



ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Illinois

2021 August NEWSLETTER: **THE CONNECTOR**



LEADERSHIP & POLICY BRIEFING

ACEC Illinois President & CEO – Kevin Artl



Senate Begins to Consider Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Agreement

On Wednesday, the Senate voted 67-32 to advance debate on the \$550 bipartisan infrastructure bill. Hours before the vote, a bipartisan group of senators announced an agreement with President Biden on the package of supplemental funding across a range of capital accounts.

The legislation is also expected to include committee-passed versions of bills to reauthorize surface transportation programs for five years, coupled with additional appropriations for various programs and initiatives.

Highlights:

Roads, Bridges —\$110 billion, including \$40 billion for bridge rehabilitation and replacement, and \$17 billion for major projects; also includes reauthorization of federal highway programs for the next

five years, as approved by the Environment & Public Works Committee.

Public Transit—\$39 billion in funding above the current budget baseline, including state-of-good repair and capital investment grants, as well as five-year reauthorization of public transit programs.

Rail—\$66 billion in supplemental funding, including \$24 billion for federal-state partnership grants for Northeast Corridor modernization, \$12 billion for intercity passenger rail improvements, including high speed rail projects, and \$22 billion for Amtrak.

Transportation Safety—\$11 billion for transportation safety, attention to reduction of fatalities (cyclists and pedestrians).

Energy Grids—\$73 billion for power grid upgrades including new transmission and research for new technologies (nuclear reactors and carbon capture).

Electric Vehicles —\$7.5 billion to build a national charging station network for electric vehicles.

Airports—\$25 billion for airport improvement projects, including both airside (runways, taxiways) as well as terminal projects.

Ports and Inland Waterways—\$17 billion for waterway and coastal infrastructure, inland waterways, and port infrastructure.

Resilience, Climate Change—\$50 billion to address cyber-attacks, effects of climate change including droughts and floods.

Drinking Water—\$55 billion for drinking water, including replacement of lead pipes and removal of emerging contaminants.

Broadband Internet—\$65 billion for broadband deployment.

Environmental Spending—\$21 billion for environmental remediation including Superfund sites; \$1 billion to reconnect communities divided by past infrastructure projects.

Revenue Raisers—\$588 billion in revenue offsets include the following provisions:

- \$205 billion in repurposed Covid relief funds.
 - \$56 billion in “economic growth resulting from a 33 percent return on investment in these long-term infrastructure projects.”
 - \$13 billion from reinstating certain Superfund fees.
 - \$50 billion from “recouping fraudulently paid” federal unemployment benefits.
 - \$53 billion from “certain states returning used enhanced federal UI [unemployment] supplement.”
 - \$6 billion in sales from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
 - \$2.9 billion from extending available interest rate smoothing options for defined benefit pension plans.
 - \$20 billion from sales of future spectrum auctions and \$67 billion from the proceeds of the Feb. 2021 c-band auction.
 - \$49 billion from delaying the Medicare Part D rebate rule.
 - \$28 billion from “applying information reporting requirements to cryptocurrency (JCT score).”
 - \$21 billion from extending fees on GSEs.
 - \$8.7 billion from the mandatory sequester.
 - \$6 billion from extending customs user fees.
 - \$3 billion in savings from reducing Medicare spending on discarded medications from large, single-use drug vials.
-

Chicago poised to win big in infrastructure deal

The \$1 trillion plan should provide money to rebuild roads and bridges, expand O'Hare, modernize Union Station, replace lead water pipes, extend the Red Line and much more.



GREG HINZ
On Politics



Crain's Chicago Business: IDOT, Chicago Poised To Do Well in Infrastructure Bill

From Crain's:

Overall, according to a summary prepared by Washington business lobbyists that was passed on to me, the plan calls for spending \$1 trillion on physical infrastructure projects over the next five years—\$550 billion of that new and above current spending levels.

