT



Nihar Shah
President
Rubinos & Mesia Engineering Inc.

How long have you been a part of ACEC IL?

- I have been part of ACEC Illinois for the last 7 years serving on a variety of committees (SEE, DBE/WBE/MBE, Emerging Professionals, City of Chicago Agencies)

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

- I am currently serving as the Emerging Professionals Committee Chair

Tell us a little bit about the committee you chair.

- The Emerging Professionals (EP) committee is a committee intended for engineers with less than 15 years of experience and are considered up and coming leaders in our industry. The EP committee hosts webinars, social events and other activities to allow opportunities for Emerging Professionals to come together and build relationships. The relationships you have in this industry will help you along your career and the EP committee allows for younger engineers to start to make those connections. At times, it can be intimidating to attend the larger events so the EP committee provides a more comfortable setting for some of the younger engineers.

What's the number one reason people should join your committee?

- To meet other engineers with similar experience to expand your network and relationships

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- Riding scooters with my two sons (ages 3 and 4) and playing golf.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I am on the Inaugural Young Professional board for Hope Chicago. Hope Chicago provides access to a debt free higher education for CPS students. If you'd like to learn more or support the organization, please reach out!

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

- Civiltech Engineering, Inc. was established in 1988 as a consulting firm specializing in transportation engineering. Over the years the firm's focus has been on providing quality and innovative engineering on time and within budget. Our firm remains employee focused striving to provide career developmental support, meaningful growth opportunities, and an exceptional culture and work environment. This year, we celebrated 35 years in businesses and have grown to over 150 employees. With our early focus on Transportation, Traffic, and Civil Engineering, our abilities have expanded to support our core services that now includes Transportation Planning, Landscape Architecture, Right of Way Services, Program Management, Water Resources Engineering, Structural Engineering, and more. Civiltech has also expanded into the southeastern region of Wisconsin including the City of Milwaukee.

What projects are you currently working on?

- With a client list that includes over 85 municipalities, multiple counties and township DOTs, Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation, Chicago Department of Transportation, CMAP, and private sector clients, our backlog of work includes a multitude of diverse and vastly complex projects at any given time.

What project are you most proud of?

- As a company, we take pride in all of our projects whether they are a small traffic and safety study to ensure children have a safe path to school; whether they are mainstay of a client's public works' needs, such as a municipal roadway resurfacing program; or whether they are large and multi-faceted, such as complex design and construction of a large transportation corridor. Currently, we are proud to be working on several CDOT projects, including the Jackson Park Mobility Improvements in conjunction with the new Obama Presidential Center and "Redefine the Drive," the North DuSable Lake Shore Drive Phase I Study. We enjoyed the opportunity to support the Tollway providing the design on the I-88 and IL Route 47 Interchange that served as a pilot project utilizing 3D construction contract deliverables. Also, we recently completed the construction of the award winning Houbolt Road at I-80 Diverging Diamond Interchange, the first DDI in Illinois with the cross street

passing under the expressway. These projects are all in addition to the many wide ranging municipal and county projects that are always ongoing across our departments.

- In addition to project successes, Civiltech is proud to have been named ISPE 2021 Best Place to Work in the Large Firm category.

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

- Civiltech enjoys many benefits from our ACEC-IL membership. As a firm, we utilize many of the programs the organization offers, such as the ACEC Retirement Trust (401K) and the ACEC Job Board. Our employees benefit from learning opportunities the organization offers. We also enjoy the opportunity to showcase our work in the annual ACEC Excellence in Engineering Awards. But mostly, we enjoy the opportunity to network within the industry and work with our industry partners on issues that affect us all.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

- We believe that membership in the ACEC-IL provides the opportunity for all firms, large and small, to work together to improve the industry and our region's transportation network.

AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT



What does your business do?

- Metro Strategies Group, LLC is a WBE and DBE certified firm that works with government, private and non-profit entities in northeastern Illinois to implement thoughtful strategies for public-sector projects. Our team provides solutions for stakeholder coordination, strategic planning, policy research and best practices, facilitation, project management, communications, public engagement and project funding. Not only do we have experience working on all phases of projects (from feasibility studies and planning to funding, design and implementation), but also across multiple sectors including transportation, stormwater management, public health, economic development and environmental.

What is a benefit of doing business with you?

- The Metro Strategies Group team is passionate about our work and committed to doing our best to help our clients achieve their goals.
- When we join a project, we become fully invested in the process and everything we do and recommend is for the ultimate success of the project and the agency. Our wealth of experience and dedication to success allows our team to add value and create targeted strategies for the projects we work on.

