



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2021 November NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl



Infrastructure Week Finally Arrived

Amidst doubts, false hope and past promises, Congress made the single largest financial investment in the nation's infrastructure. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will dedicate \$1.2 trillion to repairing, rebuilding and modernizing the nation's infrastructure and Illinois is well-positioned for significant investment.

Illinois' roads and bridges are set to receive over \$11.3 billion over the next five years from the federal government and \$4.5 billion for mass transit. In total, Illinois is on-pace to receive over \$17 billion in federal funds as a result of the infrastructure bill. For more information, read the US DOT analysis of Illinois funding [here](#).



New Projects Now Possible with Federal Funds

The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported that the Eisenhower Expressway and expansion of the CTA Red Line are two projects potentially in-line to receive new federal funds. ACEC Illinois recently joined with IRTBA and other groups to launch the Rebuild 290 Coalition

in support of rebuilding and modernizing the Eisenhower Expressway.

CREATE, Lead Pipe Replacement and Aviation to See Fund Infusion

CREATE projects, including the 75th Street Corridor project, along with lead pipe replacement and CTA Station improvements could see huge benefits coming from the infrastructure bill according to the [Chicago Tribune](#).



Gov. Pritzker, IDOT Celebrate Completion of I-74 Bridge

Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation today joined with the Federal Highway Administration, community leaders and residents of the Quad Cities to celebrate the upcoming completion of the new Interstate 74 Mississippi River Bridge, one of the biggest projects in state history and a transformational investment in infrastructure for the region.

“The I-74 Mississippi River Bridge has long been a critical east-west link in the nation’s transportation network. Alongside our local and federal partners, we’re taking a critical piece of infrastructure that has been mainly untouched since 1960 and turning it into the centerpiece residents deserve,” said Governor JB Pritzker.

After more than four years of construction, the I-74 Mississippi River Bridge is anticipated to open to traffic in early December, delivering four lanes in each direction and providing improved safety for all travelers. The bridge includes a 14-foot-wide bike and pedestrian path, with a scenic overlook and connections to existing paths in Bettendorf and Moline.

Check out the video of the [event here](#). For video of the construction of the bridge, [click here](#). For a run-down of the political hurdles and challenges the project faced, [click here](#).

Vaccine Mandate Updates

OSHA ETS

The original deadline to begin enforcement of portions of the ETS was to be December 6. That deadline could change due to ongoing legal proceedings, which are outlined below.

December 6 was also to be the final date that OSHA would accept public comments on the ETS. The Department of Labor has just announced a 45 day extension of the comment deadline to January 19. While ACEC was preparing to file comments to address the challenges our members were facing, we had also requested this extension. See announcement [here](#).

5th Circuit Court of Appeals Update

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order prohibiting OSHA from enforcing or taking any steps to implement the ETS. That current stay order remains in place while the legal proceedings now move to the 6th Circuit, where the numerous cases filed throughout the country have been consolidated into one case. It is important to know that the 6th Circuit could lift the stay or extend it, and employers should be prepared for both possibilities.

Below is more insight that has been prepared by Bracewell LLP into the expected next steps and deadlines for each side to respond to the Court.

The deadlines set out in the Sixth Circuit’s Scheduling Order, which is available [here](#), provide some insight into the timing of the requirements of the ETS. The Scheduling Order sets the following briefing deadlines:

- Tuesday, November 30, 2021 – motions to join OSHA’s emergency motion or to modify, revoke, or extend the stay.
- Tuesday, December 7, 2021 – responses to motions regarding the stay.
- Friday, December 10, 2021 – replies to responsive motions.
-

Given these deadlines, it is likely that the ETS will continue to be stayed until at least December 10th (past the December 6, 2021 deadline) while the Sixth Circuit considers briefing. However, it is possible that, before December 10th, the Sixth Circuit lifts the stay. **If the stay is lifted, the ETS requirements could become effective on the date of the court’s order or on a later date set by the Sixth Circuit.**

While the briefing schedule does not provide definitive answers to employers on the potential deadlines for ETS compliance, it suggests that the ETS's December 6, 2021, deadlines may be extended for at least a few days while the Sixth Circuit considers briefing.

In the event that a stay is lifted, it is important to remember that employers may need to comply with **most provisions** by 30 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register (**December 6**).

