



## LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC ILLINOIS PRESIDENT & CEO - KEVIN ARTL

---

### **Deadline Nears for IJA “Mega Project” Grant Submittals**

We may know this month if the I-290 Corridor is on the fast-track to repair and modernization.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced \$2.9 billion of funding for major infrastructure projects now available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The deadline for applications is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The funding represents three major discretionary grant programs that will be combined into one Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant opportunity.

The funding includes the National Infrastructure Project Assistance (MEGA) program, which was created in the new infrastructure law to fund major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs. According to a news release from U.S. DOT, the MEGA program will provide grants on a competitive basis to support multi-jurisdictional or regional projects of significance that may also include multiple modes of transportation.

Eligible projects for the MEGA project could include highway, bridge, freight, port, passenger rail, and public transportation projects of national and regional significance. U.S. DOT says these projects, for example, could be bridges or tunnels connecting two states or new rail and transit lines that improve equity and reduce emissions. U.S. DOT will award 50% of funding to projects greater than \$500 million in cost, and 50% to projects between \$100 million and \$500 million in cost. The program will receive up to \$1 billion this year alone and be able to provide multi-year funding to projects.

The other programs included in this grant opportunity include the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) program and the Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program (RURAL).

INFRA is an existing competitive program that will see a more than 50% increase in this year’s funding due to the IIJA. The new infrastructure law provides approximately \$8 billion for INFRA over 5 years, of which approximately \$1.55 billion will be made available through this round of funding.

It is expected that efforts to repair and modernized the I-290 corridor would necessitate funding from potentially both Mega and Infra grants.

[Click here to view the IDOT I-290 Project Study Page for more details.](#)



## Governor Signs Budget Deal that Protects Infrastructure Funding

During the waning days of this Spring's legislative session, the House and Senate approved a measure to suspend the inflationary adjustment on the gas tax until January 1, 2023. In order to keep funding on target, any projected loss of funds due to the delay in the inflationary adjustment will be provided by the LUST Fund (Leaking Underground Storage Tank). In short, there should be no

fiscal impact to the road fund and the inflationary adjustment will continue to be compounded on schedule.

Here are more details:

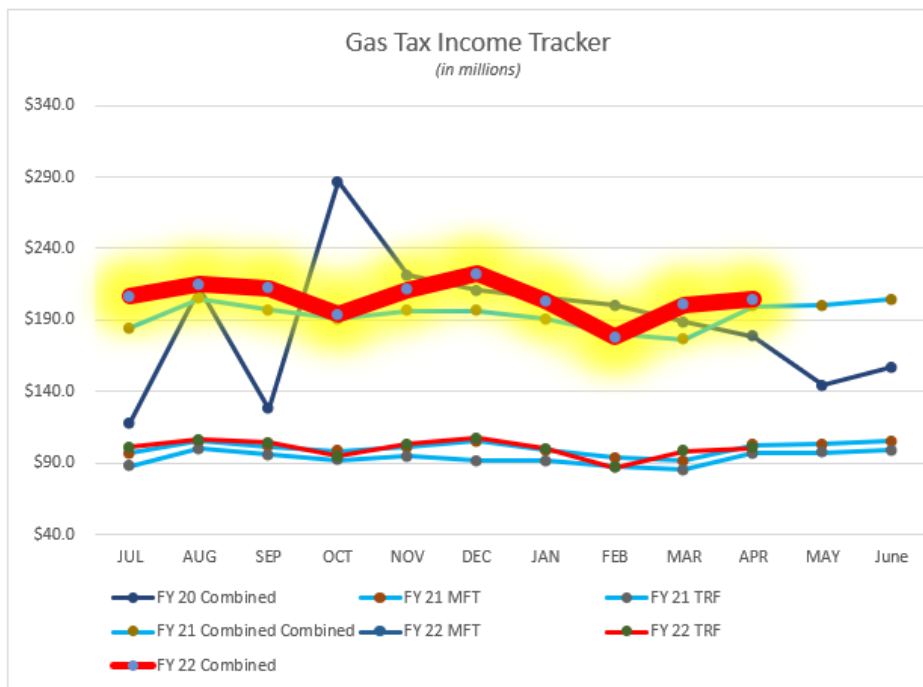
- Deposits all proceeds (1.1 cents per gallon) from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, into the Transportation Renewal Fund;
- Includes language requiring gas stations to post notice of the tax freeze; and
- Includes language clarifying that the index increase will again take effect July 1, 2023.