- While we provide some specialized services such as public engagement, communications and funding, our true value lies in helping connect the dots for the engineering partners we work with and the agencies they serve. We help bridge the gap between vision and reality to help our partners navigate challenges and opportunities, whether internal or external, to help keep projects and ultimate outcomes on track.

Why are you a part of ACEC-IL?

- From our experience over the past two years, ACEC-IL has provided incredible learning and development opportunities for small teams like ours. Programming for both individuals and businesses has been thoughtful, covering a range of topics from staff development and business operations to issues impacting the industry and our work. ACEC-IL events are also valuable settings for us to hear from agency leaders about what is happening at their respective agencies, engage with our industry peers and connect with different firms, giving us the opportunity to introduce our services and forge new partnerships.

What is your business's motto?

- We are committed to working on projects that we believe in and providing strategic guidance to ensure projects have a positive effect on the region in which we live.
- Simply stated our motto is to Always Exceed Expectations!



The banner features a yellow background on the left with the text "UPCOMING EVENTS..." in large, bold, red, sans-serif font. On the right, there is a dark blue arched graphic containing the ACEC logo. The logo includes the text "ACEC" in large white letters, "AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES" in smaller white letters below it, and "of Illinois" in a smaller, italicized white font. At the bottom of the arch, the text "VISIT: acecil.org/events" is written in yellow.



Webinar Series

Presented by: ACEC IL
Emerging Professional Committee



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH | NOON-1PM

HOW TO WORK WITH INTERNS TO LEAD TO FULL TIME HIRES + TRAINING
INFRASTRUCTURE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH | NOON-1PM

BEST PRACTICES OF INTEGRATING 3-D MODEL INTO THE WORK FLOW

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST | NOON-1PM

ESG OR SOCIAL VALUE EQUITY AND INCLUSION, SAFETY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH | NOON-1PM

DEVELOPING QAQC SKILLS / PEER REVIEW SKILLS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH | NOON-1PM

NETWORKING - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH | NOON-1PM

DOS AND DON'TS OF BEING AN RE

[WEBINAR HERE](#)

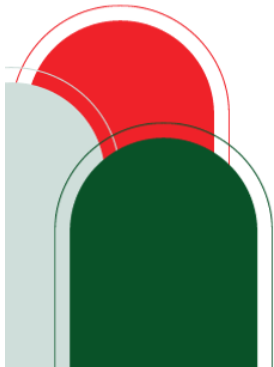
ACEC Illinois Reception

**IDOT BRIEFING & RECEPTION WITH
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY OMER OSMAN**



MONDAY
12.18.2023
5:30-7:30PM

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY**
212 N SIXTH ST.,
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701



HOSTED BY:



[REGISTER HERE](#)

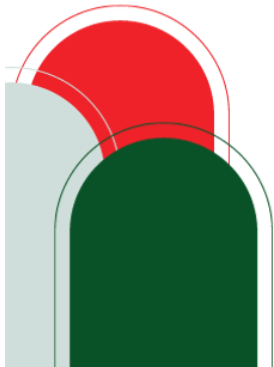
ACEC Illinois Reception

**IDOT BRIEFING & RECEPTION WITH
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
SECRETARY OMER OSMAN**



**WEDNESDAY
12.20.2023
6:00-8:00PM**

**THE DRAKE - OAK BROOK
2301 YORK ROAD
OAK BROOK, IL 60523**



HOSTED BY:



[REGISTER HERE](#)



ABOUT:

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.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- 5 Sessions across the state of Illinois
- Printed material and binders
- Meals, Beverages, and Snacks provided
- PDH Certificates will be awarded
- Awarded a Completion Certificate



2024 LEADERSHIP SERIES



REGIONAL LUNCHEON: ILLINOIS TOLLWAY

Wednesday, January 31 11:30am - 1:30pm

Join us for an ACEC Illinois Regional Luncheon. This luncheon will host an update from Manar Nashif - Chief Engineering Officer and Karyn Robles - Chief of Planning with the Illinois Tollway.