Employers must comply with the *testing requirement* by 60 days after the date of publication in the Federal Register (January 4).

Federal Contractor Vaccine Mandate Update

This is an emerging development in the federal contractor vaccine mandate, and as we are observing with the OSHA emergency temporary standard, more legal rulings can be expected before this outcome is concluded. Below is a client alert by the firm *Wiley Rein LLP*, which can also be viewed [here](#).

On November 30, 2021, a federal judge in Kentucky granted a preliminary injunction against the "**vaccine mandate**" for federal contractors (the central obligation under President Biden's Executive Order 14042) as it relates to covered contracts in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. U.S. District Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove framed the vaccine mandate as a likely overreach of the President's statutory and constitutional powers (non-delegation doctrine and the Tenth Amendment):
The case is *Commonwealth of Kentucky et al. v. Biden et al.*, 3:21-cv-00055, and it is currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky.

In the 29-page opinion and order, the Court acknowledged that the vaccine mandate affected federal contractors and subcontractors across the U.S., but expressly limited the scope of the preliminary injunction to the "the vaccine mandate for federal contractors and subcontractors in all covered contracts in Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee."

Impact on Industry: A preliminary injunction is not a dispositive finding on the substance of a case, only an initial determination that the party seeking the injunction is reasonably likely to succeed on the merits. Thus, the Kentucky federal court's ruling is only the beginning of that case. The parties will now begin briefing and arguments to determine whether the Court will issue an order permanently enjoining the federal government from enforcing the vaccine mandate.

PPP Update

The Senate is currently debating and will likely approve their version of the NDAA, minus an amendment similar to the one that passed the House that created a waiver from the FAR Credit Clause for forgiven PPP loans. The House and Senate will work to reconcile the differences in the bills and Senators Durbin and Duckworth are actively working for adoption of the FAR Credit Clause in an expected conference committee report. We will keep everyone posted on the developments.



Political Updates

Congressman Rodney Davis is [running for re-election](#).

Alderman Gil Villegas is [running for Congress](#).

Congressman Sean Casten and Congresswoman Marie Newman will likely [square off in a primary](#).

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



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Jerald Payonk
Executive Vice President and Director
of Engineering
Clark Dietz

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?

- Since 1984...37+ years.

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

- I have been a member of the IDOT Liaison Committee and the Risk Management Committee, where I served as Co-Chair for two years.

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

- No one works harder for the interests of the Illinois consulting community than ACEC-IL. They do it through the continued effort to promote QBS in the State, through their coordination with our clients on issues important to both us and them, and through outreach to State and US representatives on issues that impact our industry.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

- Boring stuff...I enjoy cooking and I'm always reading, particularly books on history. It's not uncommon for me to be reading three or four history books at one time. My only rule is that books I'm reading simultaneously have to be different events or periods in time; otherwise, I start getting people and facts mixed up.

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

- I have three brothers (one being a twin) that all have engineering degrees: one electrical, two chemical, and one civil (me!)

save the date UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



City Agency Regional Luncheon

December 7, 2021 11am-1:30pm

VIRTUAL - Please join ACEC Illinois as we host a City Agency Lookahead Luncheon Panel:

- Commissioner Gia Biagi, Chicago Department of Transportation
- Commissioner Andrea Cheng, Chicago Department of Water Management
- Chief Operating Officer Paul W Goodrich, Office of the Mayor | City of Chicago
- Chicago Department of Aviation

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Crucial Considerations For Employees Who Work From Home

December 8, 2021 4pm - 5pm

Join us for this webinar as we explore important issues that could impact your firm and employees who work from home. We will discuss the following topics:

- Creating a productive and safe work environment for remote workers
- Common risk factors for remote workers and how to manage them
- How to minimize worker compensation claims through ergonomics
- Protecting business property while working remotely, including

confidential data

- Risk management resources to aid your efforts

Register [Here](#)



Virtual Construction Management Series 1: Authorizations & Closeouts

December 9, 2021 9am-12pm

Featuring IDOT Guest Speaker: Jonathan Schumacher, Bureau Chief of Construction

Who should attend: The Construction Management Seminar is geared towards Resident Engineers, Documentation Engineers/ Technicians, Material Coordinators and Field Engineers / Technicians : Everyone who is interested is welcome!