Here's who gets what:

Roads and Bridges: *With an additional \$55 billion allotted nationally for roads and bridges, the Illinois Department of Transportation is in line for perhaps \$2 billion of that. That assumes that state gets its usual share of 3.6 percent of such spending nationally.*

Transit: *Not only the CTA but Metra and Pace are to be eligible to compete for \$39.2 billion for capital work, apparently the largest single infusion of federal cash in U.S. history. The Chicago region seems likely to get \$3 billion to \$4 billion, but much of the money will be competitively awarded rather than by formula, so it's difficult to tell for sure. Potential winners include several Metra projects, the ongoing reconstruction of the CTA's Red Line north and capacity expansion of the CTA Blue Line to O'Hare as well as the Red Line South extension, but some of those may have to compete against each other.*

Airport terminal projects nationally are to get a new \$5 billion, with an additional \$15 billion in money awarded to airports by formulas. O'Hare's ongoing \$8.5 billion terminal expansion and renovation project may well be able to compete for those funds.

The Create plan to speed freight rail by building more bridges, underpasses and other links to avoid traffic jams will be able to complete expanded pots of money. That includes an extra \$5 billion for multimodal projects of regional and national significance and \$3.2 billion in an older program known as Infrastructure for Rebuilding America that the region has successfully tapped in recent years for other Create projects.

Lead pipe replacement nationally is to get tens of billions, enough according to the White House to complete such work nationally. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., has been a strong proponent of such a program, but her office said it wasn't yet clear whether the amount being proposed is sufficient to finish the job.

Read Crain's Full Analysis [Here.](#)

FAR Credit Clause Waiver Gains Momentum in Senate

ACEC Illinois has continued to work with our Congressional Delegation to seek a full and complete waiver from the FAR Credit Clause for forgiven PPP loans. Through continuous conversations between ACEC IL, ACEC National and Senator Duckworth's office—including multiple conversations within the last 7 days—her team in bi-partisan collaboration with Senator Braun (R-Indiana) is now working on potential amendment language to add on to the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Agreement that would provide the full waiver.

ACEC IL has updated IDOT on these developments and we will continue pushing for a full National fix. Senator Duckworth's engagement on this issue in collaboration with Senator Braun represents the most advanced efforts to date to achieve a full waiver at the National level. Reminder, ACEC IL and IDOT are hosting a PPP Webinar on August 11th. To register, [click here](#).

State Updates



ACEC IL Provides Testimony to Senate Transportation Committee on Design Build

The Illinois Senate Transportation Committee invited ACEC Illinois to participate in a subject matter hearing on alternative delivery methods for transportation projects last week. ACEC IL President and CEO Kevin Artl was joined by ACEC IL member Roger Driskell (CMT), Linda Moen (EFK Moen) and Mike Mack (Burns & McDonnell).

Artl's testimony focused on four critical areas for ACEC members:

- Prioritizing Qualifications as Basis for Selection
- Utilizing Innovation and Saving Time
- Protecting Illinois' Diverse Businesses and Workforce
- Independently Procured Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

[The Daily Line](#) covered the hearing and here is a brief of their story:

Kevin Artl, president of American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, noted Illinois was one of four states that don't allow their departments of transportation to use alternative delivery methods like the design-build system.

"Some would say we're behind," he said. "I'd prefer to recognize Illinois as patient and diligent." Artl said Illinois is well positioned to evaluate how design-build has been used in other states and consider how to overcome the challenges other states faced.

Driskell said Villivalam's bill has attempted to address some of the "problems" discovered in other states that adopted design-build, including their difficulties meeting women- and minority-owned business goals.

Other witnesses, including Jacob Perez of the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and Chetan Kale of the U.S. Minority Contractors Association, praised the bill for its provisions related to goals for women- and minority-owned businesses.

Throughout the hearing, the Department of Transportation's previous resistance to design-build appeared to be on the forefront of members' minds. Villivalam asked Holly Bieneman, director of planning and programming for the department, whether the agency and the Pritzker administration supported his bill.

"I think we're generally supportive of having it in the toolbox given the right circumstances," she said.



ACEC IL Meets with House Republican Leader Durkin

ACEC Illinois' Chair Steve Donahue, National Director John Nelson, Incoming Chair PJ Fitzpatrick and Past Chair Orhan Ulger met with House Republican Leader Durkin and his top staff to discuss the past legislative session and emerging issues. Leader Durkin again expressed his support to protecting QBS and thanked ACEC Illinois for their engagement on that issue.