ACEC Illinois issued a [statement in support of this compromise package](#) and thanked the legislators for finding a solution that continues to keep our promise to repair Illinois' infrastructure. As you know, [ACEC Illinois came out early in opposition](#) to the initial plan of completely suspending the inflationary adjustment for the gas tax and offered and supported compromises that kept funding whole for Rebuild Illinois and kept the CPI provision in place.

ACEC Illinois appreciates the efforts of the legislature and Governor Pritzker to find a resolution that protects infrastructure funding.

## Motor Fuel Tax Remains Within the Margins of Projections in April

## Motor Fuel Tax



The combined April revenue (both Motor Fuel Tax Fund and Transportation Renewal Fund) was \$204.7 million. On a dollar basis, this represents a \$97.8 million dollar increase over the pre-Rebuild Illinois average (FY 16 – FY 19). This represents a (5.9%) DECREASE in consumption when compared to the same pre-Rebuild Illinois period.



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

## ACEC Addresses Supply Chain Challenges

ACEC joined with ARTBA and AGC requesting USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg to prioritize projects that seek to ease supply chain problems in the recently announced availability of nearly \$4 billion in discretionary funds authorized through IIJA.

The [letter attracted broad support](#) from many organizations, including the US Chamber, the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Trucking Association and many others. There will be additional action items going forward as we work with these partners and others, but this initial joint effort is particularly timely right now given the state of the economy.

## ASCE Illinois Infrastructure Report Card Released



The Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) today revealed its 2022 Infrastructure Report Card, giving the state an overall grade of C-. Illinois' civil engineers studied eleven infrastructure categories. Of those eleven, six categories are in mediocre condition, and five categories are in poor condition.

## ACEC National Convention Update

Unlike past years, this year's ACEC National Spring Meeting occurs during a time where the US House of Representatives is not in session. While we are working on scheduling a infrastructure briefings with staff, Hill visits will not be scheduled. However, we will still have our annual Illinois Dinner featuring Lynn Sweet-- Washington Bureau Chief for the Chicago Sun-Times.

[Click here](#) to register for the Illinois Dinner on May 23rd.

---

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

---



---

2022 EEA Magazine: Find all award winners below!



---

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**Orhan Ilgaz Ulger, P.E.**  
**Vice President**  
**2IM Group, LLC**

- **How long have you been in the Engineering industry?**
  - 29 Years.
- **What position(s) have you held within the ACEC-IL organization?**
  - Chaired DBE Committee, Board Member, Vice Chair, Board Chair, Board Chair Elect and currently Past Chair.
- **What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL**

**member?**

- Day one you have access to 200 plus member firms, meet with new people at every event and clients, many opportunities to meet with the leaders of the industry, you can have a role to help establishing industry best of all. I do not think that there is any other organization where you can get the pulse of the industry better than ACEC-IL.
  - **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**
    - I try to physically active all the time. I am very involved with other not for profit organizations and of course my family. I have four children, the older two are adults now but the younger two are plenty to keep me and my wife very busy.
  - **Tell us one fun fact about yourself.**
    - I used to have a VERY, VERY curly hair, VERY! Also, I love gardening, hopefully I will start beekeeping in one of these days.
- 

## MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT



**GASPEREC ELBERTS**  
CONSULTING

---

**Gasperec Elberts  
Consulting**

- **How long have you been in the engineering industry?**
    - In 2022, Gasperec Elberts Consulting celebrated an exciting milestone, our fifth anniversary! Since 2017, we have grown from five to 20 employees, which has allowed us to expand our services in design, stormwater, and construction engineering and increase our professional land surveying capacity.
  - **What projects are you currently working on?**
    - We are currently working on our first CM contract as a prime for the Illinois Tollway and our first design project as a prime consultant for IDOT District 2.
  - **What project are you most proud of?**
    - Looking back at our successes over the last five years, we are grateful for the growth that each project has afforded us. In addition, each project earns us additional experience and builds trust with our partner firms and clients.
  - **What has been the biggest benefit of you joining ACEC-IL?**
    - Recently, our employees have been taking advantage of the rewards of GEC's membership in ACEC-IL. The continuing education and networking opportunities provide our staff with the development of their industry knowledge and industry contacts. The various committees that operate within the Council allow our team to participate in innovations to agency policy and protocol and make an impact in our industry. The opportunities of committee membership and leadership have allowed staff to participate in the industry's growth.
  - **Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?**
    - ACEC-IL is worthy of being supported by the membership of professional services firms because the Council is always advocating for us. In addition to the benefits discussed above, ACEC-IL raises the awareness of both government and citizens about the vital role licensed professionals play in maintaining and improving civil infrastructure. The Council protects the interests of professionals and the public alike by promoting rational policies and legislation.
-

# UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



## **Professional Development Virtual Session: Risk Management**

May 13, 2022 11am - 12pm

Loss Prevention through Better Communication Communication is the number one risk driver of non-technical claims within the Engineering Industry. Learn about ways you can mitigate this risk through effective and proactive client communication. A communication guideline, including 5 steps to better outcomes, will be shared, along with procedures to identify and address conflicts, omissions, and errors.

Register [Here](#)



## **Employee Benefits Survey Seminars**

May 18, 2022 3:30pm - 6:30pm

In the first quarter of 2022, ACEC member, Axion Risk Management Strategies & ACEC conducted a research study to the members, asking a variety of questions as it relates to organizations benefits plans. Axion will present the results of the ACEC-specific benchmarking survey and discuss the evolution of healthcare for companies like yours. Axion will share cutting-edge ways to improve employee health, drive retention, and most importantly decrease cost.

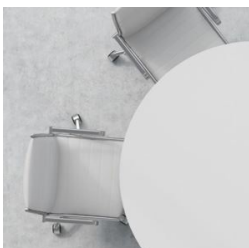
AGENDA:

3-3:30 Registration

3:30-4:30 Presentation

4:30-6:30 Networking and Happy Hour

Register [Here](#)



## **Civil Rivalry Shuffle Board and Networking**

May 19, 2022 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Shuffle yourself out of the office and into the Royal Palms Shuffle Board Club Chicago for an evening of networking and shuffle board!

Register [Here](#)

## **Virtual: Standard of Care Issues for Engineers**

June 2, 2022 11am - 12pm

The presentation will cover the different types of legal



standards against which the conduct of engineers can be measured. Attendees will learn about differing legal standards, the types of remedies that flow from each legal standard, and what pitfalls can arise when the standard of care is not fully understood.

ACEC Illinois Member Complimentary Registration [Here](#)

---



### **ACEC Illinois Spring Golf Outing**

June 8, 2022 10am - 5pm

ACEC Illinois Spring Golf Outing Ruffles Feathers Golf Club,  
Lemont, IL

Register [Here](#)

---



### **Spring Meeting**

June 9, 2022 9am - 1pm

- Board Meeting
- Board Awards
- Board Induction
- Membership Luncheon
- 

Register [Here](#)

---



### **SAVE THE DATE: Fall Conference**

October 5-6, 2022

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

---

## **UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

Please contact Emily Martinez, Director of Membership, for committee meeting details:  
[emily@acecil.org](mailto:emily@acecil.org)

---

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATES**

---

**A3 Environmental  
Consultants: On  
Turning 7 Years Old**





I wanted to take a beat from our normal marketing messaging to talk about entrepreneurship in general and my experience as a woman-owned business. I believe there are many members of ACEC who have contemplated starting their own consulting business and might be interested in the story. In addition; I'd like to be a resource for the entrepreneurs out there. If you want to talk more about how A3E got started, how we grew, and how we plan to continue to grow, please don't hesitate to call me @ 630-507-9002 x100

Full Article [Here](#)

---



## **Construction Engineering Expert Baba Owolabi Joins CBBEL**

**Rosemont, Ill. (April 25, 2022)** - Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) is announcing the hiring of Babatunde "Baba" Owolabi, PE as Senior Construction Engineer. At CBBEL, Owolabi will be responsible for various construction engineering projects, with focuses on contract administration, project management, construction inspection, field engineering, project engineering redesign and project coordination.

"Baba's significant experience as a Construction Engineer will be a huge asset to our firm and our clients," said Executive Vice President and Head of the Construction Engineering Department Dan Crosson, PE. "We're thrilled to announce this addition to the CBBEL team, further strengthening our Construction Engineering Department."

Owolabi spent nearly 40 years at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) before joining CBBEL, where he most recently served as the Local Agency Area Engineer for Southern Cook, Southern DuPage, Southern Kane and Will Counties. During his 37 years at IDOT, Owolabi oversaw several multi-million-dollar roadway improvements.

"I worked closely with CBBEL during my time at IDOT, so I know the firm's reputation of excellence," said Owolabi. "I'm very excited to be joining the CBBEL team and I'm looking forward to continuing that tradition."