Please note it is encouraged to review the IDOT :Illinois Construction Manual and Construction Memorandum 04 prior to attending the seminar.

We encourage submitting your Questions regarding IDOT Construction Management Procedures for Authorizations and Closeouts to ACEC by November 29, 2021, which will be discussed during the Panel Discussion: bethany@acecil.org

Register [Here](#)



Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Osman- Springfield, IL

December 13, 2021 6pm-9pm

Join ACEC Illinois at the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** for a Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman. 6:00-9:00pm Museum Tours 7:00pm Remarks Come networking and enjoy appetizers and open bar all evening!

Register [Here](#)



Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Osman- Chicago, IL

December 15, 2021 5pm-7pm

Join ACEC Illinois at the **Union League Club of Chicago** for a Membership Reception with IDOT Secretary Omer Osman. 5:30-7:30pm Come networking and enjoy appetizers and open bar all evening!

Register [Here](#)



Webinar: Balancing it all - Mindfulness in consulting
January 12, 2022 12pm - 1pm

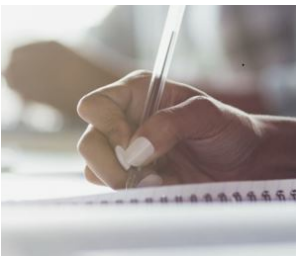
The old joke is that being an adult is continually telling yourself “It’ll be easier next week” until you eventually retire. Join Kaskaskia Engineering founder and manager Geri Boyer as she sits down with the Emerging Professionals committee to discuss what we can do starting early in their career to create the right boundaries that allow us to fulfill our professional potential while also balancing responsibilities out of work.

Register [Here](#)



Save the Date:
Regional Luncheon with Illinois Tollway Executive Director Jose Alvarez
January 25, 2022 11am-1:30pm

SAVE THE DATE: Regional Luncheon with IL Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez Details coming soon!



Webinar: Working With Contractors - Bridging the Gap
February 9, 2022 12pm - 1pm

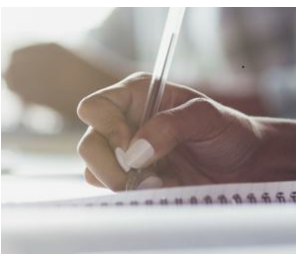
Host: Nick Fishburn, Kimley Horn

Register [Here](#)



SAVE THE DATE: 2022 Engineering Excellence Awards Gala
February 17, 2021 6pm - 11:45pm

Additional Details Coming Soon!



Webinar: Proposal Writing - How To and Lessons Learned
March 9, 2022 12pm - 1pm

Host: Kyle Duffy, Transystems

Register [Here](#)

Webinar: Choose Your Own Adventure - Internal and External Entrepreneurship



April 13, 2022 12pm - 1pm

Host: Meghan Milewski, Farnsworth Group LLC

Register [Here](#)

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



ONEIDA
Engineering
Solutions

Oneida Engineering Solutions, LLC
73 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60603
www.osecgroup.com

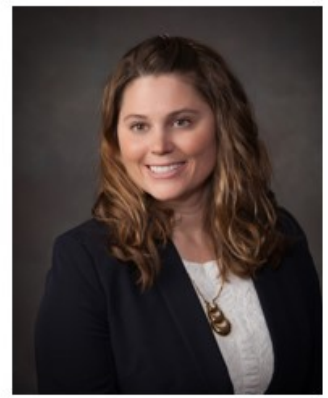
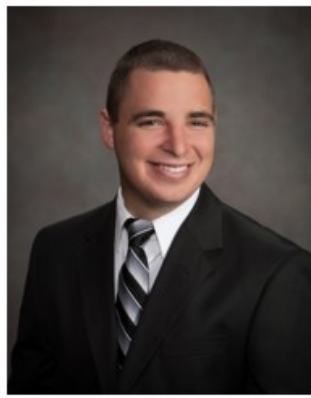
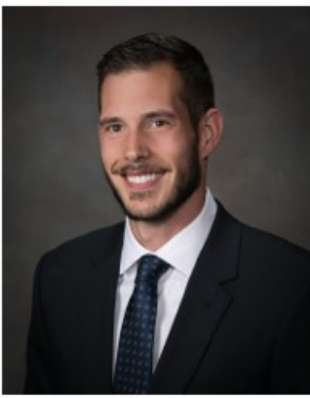
WELCOME NEW AFFILIATE MEMBER:

Compass Surveying, Ltd.
2631 Ginger Woods Parkway, Suite 100
Aurora, IL 60502
www.clsurveying.com

COMPASS
SURVEYING LTD 

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

**ENGINEERING ENTERPRISES, INC.
ANNOUNCES MULTIPLE PROMOTIONS**



Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is pleased to announce four promotions within the firm in recognition of their ability to take on additional responsibilities, demonstrated leadership and positive impact on the organization.