Agency Updates

RTA approves new Capital Allocation Structure

In its July meeting, the RTA Board voted unanimously to adopt the performance-based **Capital Allocation Structure** that will guide the budget process for 2025 and 2026 funding. Chairman Kirk Dillard thanked a variety of civic organizations whose feedback during the comment period helped inform the Board's and staff's development of the process. "We have a lot of work to do, and everyone will be at the table," he said, in reference to the RTA's commitment to increasingly transparent and accountable planning and programming of projects. As development of the five-year regional budget now moves toward adoption in December, stay tuned via these **Regional Transit Updates**, RTA **Board meetings**, and the RTA **website**.

Leading up to the RTA Board action and to ensure effective stewardship of Rebuild Illinois' funds, in December 2019, the RTA Board commissioned a new Performance-Based Capital Allocation Process and a working group of RTA and Service Board staff met to develop more rigorous communications and reporting around the capital program.

IDOT Appoints Rensing as Engineer of Construction

IDOT Secretary Omer Osman announced the appointment of **Ms. Lora Rensing** as IDOT Engineer of Construction, effective August 1, 2021. Ms. Rensing earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. She has over 24 years of experience in the civil engineering industry, with 21 years at the Illinois Department of Transportation in District 8, where she most recently served as the Project Implementation Engineer

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



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thomas M. Hein
Vice President
HDR

How long have you been in the Engineering industry?
27 years.

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

What's the number one reason firms should become an ACEC-IL member?
To protect the interest of A/E firms in IL, limit risk by advocating for favorable policy and contracts for our companies.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
Camping, fishing, skiing, cruising in my classic car

Tell us one fun fact about yourself.

MEMBER FIRM SPOTLIGHT

Peralte-Clark, LLC.



How long have you been in the engineering industry?

Jean-Alix Peralte and John Clark have been in the industry for 32 and 24 years, respectively. Prior to founding Peralte-Clark in 2017, their work experience included positions at other engineering consulting firms in the Chicagoland Area.

What projects are you currently working on?

Peralte-Clark staff are currently working on a range of projects including Phase I and II design engineering consulting services to the Illinois Tollway, Illinois Department of Transportation, Kane, Will and Lake County DOTs, and municipal clients including Palatine, Oak Lawn, Franklin Park and Gurnee. Our Phase III team is also growing and is currently providing CM services to the Illinois Tollway.

What project are you most proud of?

Peralte-Clark is completing its first major project for which we were selected as a Prime consultant: Tri-State Tollway, Advanced MOT Rehabilitation, Phase II Engineering Services, EW Connector to Balmoral Avenue, Project I-17-4310. Peralte-Clark successfully met all critical deliverable dates and was extremely responsive to the Illinois Tollway's needs on this project. The team was able to successfully deliver 100% construction documents within budget, despite several significant adjustments from the original project scope schedule. The project was completed on a highly accelerated, compressed design schedule, which required close coordination with the Design Section Engineers for mainline reconstruction contracts I-17-4300 and I-17-4301, as well as the I-294 Design Corridor Manager.

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

ACEC-IL offers opportunities for networking, professional development, and allows member firms to be directly involved and engaged in advocating to improve the engineering consulting business environment in our state. Our firm also takes advantage of the ACEC Health Insurance and Retirement plans. These plans allow our firm to benefit from group coverage rates that would not normally be available to a smaller firm.

Why do you feel firms should join ACEC-IL?

ACEC-IL offers the following to member firms:

- Networking and continuing education opportunities
- Foster positive communication between consulting firms and agencies
- Join Illinois and national committees to promote industry
- Promote engineering profession to students and those outside the engineering industry
- Support ACEC-IL lobbying efforts on behalf of the E/A industry

save the date
UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVOCACY



EDUCATIONAL



BUSINESS



Webinar on IDOT PPP Loan Documents and Filing with IDOT Representatives

August 11, 2021 10am - 11am

Please join ACEC Illinois for a Webinar on IDOT PPP Loan Documents and Filing with IDOT Representatives, including Jack Elston, Bureau Chief of Design and Environment Illinois Department of Transportation.