A member of the Illinois Association of Highway Engineers, Owolabi graduated from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering.

---



## **Jonathan McGee - Director, Office of Business and Workforce Diversity**

Mr. Jonathan McGee will be appointed as the Director of Business and Workforce Diversity, for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Mr. McGee recently served as Director of Regional Economic Development and formerly Acting Deputy Director for Minority Economic Empowerment for Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Jonathan received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University, and holds a Master of Professional Studies from George Washington University. He will be receiving his Master in Business Administration from Loyola University in May.

Please extend your utmost cooperation to Mr. McGee as he assumes his new assignment.

---



## **Engineering Enterprises, Inc. is Excited to Announce The Opening of its New Branch Office in Itasca**

Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) is excited to announce the opening of its newest branch office located in the Hamilton Partners Business Complex at 555 Pierce Road, Suite 105 in the Village of Itasca, Illinois.

With already existing offices in Sugar Grove and Rockford, Illinois this new branch will allow the firm to grow existing relationships and develop new ones with surrounding communities.

EEI has over 48 years of experience working with communities on infrastructure improvement projects. EEI, a civil engineering and land surveying consulting firm, provides water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation, and site development services to many clients throughout northeastern Illinois.

According to Jeffrey Freeman, PE, CFM, LEED AP, Chief Executive Officer, "Our newest office location gives our firm the ability to continue to provide high quality services to our clients located in northern DuPage, northern Cook, Lake and McHenry Counties."

---

*PAC Raffle*  
RAFFLE TICKET: \$50  
PURCHASE YOUR TICKET BY MAY 15.

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

EVERYONE WHO  
CONTRIBUTES WILL  
BE MAILED AN  
ACEC ILLINOIS  
COLUMBIA FLEECE

**ACEC/PAC**  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

After your  
contribution  
comes through  
you will be  
emailed for size  
selection.



[Donate Here](#)

#ACEC2022ANNUAL

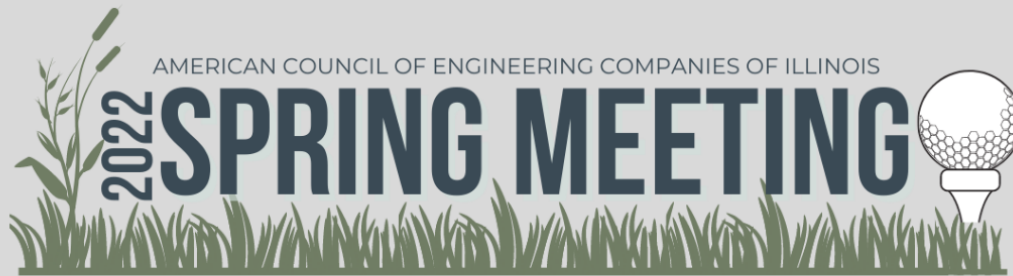
**2022 ANNUAL  
CONVENTION  
& LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT**

AMERICAN COUNCIL  
OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

May 22-25, 2022 | Grand Hyatt Washington | Washington, D.C.

A banner for the 2022 Annual Convention & Legislative Summit. It features the ACEC logo on the left, the event title in large, bold letters in the center, and the dates and location on the right. The background is dark blue with a stylized illustration of the US Capitol building and a bridge in shades of teal and yellow.

save the date



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF ILLINOIS

JUNE 8-9 | LEMONT, IL

**JUNE 8TH • GOLF OUTING**

Ruffled Feathers Golf Club,  
Lemont, IL



**JUNE 9TH • SPRING MEETING**

Board Meeting  
Board Awards  
Board Induction  
Membership Luncheon

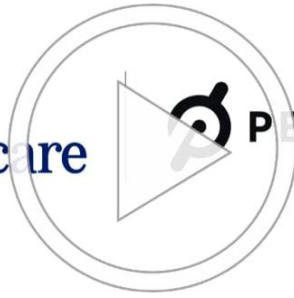
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



**2022 FALL  
CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 5-6 | PEORIA, IL

United  
Healthcare



PELOTON

---



Engineers do things differently.

We engineer better health insurance benefits.

**ACEC**  
LIFE/HEALTH TRUST

Start your quote >

---

# 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](mailto:lydia.zabrycki@captrust.com) [www.acecrt.com](http://www.acecrt.com)



## FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



We would love to see your furry coworkers!

Tag us in your posts:

**#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](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)

---