Kyle Welte, P.E., CPEI, promoted to Project Manager. Welte interned with EEI prior to coming on staff full time in 2008. Since joining EEI, Kyle has been involved in a diverse range of engineering design and construction projects for a variety of municipal clients.

Chris Ott, P.E., CPEI promoted to Project Manager. Ott interned with EEI prior to coming on staff full time in 2013. Since joining EEI, Chris has become an essential member of our Transportation Group working on various roadway projects. He is an active member of the American Public Works Association Fox Valley Branch Education and Membership Committees.

Nadia Schweisthal, P.E., CPEI promoted to Senior Project Engineer II. Nadia interned with EEI prior to coming on staff full time in 2015. Since joining EEI, Nadia has become a vital member of our team working on numerous municipal projects.

Mike Schweisthal, P.E. promoted to Senior Project Engineer II. Mike has been with the firm since 2014 and plays a significant role within our Municipal group. Mike has expertise on coating systems, tank design and construction, and lead service line replacements.

According to Chief Operating Officer / President, Brad Sanderson, “All four of these employees embody EEI’s core values and are great role models for all of our junior engineers. We are fortunate to have them as part of the EEI team!”

Full Article [Here](#)



TranSmart Welcomes Roy Lawson, Jr., as Senior Systems Manager

TranSmart, Inc., is pleased to announce that Roy Lawson, Jr., recently joined the firm as Senior Systems Manager. Roy comes to TranSmart from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) where he spent more than 33 years designing and supervising the construction of complex Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and electrical engineering projects throughout District One.

Full Article [Here](#)

ACEC Illinois Leads Statewide Effort to Build

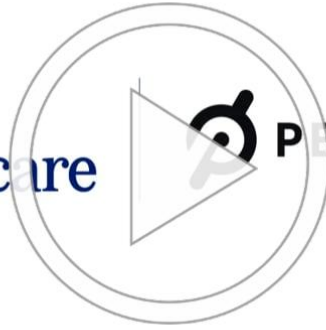
Interest in Engineering Careers



ACEC Illinois and our partners across the state's engineering industry have joined forces with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (Illinois Tollway) to launch a campaign focused on building interest in careers in engineering among Illinois' students. With billions of dollars in investments from the State of Illinois' Rebuild Illinois Capital Plan and potentially billions more from a federal infrastructure bill, filling open engineering jobs with qualified workers is going to be vital to designing, engineering, and building the state's priority infrastructure projects.

The industry partners and state agencies jointly produced an informational video which will be shown in classrooms around the state so students can better understand the opportunities available to them in the engineering field. The video, featuring occasional memorable clips from the TV comedy "The Office", walks students through the different types of engineering fields that exist, from civil and mechanical to geotechnical and aeronautical, and explains that engineering jobs don't only exist in big cities but are located in communities big and small across the state. The video also touches on the advantages of a career in an engineering field, highlighting that ten of the seventeen highest paying careers in the country are in engineering and that not all engineering jobs require advanced degrees, most only requiring a bachelor's degree and some only an associate degree. ACEC Illinois has created a dedicated page on their website to provide resources for students, educators, and career day speakers. The video along with additional information can be found at <https://www.acecil.org/acec-students/>

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



We would love to see your
furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

FURRY FRIENDS

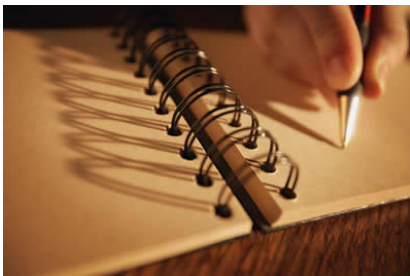
#ACECILPETS

#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