Register [Here](#)



A Reception Honoring: Senator Ram Villivalam

August 12, 2021 5:30pm - 9:30pm

Harry Caray's - Lombard, IL

Reception 5:30pm-7:30pm

Private Dinner for Platinum and Gold Sponsors 7:30pm-9:30pm

Register [Here](#)



2021 Leadership Series

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 Platinum Sponsorship: \$500 sponsor Recognition at webinar Recognition in emails

Includes 5 attendees Gold Sponsorship: \$250 sponsor Recognition at webinar Recognition in emails Includes 3 attendees

Register [Here](#)

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:

Clark Dietz Names Five New Vice President Appointments

CHAMPAIGN, IL, July 19, 2021 - Clark Dietz is delighted to announce that five staff were promoted to Vice President in recognition of their ability to take on additional management responsibilities, demonstrated leadership, and positive impact on the firm and the consulting engineering profession. Those promoted were:



Emily Basalla
Area Manager
Southern Wisconsin



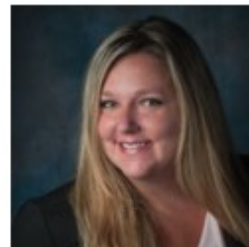
Andrea Brett
Team Leader
Civil/Environmental Central Illinois



Kevin Hetrick
Area Manager
Central Indiana



Nirav Patel
Team Leader
Mechanical/Electrical Illinois



Tonia Westphal
Area Manager
Northern Wisconsin

Clark Dietz Hires New Transportation Construction Technician in Champaign, IL

CHAMPAIGN, IL, July 19, 2021 -Louis Braghini has joined Clark Dietz's transportation team as a Construction Technician in its Champaign office. Lou will leverage his extensive municipal experience to provide construction observation and documentation services on local, state, and

federally funded projects. A former employee of Clark Dietz returning after nearly four decades, Lou has worked for 34 years as staff engineer for the City of Champaign Public Works Department, most recently focusing on major construction projects. Lou graduated from Parkland College with an Associate in Applied Science in Construction Management. We are pleased to welcome him back to the team.



CONNECT - COMMUNICATE - COLLABORATE
The Summit for AEC Financial Leaders, by AEC Financial Leaders

www.baecsummit.com

August 12-13, 2021

Las Vegas, Nevada

BRAYN AEC Summit (BAEC)
August 12 - 13, 2021
MGM Grand in Las Vegas
www.baecsummit.com

The BAEC summit is a conference for AEC leaders as well as the CPA's that serve them. This is the perfect environment to connect, communicate and collaborate with other leaders in the AEC industry from across the country. You will learn strategies and best practices on topics that are critical in today's world.

We anticipate roughly 90 - 100 attendees from 50 - 55 firms.

Below are some of the sessions that we will have:

- Future of Finance and Benefits for A&E Firms
- Improving AR, invoice processes, and cash flow management
- Overall Tax Strategies
- Strategic and Financial Planning for Establishing and Evaluating New Offices or Divisions
- KPI's for AEC Needs
- Cybersecurity and Its Importance in Today's Age

REGISTER HERE and utilize the discount code: **BAEC-ACEC21** for \$300 off the current registration fee.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER:



Facet Engineering
4316 N. Elston
Chicago, IL 60641
773-657-5900
www.facetengineering.net

4HD Inc.
330 East Roosevelt Road, Suite 2G
Lombard, IL 60148
630-202-7891



Cook County and Cook County Health Disparity Study Small Group Business Owner Interview Sessions

Your participation is requested.

Cook County and Cook County Health Systems (the "County") are conducting a Disparity Study of the Minority-and Women-owned Business Enterprise ("M/WBE") program. The County is conducting this research to ensure that M/WBEs have equal access to contracting opportunities and that the County's current program remains legally defensible and administratively successful.

We invite you to participate in the study through an online small group interview of business owners. These important sessions will provide an opportunity to relate your experiences with doing business with the County as a prime or subcontractor on County projects, or your attempts to do so, and any barriers that you have encountered. Your insights and experiences will help identify potential M/WBE program improvements and encourage increased collaboration while promoting economic growth for all segments of our community.