11:30am Networking
Noon Lunch
12:45pm IL Tollway
1:30pm Conclusion

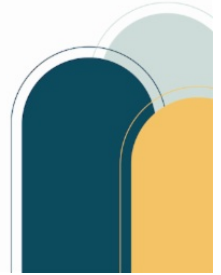
Harry Caray's
70 YORKTOWN CENTER,
LOMBARD, IL. 60148

REGISTRATION FEES:
Member \$85
Non-Member \$160

SPONSORSHIP:

Silver: \$250
1 Ticket
VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media

Gold: \$500
2 Tickets
2 VIP Seating
Recognition at event and on social media



save the date



ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE
AWARDS **2024**

February 22, 2024

Engineering Excellence Awards Gala
in Rosemont, IL

*save the
date*

Saturday, March 9, 2024

10:00am Registration

11am Start Time

**BERTO CENTER
550 LAKE COOK RD
DEERFIELD, IL 60015**



save the date

A/E/C PRINCIPALS BOOTCAMP PSMJ | Resources, Inc.®

**MARCH
19-20
2024**

NIU CONFERENCE CENTER
NAPERVILLE, IL

HOSTED BY: American Council of Engineering Companies
ACEC  **ILLINOIS**
of Illinois

save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024 | GENEVA, IL



Eagle Brook Country Club

save the
date



JUNE 4 | LOMBARD, IL

HARRY CARAY'S - BALLROOM
70 YORKTOWN SHOPPING CENTER
LOMBARD, IL

REMINDER

ACEC IL dues invoices have been sent out. If you need a new copy or would like to pay via credit card, please contact Emily Martinez at emily@acecil.org

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES



Statue of Repose Key to Record Retention Policy

The modern design firm often finds itself drowning in documents. There are the usual plans, reports and schedules. Add on the inevitable requests for information, technical calculations, memos and other correspondence. These various records mount across a variety of mediums, including hard drives, CDs, blueprints, email attachments, photographs and reams of office paper. So much for the paperless office we all heard about!

Full Article [Here](#)



WEBINAR

Provisions of a Strong Contract

REGISTER NOW

Refresher on Contract Provisions for Design Professionals

In the ever-changing construction climate, the one constant for the design professional is a strong

contract.

This one-hour webinar, featuring The Hartford's Architects and Engineers Professional Liability Claims Team, will walk you through various contract provisions so you can more easily identify the risks associated with eliminating or modifying certain contractual elements:

- Standard of Care
- Indemnification
- Scope of Services
- Limitations of Liability, and more

Topic: **Provisions of a Strong Contract**

Date: December 13, 2023

Time: 4:00PM Eastern Time | 1:00PM Pacific Time

REGISTER



ACEC Business Insurance Trust Webinars

Artificial Intelligence in Design & Construction



Webinar Here

Progressive Design Build



Webinar Here

Build momentum.

Talk to us about
protecting all
you've built.

See what we offer in full:
holmesmurphy.com
(800) 247.7756



CONSTRUCTION
BUILD MOMENTUM

Exploring ACEC's New Technology Committee

[LISTEN HERE](#)



ISSUE THREE • 2023

ENGINEERING INC.

www.acec.org

AWARD-WINNING BUSINESS MAGAZINE • PUBLISHED BY AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

New ACEC ExCom Embraces Opportunities
Half Goes All In With Community Service Efforts
ACEC/MA's Impact
Firms Extra Cautious About Work Over Risk
Concerns, PLI Survey Shows

SOARING ACHIEVEMENT

HNTB'S SIXTH STREET VIADUCT TOPS STELLAR PROJECT LINEUP
AT 2023 ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Full Magazine
Here



Student &
Teacher
Resources

When students dream big about their careers, engineering may not be the first thing that pops to mind. But maybe it should be. The fact is, there is unlimited opportunity and variety within the engineering field itself, allowing students to follow their passions, land that dream job and make a difference in the world. And engineers are in demand, providing endless options to build their future.

This initiative was launched to help Illinois students see themselves in the engineering field. It is part of a larger effort by the Illinois Department of Transportation to educate and hire engineers in the face of a national shortage. From introducing individual disciplines, to discussing job satisfaction, opportunities and compensation, this web page is intended as a resource for students and educators to explore all that is possible with a career in engineering.

Engineering may not be the first job students think of, but a career in the field might just become a dream come true.



[HERE](#)

Engineers do things differently.

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LIFE/HEALTH TRUST

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100% of members give
ACEC Retirement Trust a

Find out why ACEC Retirement Trust gets a 100% satisfaction rating. It's an exclusive 401(k) program for ACEC members



ACEC RT. [SEE WHY](#)



Build a bright financial
future for your team



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

ACEC-Illinois | 5221 S 6th Street Road, Suite 120, Springfield, IL 62703

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