Meetings will be held:

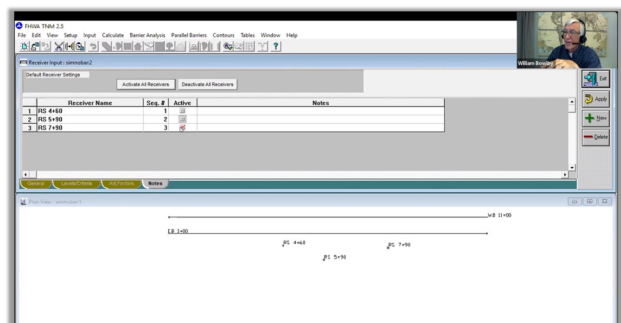
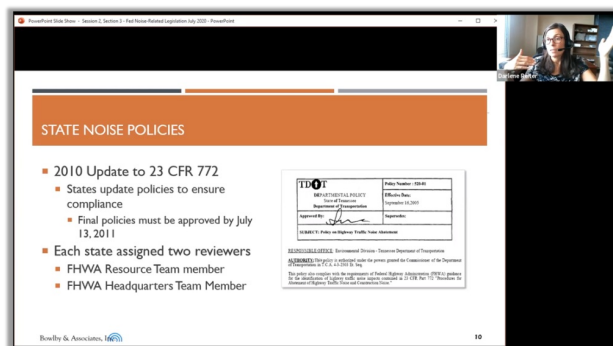
Date: August 3 through August 11, 2021

Please [click here to register](#) for an online meeting. *You will be taken to a three-question survey to allow us to direct you to the appropriate meeting.*

All persons requiring special accommodations, including language assistance, should directly contact Colette Holt & Associates, the firm facilitating the sessions, no later than one week prior to the selected session.

For questions and general information about the Disparity Study, please visit the study website cookcounty.disparity-study.com or contact Colette Holt & Associates at cookcounty-study@mwbelaw.com or (855) 692-3529. You may also contact Lisa Alexander, MC, Cook County Office of Contractor Compliance at lisa.alexander@cookcountyil.gov.

Traffic Noise Fundamentals and Traffic Noise Modeling with TNM 2.5 Training



October 4th-8th, 2021



A/E Firms Are Surprised to Find Many Qualify for Employee Retention Credits

by Jennifer R. Ray, CPA

Originally passed in the CARES Act and then modified in December 2020, the Employee Retention Credits are providing cash to many firms. The credit can be up to \$7,000 per employee for each \$10,000 of wages paid, per quarter. For full article, click [HERE](#)



ILLINOIS TOLLWAY DBE CONSTRUCTION AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AVAILABILITY AND DISPARITY STUDY

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY BEP GOODS AND SERVICES AVAILABILITY AND DISPARITY STUDY

**PUBLIC INFORMATION
WEBINAR**
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2021
2:00 PM
[REGISTER NOW](#)

This webinar will introduce the team for both studies, present the elements and methodology of the studies, describe the study process and outline how stakeholders and business owners can participate.

The Illinois Tollway welcomes the participation of all business owners, those who are currently doing business with the Tollway, as well as those interested in contracting opportunities.

Please join us to learn about these important projects and how you can participate.

The Illinois Tollway is conducting two availability and disparity studies.

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program for construction and construction and related professional services contracts
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP) for goods and services contracts

The Tollway seeks to ensure that disadvantaged, minority- and woman-owned business enterprise firms have equal access to Tollway contracting opportunities and that the Tollway's current BEP and DBE Program remain legally defensible and administratively successful.

The Illinois Tollway has hired Colette Holt & Associates, a highly experienced national law and consulting firm to conduct the studies. The studies will include statistical evidence of disparities, if any, between the availability of M/WBEs and their utilization on Tollway contracts and related subcontracts and throughout the area economy as a whole.

The studies will further examine qualitative experiences and recommendations of business owners. Your participation with both studies is critical to informing the study results and recommendations.



Save the date

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES *of Illinois*



2021 **FALL**
CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 13-14 · PEORIA, IL



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!

Tag us in your posts:

#ACECILPETS

FURRY FRIENDS

#ACECILPETS



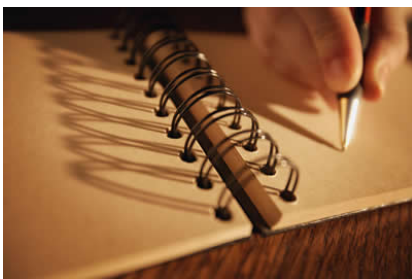
2021 Celebrates ACEC Illinois' 100th Anniversary

Be on the lookout for some exciting announcements and reflections throughout the year.



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
